



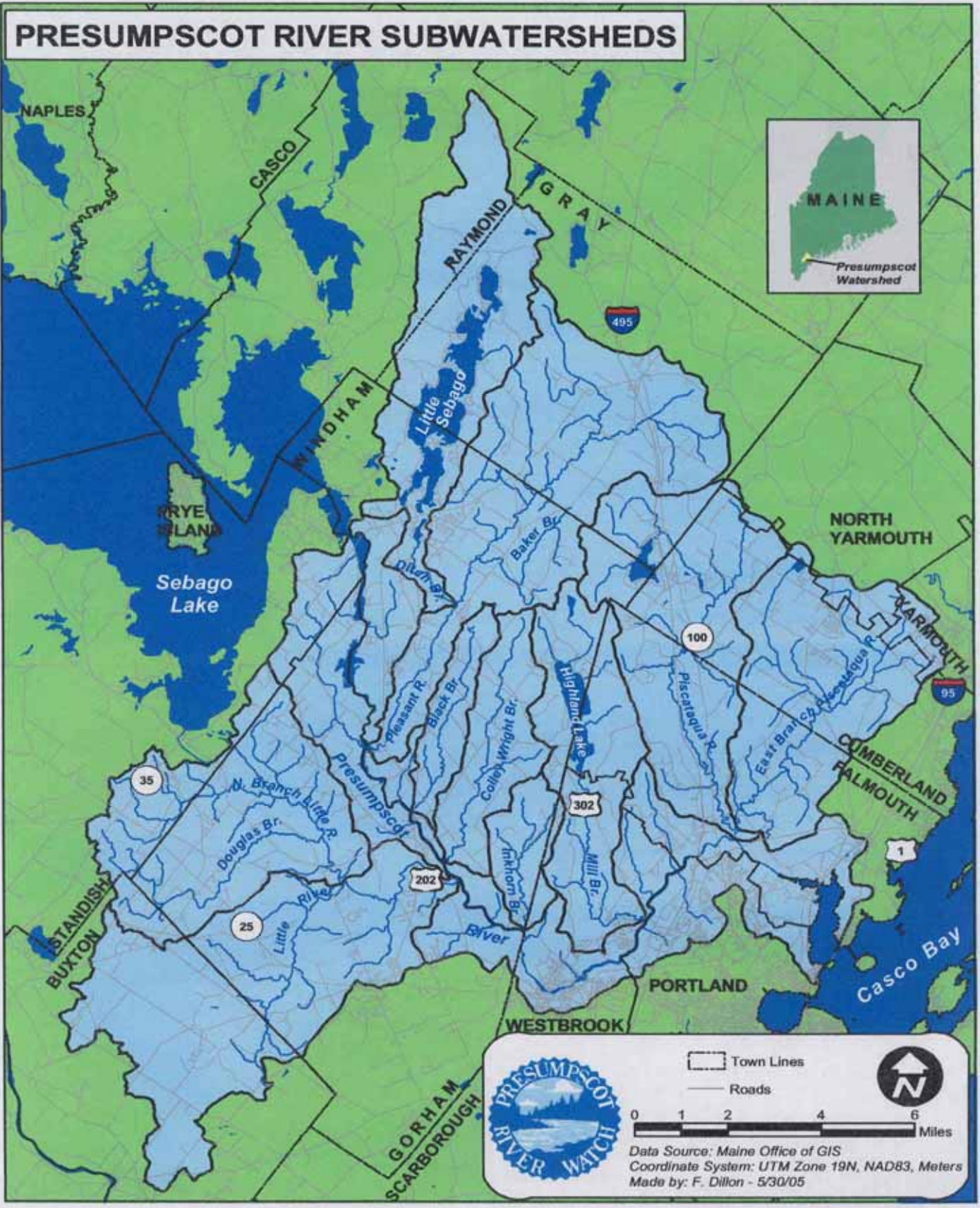
2006 Summary Report



A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF



Presumpscot River Watershed Map



Background Information

What is a Youth Conservation Corps?

