

# Royal River Youth Conservation Corps 2008 Summary Report

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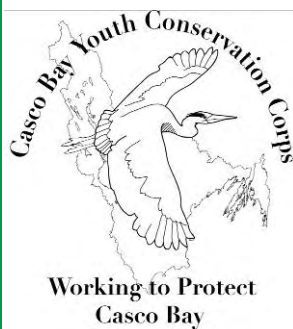
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*Working to improve water quality, raise community awareness and inspire local youth to become environmental leaders in the Royal River watershed.*



# Thanks to everyone that helped make the Royal River YCC a success in 2008



## YCC Staff

### Technical Director:

Blainor McGough

### Crew Leaders:

David Miklovich and Becca Gerber

### Crew:

Hannah Blatchford

Hannah Martin

Aaron Ricardi

Will Woodworth

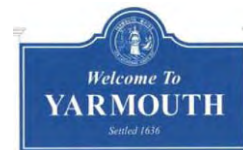
Jacob Degen Atkins

## YCC Steering Committee

- Matt Craig, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
- Amanda Devine, Royal River Conservation Trust
- Ruth Faut, Sabbathday Lake Association
- Wendy Garland, Maine DEP
- Bob Houston, North Yarmouth Conservation Commission
- Henry Nichols, Royal River Conservation Trust
- Marcia Noyes, Town of Yarmouth
- Sarah Plummer, Cumberland County SWCD
- Ann Speers, Maine Conservation Corps
- Heather True, Cumberland County SWCD
- Betty Williams, Cumberland County SWCD
- Merrie Woodworth, Royal River Conservation Trust

## Program Funding

- Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
- Crystal Lake Association
- DeLorme
- New England Grassroots Env. Fund
- North Yarmouth Conservation Comm.
- Sabbathday Lake Association
- Shawnee Peak
- Town of Cumberland
- Town of New Gloucester
- Town of North Yarmouth
- Town of Pownal
- Town of Yarmouth
- Yarmouth Water District



**Sabbathday 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 Youth Conservation Corps (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. 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 YCC finished its fifth season in August, 2008. This booklet showcases some of the program's accomplishments and conservation projects that the crew installed throughout the Royal River Watershed.

## Accomplishments

In just six weeks, a team of four local high school students, led by two crew leaders and a technical director, successfully completed erosion and pollution control projects at **16** locations in the Royal River Watershed. By the end of the summer they had:

