

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local Youth Put Stimulus Dollars to Work

On August 10th and 11th the Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), a group of local high school students working to improve the water quality of Casco Bay, will be joining the efforts to restore Long Creek by assisting with a large-scale planting project designed to enhance stream habitat and improve the water quality of the Creek. The YCC will plant 500 native trees and shrubs to create a vegetated buffer along the south branch tributary of Long Creek at Philbrook Avenue in South Portland.

Long Creek is a stream that flows through the Maine Mall area of South Portland, with portions of the stream, and the land draining to it, extending into Portland, Westbrook and Scarborough. Over the past two years, the community-based Long Creek Restoration Project, led by the City of South Portland, has been working to develop a locally-supported stormwater management plan to bring the stream back into compliance with state and federal standards (www.restorelongcreek.org).

The restoration efforts for this section of Long Creek will help to establish wildlife habitat and food for aquatic animals, while also providing shade and temperature control for the stream. This planting is being completed with the support of the Maine Mall, the Hampton Inn and the EconoLodge as part of a larger project to address stormwater impacts in and around Philbrook Avenue. In addition to the planting, six subsurface stormwater treatment units are being installed by White Bros Construction to manage runoff from heavy rain events.

These improvement efforts on Philbrook Avenue are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that is being administered by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. Funding for the Casco Bay YCC is provided, in part, by the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.

To view the completed planting project, please come to the YCC tour of accomplishments on Friday, August 14th. The tour will start at the Philbrook Avenue location at 9:00am. For more information contact Stephanie Dulac, YCC Technical Director, at (207) 892-4700.