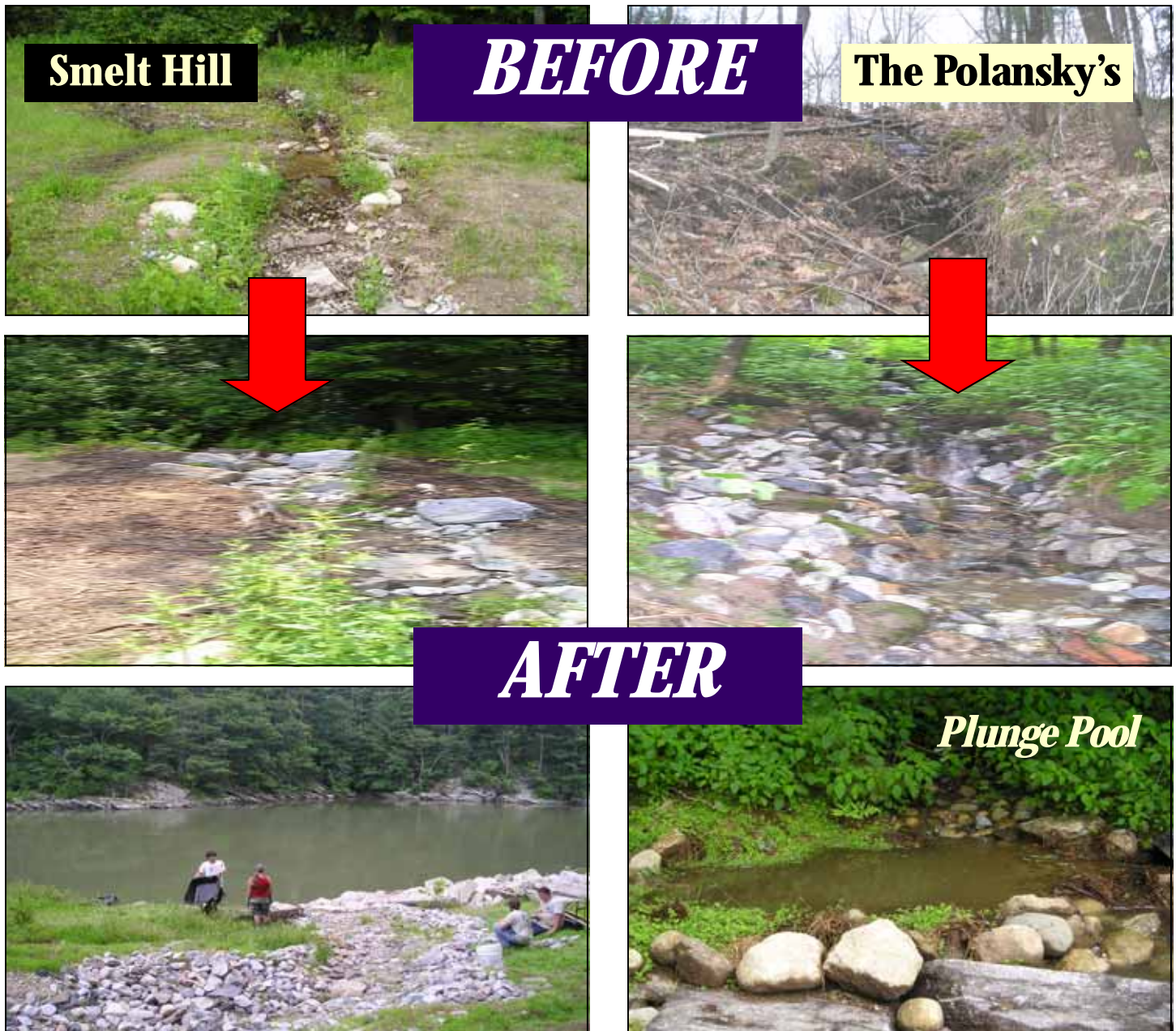
A Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a crew of area high school students dedicated to installing environmental improvement projects adjacent to rivers, streams, and lakes within a watershed. They are directed by a crew leader who is college-aged or a college graduate. They work on a diversity of projects that include vegetative shoreline buffer plantings, trail maintenance and construction, river clean-ups, and many other best management practices. They work with local towns and governments as well as private landowners. One unique feature of a YCC is that all labor is carried out by hand; there are no power tools involved in their work. A field season typically lasts between 5-8 weeks during the summer months. YCC's continue to show success throughout the state of Maine.

Why a Presumpscot River YCC?

- * Despite recent improvements, water quality in the river remains degraded. As the river is cleaned up, development along the shoreline is resulting in a loss of vegetated buffers alongside rivers and streams. Increased runoff and erosion has altered stream channels and continues to degrade fisheries habitat. The Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps (PRYCC) will work to reverse these impacts.
- * An active coalition of partners is in place to guide watershed improvement projects. The Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition (PRWC) is made up of more than a dozen government and private organizations concerned with improving fisheries, mitigating impacts from watershed development, and preserving natural areas along the river. Several studies have identified specific problem areas for improvement. Referring to the *Presumpscot Plan*, the PRWC will guide the PRYCC toward high priority improvement efforts.
- * YCC's promote stewardship among community members and projects yield tangible water quality benefits. Organizers also rave that YCC's are an effective way to raise awareness, energize communities and inspire local youth to become environmental leaders.