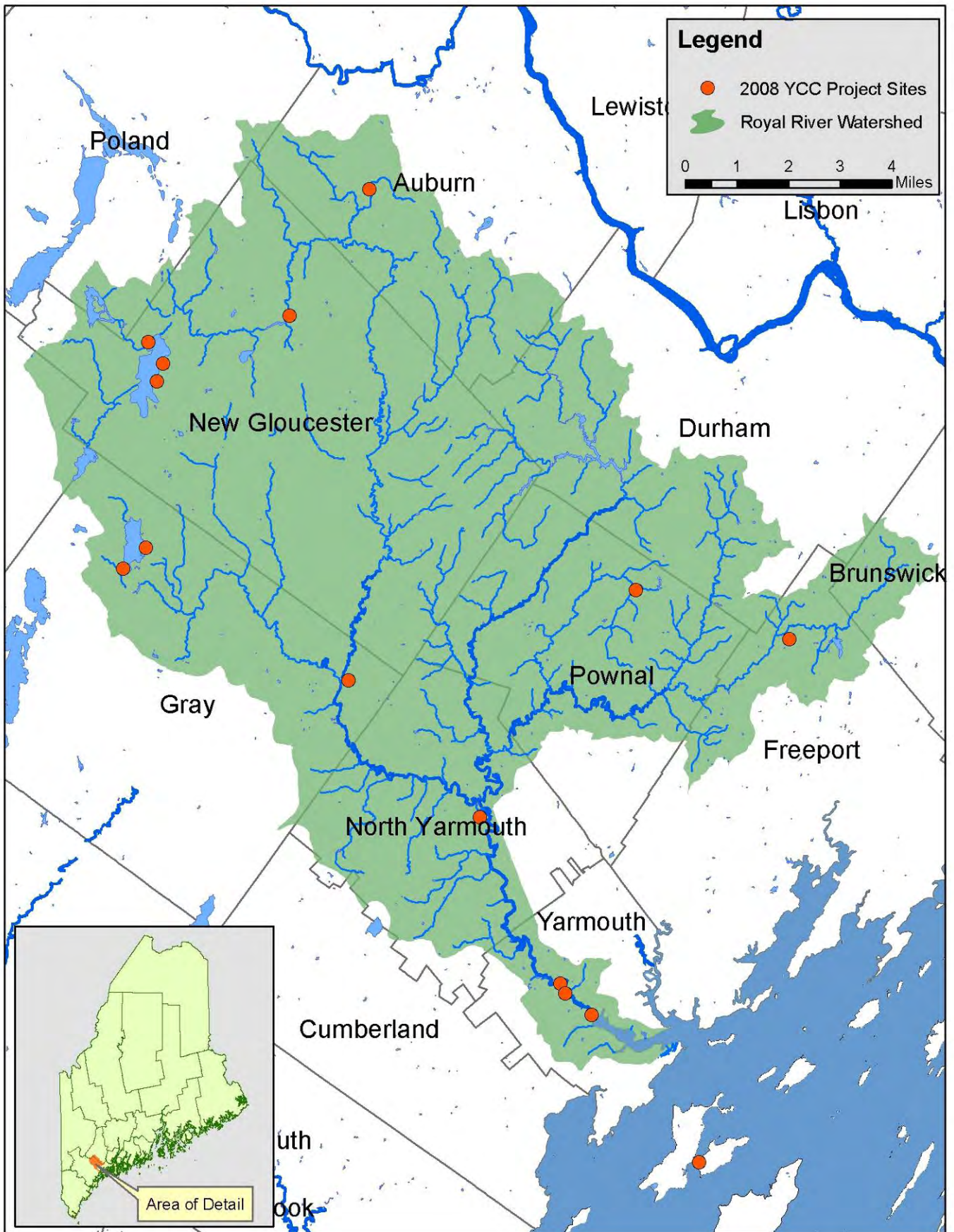
- Planted **914** trees and shrubs
- Cut and fastened **312** yards of geotextile
- Installed **4 cubic** yards of rip rap to stabilize shoreline
- Spread **49** cubic yards of Erosion Control mix and **16** yards of crushed stone
- Stenciled **486** storm drains to prevent stream pollution



**"This work is pretty rewarding because you know you're doing something for the environment. ... It feels good to know you are doing something positive."**

— Crew member Will Woodworth as quoted in the Portland Press Herald (see last page for full article)

# 2008 Royal River YCC Project Locations



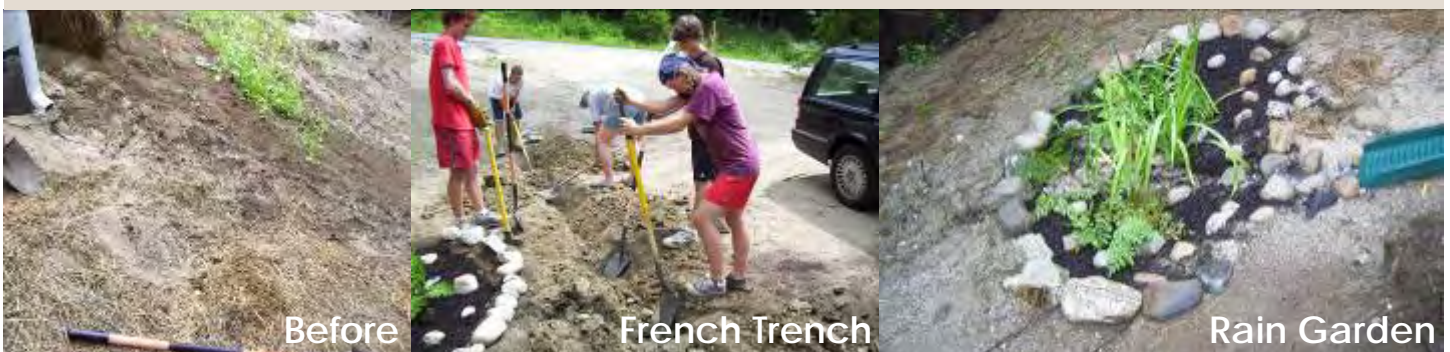
# Gray

This year, the Royal River YCC completed three projects in Gray, which includes Crystal Lake and a Royal River tributary, Collyer Brook.

## Kahn Property



With a variety of conservation practices, the crew controlled runoff at this private residence. The 34 shrubs and perennials in the buffer (above) and rain garden (below) will help filter and absorb runoff. The new French trench (below) will enhance infiltration, and water bars will divert sheet flow.



