

Sentry

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Upstream battle



Workers from the city of South Portland and volunteers breached a manmade berm along the bank of Trout Brook on Friday, Sept. 28 to allow the brook to access a floodplain when storms cause the water levels to rise. The work is part of what Fred Dillon of Water Resources Protection called a "modest but meaningful" project to restore the water quality of Trout Brook. (Marc Filippino photo)

Volunteers get hands dirty to help Trout Brook

By Jack Flagler
Staff Writer

SOUTH PORTLAND — Fred Dillon sat against the back of a truck bed, his boots, jeans and T-shirt splashed with mud. He, along with a handful of other volunteers, had just finished work for the day to restore Trout Brook, a stream he said suffered a "death by 1,000 cuts."

Dillon is the stormwater program coordinator with

the city of South Portland's Water Resources Protection department. For the last two years he has worked to erase the brook's label of "impaired" that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) applied because Trout Brook does not meet the state's water quality standards.

Dillon and educators from Portland Water District helped a group of middle school students release baby brook trout into the stream in May. At the beginning of the week the students spent there, Dillon showed them

an oil spill nearby. By the end of the week, rain had washed the spill into the water.

The issues that affect the brook's water quality didn't appear overnight. Dillon said the slow buildup of the residential area around the brook, and the rooftops and parking lots that came with that development, negatively impacted water quality.

"You go back 40 years and the watershed was a lot less

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Nuisance houses get second look at city council

By Jack Flagler
Staff Writer

SOUTH PORTLAND — The South Portland City Council moved another step closer to strengthening the ordinance that governs public nuisances in the city.

The council voted 6-0, with Councilor Tom Coward absent, to pass the first reading of the proposed ordinance change submitted by Sally Daggett, corporate counsel, and Pat Doucette, code enforcement officer. A second reading and final action on the ordinance change is set for Monday, Oct. 15.

The council first discussed the issue at a Sept. 24 workshop, where a number of residents frustrated with the conditions of their neighbors' properties voiced their concerns to the council.

The council discussion at a meeting Monday, Oct. 1 meeting took a broader tone. Councilors focused mainly

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Input sought on fort garden

By Jack Flagler
Staff Writer

CAPE ELIZABETH — With one project under its belt, the Fort Williams Foundation is wasting no time, and is moving forward with the arboretum project at Fort Williams Park.

This time, they want some help from the public.

Design plans for the Children's Garden, the next phase of the arboretum, are currently on display at multiple locations around the Portland area. Residents in Cape Elizabeth can see the designs from five different landscape architects at the town's

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This area of Fort Williams Park near the pond and tennis courts may not look like much now, but next summer work will begin to install a Children's Garden as part of the Fort Williams Foundation's Arboretum Project. Designs are currently on display from five competing landscape architecture firms at various locations around the Portland area. (Jack Flagler photo)

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