Falmouth

Smelt Hill, Department of Natural Resource and The Polansky's Property



As part of a larger project for the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, the PRYCC assisted with two projects at the site of the former Smelt Hill Dam. For the first project, they helped lay rip-rap, plant 350 plant plugs, and lay mulch all in an effort to mimic a natural streambed. This will allow water to flow to the Presumpscot without eroding the land as well as filter pollutants out that could otherwise lower the river's water quality. The second project, entailed stabilizing an eroded storm water drainage ditch on adjacent property. The crew installed 2 yards of riprap to stabilize the bank and prevent further erosion. They also created plunge pools to collect runoff and prevent soil and other pollutants from entering the Presumpscot River.

Westbrook

East Bridge Street Trail, Portland Trails



This new trail, located directly on the Presumpscot River, was heavily eroded by ATV use. The YCC help stabilize the trail by filling eroded gullies with crushed stone to prevent further erosion. They also partnered with the Maine Conservation Corps to build bridges and level out the trail to prevent soil from running into the river.



Bicentennial Park, Town of Westbrook



As part of a Project Canopy grant that was awarded to the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the YCC planted 52 mature trees in this park. The park is located directly adjacent to a stormwater tributary that flows into the Presumpscot River.



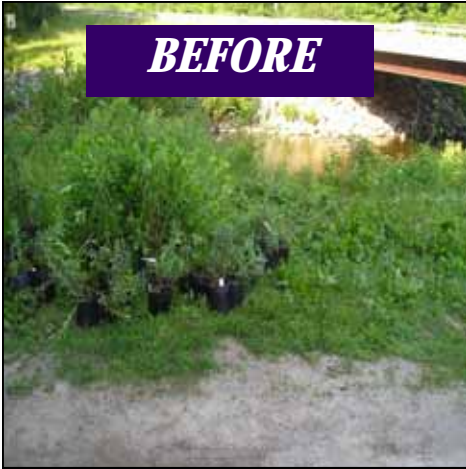
Riverbank Park, Town of Westbrook



Riverbank Park is located directly on the Presumpscot River, in downtown Westbrook. This park experiences heavy use which has caused severe erosion along the riverbank. The YCC installed three sets of infiltration steps, planted 25 trees and shrubs, mulched, seeded, and laid curlex. All of these practices will help reduce runoff into the river and allow plants to grow to help stabilize the shoreline as well as filter runoff. As a result, the park has easier and safer access to the river, all while helping to protect the water quality.

Windham

Route 35, Sappi and Department of Transportation



BEFORE

This site on Route 35 is a popular fishing spot where several trails leading to the river were eroding. By partnering with Sappi and the Maine Department of Transportation, the crew was able to plant 35 trees and shrubs. They also defined a commonly used trail and added mulch to cover exposed tree roots.



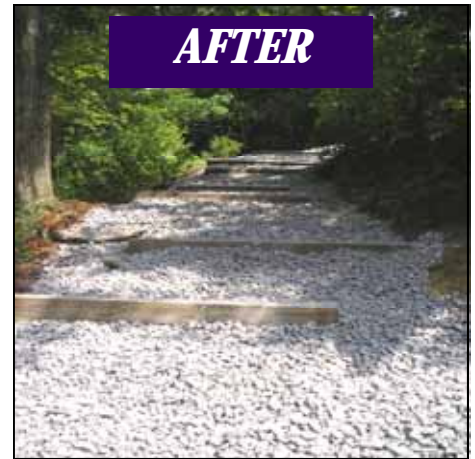
AFTER

Covered Bridge, Town of Windham



BEFORE

This site is owned by a private landowner but is heavily used by the public as a recreational area. Due to this use, the bank was severely eroded, the soil was compacted, and many tree roots were exposed, causing both a safety and environmental hazard. The YCC installed (6) infiltration steps and planted 29 trees and shrubs to stabilize the bank.



