

Max B. Nobel Mine Drainage Treatment Project

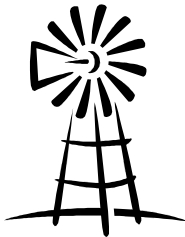
The Max B. Nobel Mine Drainage Treatment Project, known locally as Sagamore, was the first in a series of Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment projects undertaken by the Mountain Watershed Association.

The project required the collection and treatment of two underground mine discharges and the relocation and reclamation of a huge coal refuse (sometimes referred to as 'gob') pile.

The area for treatment was limited by the close proximity of the trail and the creek. The only area suitable for location of the treatment system was already occupied by the abandoned 70,000 cubic yard coal refuse pile along the bank of Indian Creek. This pile was not only in the way, it was unreclaimed and a significant source of sediment and acid runoff. It was also an eye sore of long-standing, clearly visible to trail users and to motorists traveling along a portion of Route 711 which has been designated a scenic by-way.

What's Up with the Windmills?

The Sagamore project uses windmills to aerate, or add oxygen to, the water. This makes the contaminants in the water settle to the bottom of the pond faster.



System Effects:

The treatment system was finished in 2000 and it works! It:

- ◆ Removes 87% of the iron load
- ◆ Removes 70% of the aluminum load
- ◆ Removes 61% of the acid load
- ◆ Lowers flow rates

The next time you pedal by this treatment system on the Indian Creek Valley Trail, look carefully in the treatment ponds. You'll may see some fish or even a snapping turtle!



Trips for Kids Laurel Highlands is a project of the Mountain Watershed Association
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