## Wilkie's Beach and Rollins Property— Crystal Lake

At Wilkie's Beach, the crew planted an 18-plant vegetative buffer and mulched bare soil to reduce erosion. At the Rollins property, the third and final phase of conservation practices were completed. Crews installed a dripline trench and planted a buffer of 68 plants along the shoreline. To stabilize the parking area, they spread crushed stone.

# New Gloucester

The YCC completed four projects in New Gloucester, which lies almost entirely within the Royal River Watershed. In addition to the projects listed below, the crew mulched eroding paths at a Sabbathday Lake residence (the Johnson property) and at the New Gloucester Fairgrounds, where they also planted donated daylilies.

## Cloutier Property—Sabbathday Lake



To stabilize shoreline access, the crew installed infiltration steps and in the surrounding area planted native vegetation. This defined pathway will reduce foot traffic on other, more fragile areas while also infiltrating hillside runoff.

## Faut Property—Sabbathday Lake



The crew removed accumulated sediment from an infiltration trench, open top culverts, and a turnout. Cleaning out such structures maintains their abilities to divert and/or filter runoff.

# North Yarmouth

The crew and volunteers extended a past YCC-led riparian buffer planting at Old Town House Park. In just four days, the crew planted 600 trees and shrubs on 1.3 acres along the Royal River. As the plants become established, they will help filter runoff, provide wildlife habitat and enhance the river's floodplain. Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and Shawnee Peak funded this work.

## Old Town House Park



Before

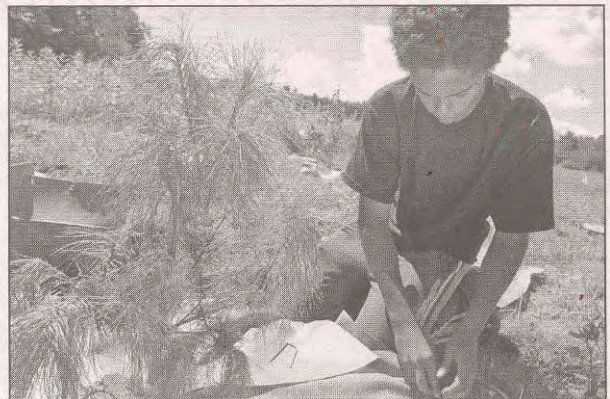


After

The crew's work at the park was featured in the Falmouth Forecaster (right) and in a YouTube video produced by Shawnee Peak. To view, use search word 'Royal River Shawnee Peak' or go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1tYEMavl68>

August 7, 2008

### Trees' company



Matthew DeLorme photo

Mike Savage, a volunteer with the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps, secures a sheet of cloth around a newly planted white pine at Old Town House Park in North Yarmouth last week. The fabric keeps weeds from choking out the saplings and help keep soil erosion down. The corps, which planted 600 trees in the park as a effort to rebuild a natural buffer along the Royal River, will also participate Friday in the first Maine Youth Conservation Corps Jamboree in Yarmouth, which will include tours of several RRYCC sites.

Thanks to all who volunteered!



# Pownal

In Pownal, Thoit's Brook flows into Chandler's Brook, a Royal River tributary. Protecting these tributaries' water quality in turn protects the Royal River.

## Thoit's Brook



Stone rip rap was installed on an old path to discourage use of the riverbank area (above). The crew also spread grass seed and hay along the riverbank, which was muddy and sparsely vegetated (below). As it takes root, the grass will help hold soil in place. Together, the reduced foot traffic and the growing root systems will help minimize soil erosion and its impacts to Thoit's Brook.





# Yarmouth

The YCC completed five projects in Yarmouth, where the Royal River meets Casco Bay. In addition to the projects listed below, the crew installed infiltration steps at Littlejohn Narrows Park, stenciled 256 storm drains throughout town, and planted a shoreline buffer at Grist Mill Park.

## Picnic Point



In the riparian zone, the crew planted 21 shrubs and perennials and mulched bare soil, stabilizing the bank and enhancing the understory buffer.

## Pratt's Brook Park

To close off and naturalize an eroding shoreline trail, the crew installed log water bars and planted native shrubs. This will help prevent soil erosion and block foot traffic.



## Royal River Park



In the architectural rubble of the historic Forest Paper mill, crew members planted a native perennial garden (at left). They also mulched exposed tree roots at the rope swing (not pictured).

