

# Royal River Youth Conservation Corps 2006 Summary Report

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*Working to improve water quality, raise community awareness and inspire local youth to become environmental leaders in the Royal River watershed.*



Thanks to everyone  
that helped make the  
Royal River YCC a  
success in 2006!



### YCC Staff

Technical Director: Sarah Plummer,  
Cumberland County SWCD

Crew Leader: Chad Brown

Crew:

Daniel Bastian  
Katherine Cole  
Nick Costello  
Becca Gerber  
Margaret Gerber (althernate)  
David Miklovich

### YCC Steering Committee

Matt Craig, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership  
Paul First, Durham Conservation Commission  
Lori Fowler, Sabbathday Lake Association  
Wendy Garland, Maine DEP  
Diane Gould, US EPA  
Jessica Hunter, Maine DEP  
Henry Nichols, Royal River Conservation Trust  
Sarah Plummer, Cumberland County SWCD  
Karen Young, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

### Program Funding

Maine DEP  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Libby Brook 319 Project  
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership  
Town of Freeport  
Town of New Gloucester  
Town of North Yarmouth  
Town of Pownal  
Town of Yarmouth  
Sabbathday Lake Association  
Crystal Lake Association



**Sabbathday Lake  
Association**



# Background Information

The Royal River Youth Conservation Corps (RRYCC) finished its third season in August, 2006. This booklet showcases some of the program's accomplishments and conservation projects that the crew installed throughout the Royal River Watershed.

## Purpose of the YCC

- The Royal River Watershed and its beautiful natural resources are in jeopardy. Polluted runoff is harming the scenic beauty, fish, recreational value, clam flats and other valued resources. Polluted runoff includes road sand, soil, phosphorus, nitrogen, bacteria, debris and other pollutants washed into lakes and streams by water from rainstorms and snowmelt. The Royal River YCC was created in 2004 to start fixing these pollution problems in the watershed.
- YCC staff provide the community with free technical assistance, labor and education to help fix pollution problems throughout the watershed.
- In addition to their water quality focus, other goals of the Royal River YCC include enhancing wildlife habitat, raising community awareness, and inspiring local youth to become environmental leaders.

## YCC Publicity

The YCC was featured in several newspaper articles this season, including the Falmouth Forecaster article shown here. WGME News Channel 13 also covered the YCC's planting project at Old Town House Park in North Yarmouth.

The YCC crew showcased some of its projects on a public tour on 8/11.

August 17, 2006

FORECASTER 7

### Youth groups plant trees to aid Royal River watershed

**By Peter Smith**  
NORTH YARMOUTH — As 10 teenagers from the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps threw sod into the back of a Ford Ranger on Aug. 11, sprinklers watered-in their day's work — close to 700 wetland trees and shrubs planted along the Royal River in the freshly mowed hayfields at the Old Town House Park.

At noon, most of the day's volunteers returned to their summer camp. The day wound down and so did the youth group's summer work for the environment.

"This is the last dirt you're going to have to move all summer," YCC leader Chad Brown, 27, said as the crew threw clumps of grass.

But Sarah Plummer, also 27, the YCC program director, corrected him: "It's soil, Chad."

Whatever the term — "dirt," "sod," "earth," "soil" — the YCC members have thrown a lot of it this summer, as they worked on plantings and habitat restoration projects in the Royal River watershed. The group is funded by the nonprofit Royal River Conservation Trust, and receives planning help from the Maine Department of Environmental Conservation and the nonprofit Trout Unlimited. The projects are designed to reduce storm runoff, reduce bank erosion and increase floating leaf debris — encouraging wildlife habitat and expanding the local populations of Atlantic salmon, alewife and trout.

All summer the crew has done a lot of dirty work, but last Friday was different. The YCC teens acted as youth leaders, organizing and leading volunteer crews of about 120 other teenagers, who came from a summer church conference at the North Yarmouth Church of Latter Day Saints. The young Mormons came to

dig holes and plant nursery plants on a one-day mission that fulfills the church's commitment to social work.

Sophia Wright, 16, of Freeport said, "We're here for the spirit."

The trees planted by the youth groups will send roots into the flood-prone areas around the Royal River that will hold the soil together. Dr. Curtis C. Bohlen, a Colby College professor and ecologist with the nonprofit Trout Unlimited, who led scientific tours of the site all day, said "we're creating what I think of as an organic version of fiberglass."