AFTER

Storm drain Stenciling

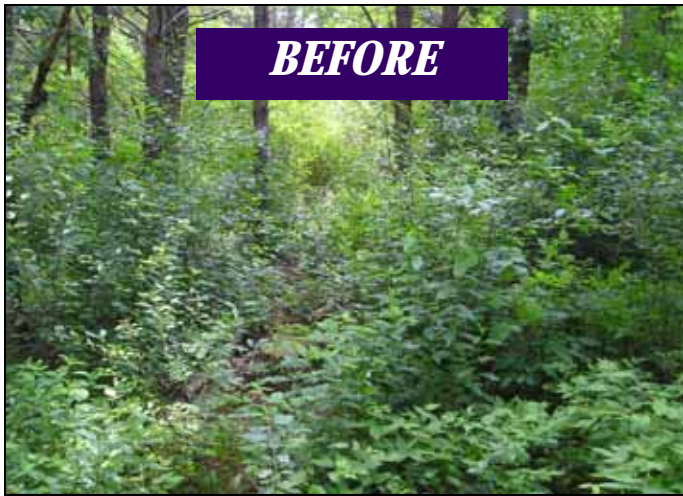


Storm drain stenciling is an educational and public awareness component of the YCC. It informs people that these drains flow directly to a waterbody. That means pollutants such as fertilizers, waste, and cigarette butts to name a few, will also end up in our waterways without being treated. The YCC stenciled drains throughout Windham and Westbrook.



Gorham

Tannery Brook Park, Town of Gorham



The Gorham Parks and Conservation Commission is working to open the Tannery Brook Park in 2007. The PRYCC helped to construct and define trails for the proposed 16-mile trail network by sidehilling or leveling out areas to help prevent erosion as well as lopped, pruned, and laid wood chips along the new trails.

Portland

Cleveland Street, Myatt Property



This site is located on the Presumpscot Estuary, where the Presumpscot River meets Casco Bay. The site posed a great challenge due to tidal influences, brackish water, and the site had extremely difficult conditions. The bank had eroded approximately 12 feet over the course of several years. The YCC laid curlex to stabilize the shoreline, planted 20 shrubs as well as native salt marsh grass. Infiltration steps were modified to accommodate the landscape.

Accomplishments

<i>Conservation Practice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Mulch	26.5 yards
Rock	33.5 yards
Infiltration Steps	17 steps
Rubber Razor Blades	3 razor blades
Buffer Plantings	268 trees/shrubs/groundcover
Trails	~4 miles
Stormdrain Stenciling	250 drains
Trash Clean-up	> 100 lbs.
Sediment Clean-out	5 tons

16 projects in total over the course of 5 weeks!



The PRYCC at Work!



Articles about the PRYCC

The PRYCC was highlighted in several newspapers around the watershed including: Gorham-Westbrook Gazette, Windham Independent, Lakes Region Weekly, and American Journal.

Page 4 Gorham Westbrook Gazette, June 8, 2008

High school students providing free river-friendly landscaping

Landowners in Gorham, Westbrook can receive assistance

This summer marks the inaugural season of the Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps (PRYCC), a crew of area high school students dedicated to installing environmental improvement projects adjacent to rivers and streams within the Presumpscot River watershed.

Landowners from the communities of Gorham and Westbrook, as well as those in Buxton, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gray, North Yarmouth, Portland, Standish, Windham, and Yarmouth may be eligible to receive free technical assistance and manual labor from the PRYCC to improve and manage erosion issues on their land.

The PRYCC will build on the success of existing Youth Conservation Corps, such as the Highland Lake YCC, which have demonstrated measurable improvements with similar projects.

In the first season, the PRYCC will be composed of

recommendations, landowners may also qualify for free plantings.

If you live within this watershed and are interested in setting up a free consultation visit or for more information, please contact Lisa Vickers, Technical Director, Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps at 207-615-8587, or at lisa.vickers@maine.edu.

The PRYCC is being established as part of the Presumpscot Watershed Initiative, a two-year effort by the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Presumpscot River Watch, and Friends of Casco Bay to implement recommendations from the Presumpscot River Management Plan.

The plan was developed over three years by over a dozen representatives from federal, state, and local government

Westbrook trail part of PRYCC inaugural project

The Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps (PRYCC) kicked off its inaugural season on July 5 by partnering with Portland Trails to help establish a new recreational trail in Westbrook.

The PRYCC is a group of local high school students under the direction of a crew leader that live throughout the watershed and work on environmental improvement projects specifically focused on improving the water quality.

The East Bridge Street trail project will help address the water quality improvement goals of the PRYCC by addressing erosion issues along the trail through run-off diversions construction, eroded trail repair, and litter and debris clean-up.

Portland Trails, a non-profit land trust, has recently acquired the parcel on East Bridge Street through a unique partnership with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Kimberly-Clark.

The acquisition helps to further Portland Trails' long-term goal of providing public access trails along the length of the Presumpscot River.

This is the first project of many for the PRYCC that are located around the 150-square mile watershed which includes

the towns of Westbrook and Gorham as well as Buxton, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gray, North Yarmouth, Portland, Standish, Windham and Yarmouth.

