

# Royal River Youth Conservation Corps 2007 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 2007



## YCC Staff

### Technical Director:

Sarah Plummer,  
Cumberland County SWCD

### Crew Leader:

Chad Brown (pictured at far right)

### Crew: (pictured left to right)

Brent Maurice  
Will Woodworth  
Katherine Cole  
Margaret Gerber  
David Miklovich

## YCC Steering Committee

Matt Craig, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership  
Paul First, Durham Conservation Commission  
Lori Fowler, Sabbathday Lake Association  
Ruth Faut, Sabbathday Lake Association  
Wendy Garland, Maine DEP  
Diane Gould, US EPA  
Bob Houston, North Yarmouth Conservation Commission  
Henry Nichols, Royal River Conservation Trust  
Marcia Noyes, Town of Yarmouth  
Sarah Plummer, Cumberland County SWCD  
Karen Young, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

## Program Funding

Libby Brook 319 Project  
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership  
L.L. Bean  
Nine Wicket Foundation  
Town of Freeport  
Town of New Gloucester  
Town of North Yarmouth  
Town of Pownal  
Town of Yarmouth  
Sabbathday Lake Association  
Crystal Lake Association





# Introduction

The Royal River watershed and its beautiful natural resources are in jeopardy. Polluted runoff is harming its scenic beauty, fish, recreational value, clam flats and other valued resources. Polluted runoff includes 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.

The Royal River Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) finished its fourth season in August, 2007. This booklet showcases some of the program's accomplishments and conservation projects that the crew installed throughout the Royal River Watershed. Unfortunately, the crew leader's camera, along with most of the season's site photos, was stolen at the end of the season. As a result, this year's report is abbreviated and includes fewer photos than normal.

August 2, 2007

FORECASTER 5

## Teens work for Youth Conservation summer program

By Amy Anderson

**YARMOUTH** – A group of local high school students opted out of more traditional summer jobs to help maintain the 143-acre watershed area in greater Portland for the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps.

The program, run by the Royal River Conservation Trust, receives most of the funding from the 13 towns in the watershed area. Other funding comes from lake associations, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.

Chad Brown, the crew leader of the group, said their goal during the six-week program is to protect water quality in area rivers, streams and lakes by helping to combat erosion.

"Today we are planting about 170 ferns, wetland herbaceous plants, dogwood trees and woodier plants along the edge of the Royal River," Brown said this week.

They installed infiltration trenches to filter water as it runs into rivers, terraced steps and new rocks along the edge of the river.

While the teens are paid for their work, they said they enjoy the outdoor work.

David Miklovitch, a recent graduate of Gray-New Gloucester High School and veteran of the program, has worked with the corps for the past four years.

"This is fun," he said. "I get to be outdoors and help the environment." Miklovitch plans to attend the University of Southern Maine to major in mechanical

engineering.

Katherine Cole, a recent graduate of Hebron Academy, returned for her second year.

"This is a good time," she said. "I enjoy everyone here and the work is fun."

Will Woodworth, a senior at Yarmouth High School, Brent Maurice a sophomore at Cheverus and alternate Aaron Ricardi, a sophomore at Gray-New Gloucester, are all first-time workers.

Margaret Gerber, last year's alternate, said she came back because she enjoys the hard work and being outside.

"You don't wake up dreading going to work," Gerber said. "I'm actually psyched to dig ditches."

Sarah Plummer, the technical director of the project, is contracted out of the Royal River Conservation Trust. She said the teens also stenciled storm drains in Freeport and Auburn to make the public aware that the waste dropped into the drains was unfiltered and returned to the water source.

"In this work, the kids get an understanding of the large scope of what's out there," she said. "We teach environmental education and have them test water quality."

The corps will host a tour Wednesday, Aug. 8, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. to give the public a chance to see their work. The tour will start at Wilkies Beach off North Raymond Road (Route 26) in Gray, move on to a site near the state police barracks and then on to Royal River Park.

Amy Anderson can be reached at 781-3661 ext. 110 or [aanderson@theforecaster.net](mailto:aanderson@theforecaster.net).