The plantings not only limited erosion and soil runoff, but they were designed with the surrounding ecosystem in mind. Water-loving plants, like willows, red maples, and blueberries, went in low-lying areas while pine, oak and northern white cedar went onto higher ground. Recreational trails snaked along the Royal River and through the newly planted trees.

"The planting is only the beginning of it," Bohlen said. Throughout the fall, the survival of the trees depends on irrigation, mowing and pest control. "After the first year," he said, "hopefully, it will take care of itself."

Bohlen walked over to the YCC crew, where Royal River Conservation Trust President Henry Nichols watched the day's progress. Nichols asked him, "Glad to be done with your summer field projects?"

"Yeah," Bohlen said. "Today was our best day ever."

Bohlen and Plummer said similar projects have taken weeks. With close to 150 volunteers, the planting on Friday took just under two hours. "They were done early," Bohlen said, "in spite of me trying to slow them down."



Michael Sarinath photo  
Sariah Abaroa, of Arundel, and Danielle Cookson, of Saco, are among a group of volunteers planting a mixture of shrubs and trees to provide animal habitat and flood plain protection along the Royal River in North Yarmouth last week.

By noon, the scheduled completion time, the church volunteers marched across the field with shovels. Others played hacky-sack in the parking lot and sat in the shade. Many were ready for a water balloon fight and a dance when they returned to the conference.

Meanwhile, the YCC crew headed for an end-of-the-season pizza party, but there was one last stop — a tour of the marshy Royal River ecosystem. "Who's ready to go see a vernal pool?" Plummer asked.

Peter Smith can be reached at 781-3661 ext. 126 or psmith@theforecaster.net.

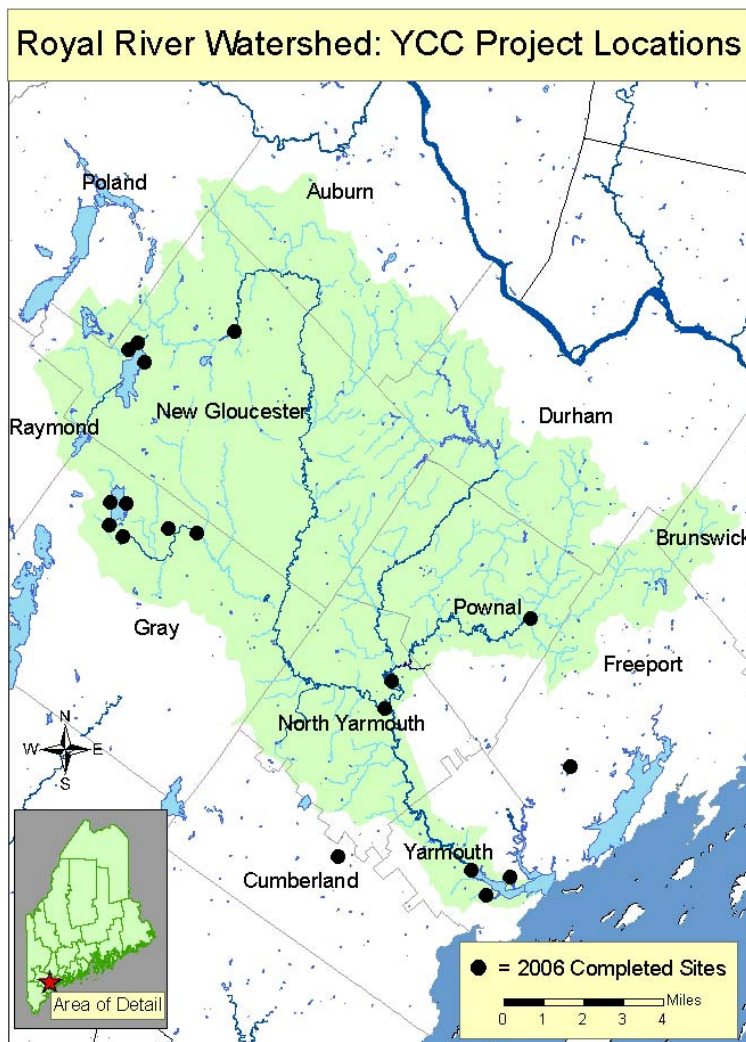


Public Tour

# Accomplishments

In just seven weeks, a team of five local high school students, led by a crew leader and technical director, successfully completed over erosion and pollution control projects at **18** locations in the Royal River Watershed. By the end of the summer they had:

- ◆ Planted 1,484 trees and shrubs
- ◆ Installed over 1,000 feet of fencing to keep cows out of Libby Brook
- ◆ Created and enhanced over 900 feet of trails
- ◆ Stabilized over 100 feet of ditches with 15 yards of stone riprap
- ◆ Spread 49 cubic yards of Erosion Control mix and bark mulch
- ◆ Stenciled 574 stormdrains to prevent stream pollution
- ◆ Led an end-of-season tour showcasing completed projects



# New Gloucester

The YCC completed four projects in New Gloucester, which lies almost entirely within the Royal River Watershed. Although not pictured here, the crew also cleaned out and maintained existing sediment basins and rubber razors on Outlet Road and West Shore Road, which drain to Sabbathday Lake.