# 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 2008, 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.

## First Annual YCC Jamboree

The Royal River crew's 2008 season ended with a bang at the first annual Maine YCC Jamboree. Developed to introduce the State's ten crews to each other so they could share conservation experiences, the event was also a celebration of the crews' environmental achievements. Benefitting landowners and local speakers, including DEP's commissioner David Littell, praised YCC members' hard work and effectiveness.



After lunch, there was a relay race, a tug of war, a native plant ID contest and live music. In the 'YCC tools' sculpture contest, the Royal River crew fashioned a statue of technical director Blainor and her dog Louie from shovels, buckets, and other materials. With creativity like that, it's no wonder their functional conservation practices were also attractive landscapes!



# Accomplishments in conservation

Ten youth corps will gather Friday to celebrate the environmental work they did this summer.

By MELANIE CREAMER  
Staff Writer

**T**he Royal River Youth Conservation Corps will celebrate the end of its environmental work this summer with the statewide Youth Conservation Corps Jamboree.

The event, from noon to 3 p.m. Friday at Picnic Point Park on East Elm Street in Yarmouth, will bring together roughly 80 young people from 10 conservation corps groups across the state. The event will allow all of the crews to meet and talk about the projects they worked on this summer, said Blainor McGough, technical director of the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps.

"We really wanted to get together to share ideas about using native plants and different water quality strategies," McGough said. "We wanted them to meet so they could see that there are other kids that are interested in environmental work and becoming environmental stewards."

The Youth Conservation Corps teaches young people various planting, landscaping and erosion-control techniques known as Best Management Practices to improve water quality, stop soil erosion and educate the community about conservation issues.

Wilson "Will" Woodworth, 18, of Yarmouth finished his second year in the corps group. He said it was hard work but a great experience. Before the event, crew members and their families will tour each site



Photo courtesy Blainor McGough

**The Royal River Youth Conservation Crew poses after working at Royal River Park.**

worked on this summer including rain gardens, waterbars, native gardens, infiltration steps and riparian borders.

Woodworth said he is looking forward to showing his parents what he accomplished.

"It's a nice way to end the season," Woodworth said. "(The work) is pretty rewarding because you know you are doing something for the environment. When you are done with a project, you can see what you've accomplished. It feels good to know you are doing something positive."

The event will offer local music, food and a sculpture contest using recycled construction materials such as Geotextile, duct tape and recycled plant containers.

There will be games such as tug-of-war, a human wheelbarrow race and a challenge to identify native plants.

Several guests are expected to attend the event. They include David Littell, commissioner of the Department

## IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Youth Conservation Corps Jamboree

**WHEN:** noon to 3 p.m. Friday

**WHERE:** Picnic Point Park on East Elm Street in Yarmouth

**HOW MUCH:** free

**FOR MORE:** call 615-3609

**TOUR SCHEDULE**  
**10 a.m.,** Kahn Site, meet at 165 Depot Road in Gray. The site features rain gardens, naturalized waterbars, native garden, french trench.

**10:40 a.m.,** Little John Narrows Overlook on

Little John Island in Yarmouth: This site features infiltration steps and *Prunus maritima* (beach plums) for root stabilization.

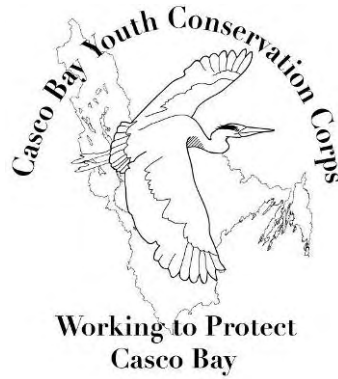
**11:15 a.m.,** Native Garden at Royal River Park, Yarmouth: Native perennial beds installed in historic architectural rubble of the former Forest Paper Mill site.

**11:45 a.m.,** Riparian planting at Picnic Point in Yarmouth: native tree, shrub, and perennial planting to naturalize and stabilize the bank of the Royal River.

of Environmental Protection; Curtis Bohlen of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership; and Sen. Bill Diamond, D-Windham. McGough said this event is a good opportunity to recognize the accomplishments they made this summer.

"It's our chance to commend the crews on the work they do for watershed and the environment," McGough said.

Staff Writer Melanie Creamer can be contacted at 791-6361 or at: [mcreamer@pressherald.com](mailto:mcreamer@pressherald.com)



For more information, contact:

Royal River Conservation Trust  
PO Box 90 Yarmouth, ME 04096  
207-847-9399  
hnichols@rrct.org