If you live in this watershed and have erosion issues on your property, you are eligible to receive free assistance from the Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps.

The PRYCC was established as part of the Presumpscot Watershed Initiative, a two-year effort by the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Presumpscot River Watch, and Friends of Casco Bay to implement recommendations from the Presumpscot River Management Plan.

The plan was developed over three years by over a dozen representatives from federal, state, and local government agencies, businesses, and area conservation groups concerned with improving fisheries, mitigating impacts from development, and preserving open space within the Presumpscot River watershed.

For more information, please contact Lisa Vickers, PRYCC technical director, at (207) 615-8587 or e-mail at lisa.vickers@maine.edu.

Presumpscot River on its way back

By Charles Smith
charles@maine.com

The stretch of shoreline along the Presumpscot River at Westbrook Park has a new look thanks to the efforts of a youth group.

There are now trees leading to the water. Some trees will be gone growing where others have not, but they have planted them and exposed the roots, and eventually bushes and moss will be growing on the bank.

The Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps, a group consisting of nearly 50 high school students that was created this year by a \$140,000 two-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, did the work last week.

The grant was awarded to the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership—a group focused on improving water quality in the Presumpscot.

At Westbrook Park, the area rippled and exposed more grass, bushes and moss along the shoreline. They put down mulch, soil, grass seed and structural-wood pilings to keep all that in place. They also put down stream banks, willows and decorative bushes, all to improve the shoreline for a healthier river.

"It's really part of the program, and the crew," said the corps' director, Lisa Vickers. "The program does a lot of things. We're trying to give it a regional youth conservation corps to work on other water bodies."

The intent, the group also helped clean up the area of the bank. They had to remove vegetation and debris from the shoreline, according to Vickers. They also did work at York's Bridge in Windham among other sites.

The kids doing the work in Westbrook said they enjoyed working to help clean up the river and restore the surrounding area.



Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps members Warren Taylor, Jr. of Westbrook, Matt, and Jeremy Lowell, Jr. of Windham, planted trees and bushes along the river in the Presumpscot River at Westbrook Park.

As for the Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps, they are working along the river to clean up the river and to restore the river to its natural state. The river is currently in a state of decline. The river is currently in a state of decline. The river is currently in a state of decline.

"I would like to try to restore the river to its natural state," said Vickers. "The program does a lot of things. We're trying to give it a regional youth conservation corps to work on other water bodies."

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Gorham youth spending her summer improving the landscape

Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps offers environmental help to area towns

By Lisa Vickers
lisa.vickers@maine.edu

The summer is in full swing and the Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps (PRYCC) is busy with its inaugural season. The crew of high school students and their leaders are working on projects throughout the watershed to improve water quality and restore the river to its natural state.

"I'm having fun," she said. "I thought this would be a lot of work and a lot of time, but it's really been a great experience."

Every single day the group has to be on the water to work on projects. They have to be on the water to work on projects. They have to be on the water to work on projects.

"We're excited about it," she said. "It's a really long way, but we're not getting the whole thing just as much as we can."

Last week the group worked on Westbrook Park in Westbrook by installing the rock bank along the water and installing stream banks to make it a safer environment for the public to use. They also placed trees along the bank.

The group will continue to work on projects throughout the watershed. They will be working on projects throughout the watershed. They will be working on projects throughout the watershed.

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EVERETT/STAFF PHOTO BY CHARLIE SMITH - Gorham member Emma Steiner (left) stands with her Presumpscot River Youth Conservation Corps crew members, from left, Jeremy Lowell, Matt, and Lisa Vickers. The group worked on Westbrook Park in Westbrook by installing the rock bank along the water and installing stream banks to make it a safer environment for the public to use.

(Photo here is page 3)

YCC Staff

Technical Director: Lisa Vickers

Technical Assistance: Betty Williams

Crew Leader: Evelyn Lane

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Jessica Curlew (Windham)
Emma Deans (Gorham)
Emily Myshall (Windham)
Jeremy Lowell (Windham)
Warren Taylor (Falmouth)
Sam Tureff (Yarmouth)***

Program Funding and Support

**U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition
Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District
Friends of the Presumpscot River
Presumpscot River Watch
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Town of Westbrook
Westbrook Public Works
Town of Windham
Town of Gorham
Gorham Lands & Conservation Commission
Portland Trails**

***Thank you to all that participated in the
2006 Presumpscot River YCC!***



"The song of the river ends not at her banks, but in the hearts of those who have loved her."
--Buffalo Joe

For more information or to nominate a site for 2007, contact:

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