## Fellers' Property, Sabbathday Lake

The crew installed roof dripline trenches around the Fellers' camp to infiltrate roof runoff (below right). They also placed stone at the outlets of an existing rubber razor (below left) to slow down driveway runoff before it reaches the lake.



## New Gloucester Fairgrounds

The crew spread mulch and improved existing trails, planted vegetation next to the carry-in boat launch to direct foot traffic and stabilized the launch with Erosion Control mulch.



# North Yarmouth

The YCC worked on two large-scale buffer planting projects in North Yarmouth this year. With support from Trout Unlimited and several other partners, the crew planted over 1200 trees and shrubs on the two properties. As the plants become established, they will help anchor the stream banks, filter runoff, provide wildlife habitat, and shade the stream.

## Chandler Brook Preserve

The YCC planted **500** trees and shrubs along Chandler Brook, a tributary of the Royal River. The Royal River Conservation Trust assisted the Town of North Yarmouth in acquiring this parcel for riparian habitat protection and passive recreational purposes.



## Old Town House Park

On August 11th, the YCC teamed up with 150 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to restore riverside buffer at Old Town House Park. In about three hours, the group planted **700** trees and shrubs on 1.5 acres along the Royal River.



# Yarmouth

The YCC completed several projects at Grist Mill Park and Bayview Preserve near the mouth of the Royal River. They also stenciled stormdrains on several town roads (see last page).

## Bayview Preserve

The crew installed mulch and a waterbar to stabilize several trails in the Bayview Preserve. The scenic town-owned park was recently expanded to 48-acres after the town purchased another 13 acres with help from a grant from Land for Maine's Future and other donations.



## Grist Mill Park

The YCC installed six infiltration steps to stabilize and prevent erosion at Grist Mill Park's main pathway. They also maintained previous plantings, planted additional native shrubs and perennials and spread mulch in two adjacent beds. In addition, they spread crushed stone in the parking lot to divert and infiltrate runoff.



# Gray

The YCC completed five projects and a wide diversity of conservation practices in Gray, which covers a significant area of the Royal River Watershed. Although not featured here, the crew also stabilized erosion problems near stream crossings in the Dry Mills area of Route 26 and Weymouth Road. At Wilkies Beach on Crystal Lake, the YCC planted additional buffers, mulched bare soils, and fixed road turnouts.

## Wood's Farm

As part of the Libby Brook 319 grant project, the YCC installed 1000' of fencing along Libby Brook and stabilized several cow trails on the farm. Their work will keep cows out of the stream, reduce soil erosion and keep manure out of the water. The crew also spread mulch and planted native trees, shrubs and perennials on eroded shoreline areas.



## Rollins' Property, Crystal Lake

The YCC fixed several erosion problems at the Rollins' property on Crystal Lake. They installed rock riprap to stabilize the shoreline, installed infiltration steps down to the lake and planted a shoreline buffer.





# Cumberland and Freeport

## Stormdrain Stenciling

Stormdrains collect stormwater runoff containing soil, fertilizer, manure, toxics and debris. This water flows unfiltered into our lakes, streams and the Royal River. Stenciling stormdrains discourages dumping and educates the public about the connection between stormdrains, and water quality. In 2006, the Royal River YCC stenciled **over 574 stormdrains** in Freeport, Cumberland and Yarmouth.



Freeport.



Yarmouth

## Pownal

The YCC cleaned out 6 cubic yards of sediment from a filled up sediment basin and road turnouts on Tuttle Road in Pownal. Since the YCC and Town have cleaned out this basin at least three times over the past two years, we know that these practices, if maintained, keep an estimated 5 yards (over 10,000 pounds) of soil out of the East Branch of the Royal River each year.



Before



After



For more information, contact:

Royal River Conservation Trust  
PO Box 90, Yarmouth, ME 04096  
207-847-9399  
[royal@maine.rr.com](mailto:royal@maine.rr.com)