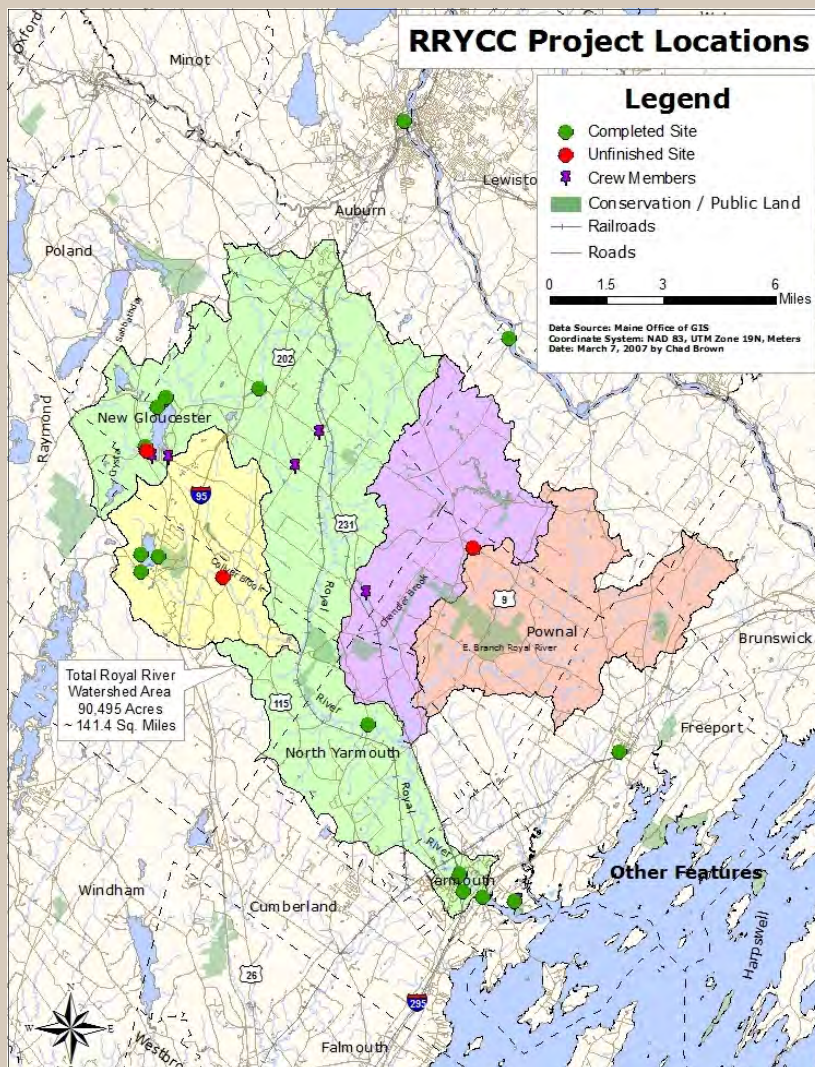
Anderson photo  
Youth Conservation Corps member Maggie Gerber, left, and crew leader Chad Brown plant ferns and trees Tuesday at Royal River Park in Yarmouth to help prevent excessive erosion.

The YCC was featured in several newspaper articles including the Falmouth Forecaster article shown here. WGME 13 also covered the YCC's planting project at Westcustogo Park in North Yarmouth.

# Accomplishments

In just six weeks, a team of five local high school students, led by a crew leader and technical director, successfully completed erosion and pollution control projects at **19** locations in the Royal River Watershed. By the end of the summer they had:

- Planted 534 trees and shrubs
- Repaired over 200 feet of fencing to keep cows out of Libby Brook
- Stabilized and enhanced over 800 feet of trails
- Removed 15 cubic yards of soil from filled sediment basins
- Spread 36 cubic yards of Erosion Control mix and bark mulch
- Stenciled 551 stormdrains to prevent stream pollution





# Auburn and Freeport

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 2007, the Royal River YCC stenciled **180** stormdrains in Auburn and **160** stormdrains in Freeport. Since both towns are considered MS4 communities, the YCC's efforts helped them meet their stormwater management and prevention obligations.

# Durham

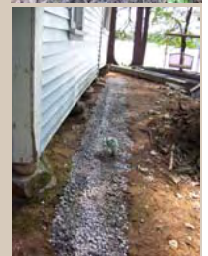
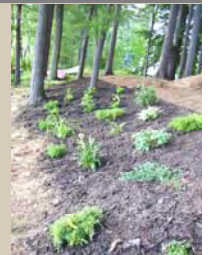
The Royal River YCC partnered with the Durham Conservation Commission to stabilize the river access at Riverfront Park. Since L.L. Bean uses the launch for some of its programs, they provided the funds for materials and some of the YCC's time. The YCC installed timber waterbars to divert runoff away from the river and stabilized the access trail with mulch.



