



Aroostook County Handicapped Accessibility Program

The Aroostook County Handicapped Accessibility Program was a regional project funded in part by the USDA Housing Preservation Grant Program and the Aroostook County Action Program. Other partners included ALPHA ONE and Aroostook Area Agency on Aging. NMDC submitted an application under the federal Empowerment Zone set-aside. The objectives of the program were:

1. To address handicapped accessibility issues of low-income and very low-income elderly, disabled householders throughout the three (3) designated empowerment zones in Aroostook County,
2. To reduce the amount of individuals and families waiting for assistance, and
3. To create an on-going assessment and seek to increase funding to assist those with disabilities.

NMDC's award of \$95,000 benefited 36 low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons, which was 12 more than originally anticipated. Home improvements included the construction of handicapped ramps, widening of doorways, ADA compliant bathroom fixtures, and other related work.



HPG Funds:	\$ 77,212.58
Matching Funds:	<u>\$ 46,095.00</u>
Total	\$123,307.58

Portage Lake Housing Corporation – Feasibility Study for 12-unit low-income elderly housing facility.



**PORTAGE LAKE
ELDERLY HOUSING FACILITY**

2007 CDBG Community Planning Grant-	\$10,000
Town Funds-	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
Total	\$12,500

The PLHC identified two sites within the downtown area that may be suitable for the location of this facility. The purpose of the feasibility study was to determine the more suitable site and to develop a conceptual building design for approval by the PLHC. The results of the feasibility study were used to make a decision as to whether Portage Lake is to proceed with the project or table it. If it leads to a project approval, it will be used to ascertain the likelihood of the project's

*HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
AROOSTOOK COUNTY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN*

Funding for this program was made available to the Maine Emergency Management Agency by the federal Department of Homeland Security. Working with the Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency (AKEMA), NMDC proposed a project that would benefit all of the residents in its service area. The proposal was to build a disaster resistant community by preparing residents for all types of disasters, such as natural disasters, terrorist-related threats, and pandemic flu diseases. NMDC worked closely with AKEMA and other emergency officials throughout the County to prepare and distribute a public awareness booklet that was subdivided into specific types of emergencies for ease in finding the pertinent information regarding contact person or agency, phone numbers, etc. Another activity included a 16-page newspaper insert that was published in all Aroostook County newspapers detailing types of emergencies and how you should prepare for these situations. For example, a disaster supply kit and an evacuation plan were steps that could help before, during and after an emergency.

The purchase of software allowed for GIS mapping of all Aroostook County shelters including handicapped accessible sites.

Project Budget: \$37,250.00

*Southern Aroostook Wells
and Septic Project
(SAWSP) II*

The SAWSP II project is nearing completion. This project was funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program's Housing Assistance Program. Under the SAWSP II project, the following work was completed:

• 17 septic system designs	\$ 5,150.00
• 16 septic system installations	\$118,523.98
• 7 drilled well installations	\$ 37,196.00
• 11 plumbing permit fees	\$ 1,280.00
• 1 housing replacement	\$ 30,000.00
• 17 recording fees	\$ 221.00
• Phase II planning	\$ 1,270.00
• Administration	<u>\$ 29,000.00</u>
Total	\$222,640.98

There remain five septic system installations to be completed for a total project cost of \$301,270.00

Other Projects

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

NMDC entered into an agreement with the town to complete a housing assessment plan. The purpose of a housing assessment is to take a careful, detailed look at all conditions effecting housing in the community. The assessment is designed to allow communities to determine exactly what local housing needs are, prioritize those needs, and serve as a catalyst to set local policy and put into affect a local plan of action to address those housing needs.

TOWN OF WALLAGRASS

Wallagrass secured a \$10,000 CDBG Community Planning Grant to undertake the Soldier Pond Revitalization project. Activities that will be completed within the next six months include;

- Working with Maine DEP to dredge the unnamed brook that flows into Soldier Pond
- Develop a hazard mitigation plan with guidance from FEMA to alleviate annual flooding in the village
- Installation of a veterans monument
- Installation of sidewalks, street lighting, and other amenities in the village area
- Rehabilitation of residential and commercial buildings in the village
- Construction of a boat launch site at Soldier Pond

A thorough investigation of the problems within the village area will allow Wallagrass to form partnerships with local, state and federal agencies so that they can resolve the problems.

CITY OF PRESQUE ISLE

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING APPLICATIONS:

- 1) Lowe's Corporation, Inc.'s (LCI) operates as a home improvement retailer. NMDC prepared and submitted a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) application for the development of a 127,000 square foot retail space and 20,000 square foot of office/warehouse space. The total project cost for the redevelopment of the site, a parcel of approximately 13.6 acres, totaled nearly \$15,000,000.
- 2) BLD Properties LLC plans to develop a 2.5 acre site into a lodging facility with a total estimated project cost of \$12,000.00. The construction of a 93-room inn with indoor pool, exercise room, meeting room, dining room, and administration business center is proposed. The TIF application is being submitted by NMDC on behalf of the City of Presque Isle for the purpose of financing the off-site improvements. BLD purchased the former Presque Isle Armory and plans to develop the 5.5 acre site into three parcels. The District focuses on the rear parcel that is to be developed into a 93-room inn with the remaining two parcels to be developed in the future years.

CDBG Technical Assistance



Technical Assistance Workplan

TASK #1 - PROGRAM MARKETING AND BASIC CDBG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Publicize, market and provide on-going technical assistance for the 2007/2008 CDBG funded community and economic development programs, up to and including application review, but not application writing.

TASK #2 - TRAINING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

TASK #3 - SPECIAL REGIONAL PROJECTS

Provided intensive technical assistance to the following communities:

- 1) Caswell – Housing Rehabilitation Project
- 2) Island Falls – Conducting a Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Survey
- 3) Woodland – Handicapped Accessibility Project
- 4) County of Aroostook – Public Service (Educational and training services for LMI persons)
- 5) Patten – Business Development Project
- 6) Allagash – Historic Preservation Project
- 7) New Canada – Housing Rehabilitation Project
- 8) Wallagrass – Housing Rehabilitation Project
- 9) St. Francis – Housing Rehabilitation Project

Basic technical assistance was provided to 17 additional communities.