# Gray

The YCC completed the following four projects in Gray, which includes several tributaries and Crystal Lake. Project sites included the following:

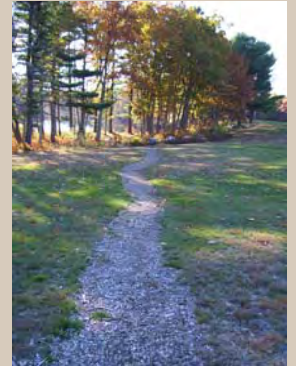
- **Wood Farm**—Over 200 feet of barbed wire fence was installed to keep livestock out of Libby Brook. The crew added 40 plants to the banks of the stream and mulched bare areas.
- **Rollins Property**—The YCC planted 68 buffer plants, spread 3 yards of mulch and installed a dripline trench to infiltrate roof on a shorefront property on Crystal Lake.
- **Sawyer Site**—The crew repaired the rubber razor and plunge pool that they installed on Crystal Lake in 2006. The site had been damaged during the Patriot's Day Storm.
- **Wilkes Beach**—Four yards of mulch and 15 plants were added to enhance the buffer area. The crew also removed 2 yards of accumulated sediment from the rock-lined turnouts between the road and beach.



# New Gloucester

The YCC completed the following five projects in New Gloucester, which lies almost entirely within the Royal River Watershed. This includes the following:

- **New Gloucester Fairgrounds**—The crew maintained and improved existing trails throughout the park. They also installed 200 square feet of Geoweb and crushed stone to stabilize this park's carry-in boat launch on the Royal River.
- **Outlet Road, West Shore Road and Pond Road**—The crew cleaned out and maintained several existing sediment basins, which prevent sediment from flowing into Sabbathday Lake.
- **Allen Property**—The YCC planted 26 buffer plants and improved infiltration steps on a shoreline property on Sabbathday Lake.



# North Yarmouth

The YCC planted another large-scale buffer in North Yarmouth. The crew planted over 200 trees and shrubs on 1/3 of an acre along the Royal River at Westcustogo Park. As the plants become established, they will help filter runoff, provide wildlife habitat and enhance the river's floodplain. The project was funded by the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.



# Pownal

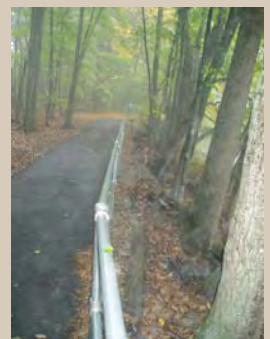
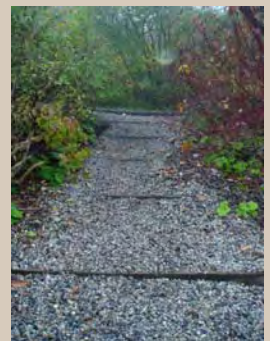
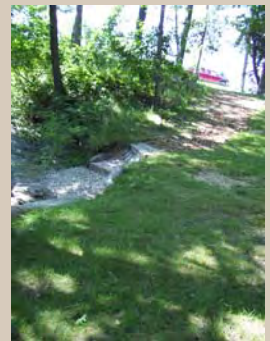
The YCC cleaned out 3 yards of sediment from an existing filled sediment basin next to Chandler Brook on Poland Range Road. They also installed a series of infiltration steps to stabilize a pathway down to the brook and created another sediment basin at the top of the steps to catch sediment washing off the roadway.



# Yarmouth

The YCC completed the following five projects in Yarmouth, which lies almost entirely within the Royal River Watershed. Project sites include:

- **Grist Mill Park**—The YCC added 2 yards of mulch to stabilize trails at the park, added 10 plants to the bank and maintained the infiltration steps that were installed in 2006.
- **Bayview Estuary Preserve**—The crew closed off an existing steep trail that directed runoff to the bay and rerouted the trail to a more stable location. They installed waterbars to direct runoff off the pathway.
- **Royal River Park**—The crew installed timbers and crushed stone along edge of the paved trail that runs parallel to the river. This project will help prevent bank erosion and secure the integrity of the trail. They also planted 119 plants to enhance river's buffer and installed infiltration steps and mulch to stabilize several river access points and trails.
- **Picnic Park**—The YCC spread 4 cubic yards of mulch and 2 cubic yards of crushed stone to stabilize eroding paths and planted 86 plants to increase riverside buffers.
- **Stormdrain Stenciling**—Approximately, 211 stormdrains were stenciled with the message, *Dump No Waste, Drains to Bay*.







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)

