

# Recent Accomplishments



Casco Bay is one of 28 “estuaries of national significance” designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To protect the ecological integrity of the Bay and its watershed, the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership works with its partners to ensure effective management and wise stewardship of the Bay’s resources.

## Minimizing Stormwater Pollution

### **South Portland’s Stormwater Manual**

CBEP provided a grant to the City of South Portland to develop an on-line manual of Low Impact Development (LID) and other techniques for reducing stormwater pollution. The manual provides user friendly information for developers and homeowners on stormwater and stormwater management techniques suitable for use in coastal Maine. The online manual is available at: [www.southportland.org/stormwatermanual](http://www.southportland.org/stormwatermanual)

### **Long Creek Watershed Update**

CBEP continues to support the Long Creek Watershed Management District’s (LCWMD) approach to urban watershed restoration and stormwater management. The program includes over 115 properties owners within the watershed and participants now represent approximately 93% of the regulated impervious cover in the watershed, demonstrating that a collaborative approach to stormwater management can be both environmentally responsible and attractive to the business community. Since 2009, LCWMD has installed more than \$2 million in stormwater controls and worked with landowners to improve stormwater management practices. At Mall Plaza, stormwater runoff from 15 acres of impervious surfaces is now being treated by innovative stormwater control structures (photo right).

The work of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership is guided by the *Casco Bay Plan*, which identifies five key goals for watershed protection:

1. Minimize pollution loading from stormwater and combined sewer overflows
2. Open and protect shellfish beds and swimming beaches
3. Protect and restore habitat
4. Reduce toxic pollution
5. Promote responsible stewardship



*Mall Plaza stormwater control structures.*

## Protecting and Restoring Habitat

### **Land Conservation**

CBEP’s Habitat Protection Fund (HPF) assists local land trusts and municipalities with the permanent protection of high value habitat. Two projects, the Basin Cove/Curtis Cove Project sponsored by the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, and the Henshaw Project, sponsored by Brunswick Topsham Land Trust were selected for funding in 2011. CBEP provided \$20,000 towards acquisition for each project and drafted letters of support to accompany applications for US Fish and Wildlife, National Coastal Wetlands Grants. Both projects received the funding. Combined, the two projects protect 277 acres with an additional 40 acres of protected tidal flats and wetlands.

### **Fish Passage Barrier Survey**

CBEP recently completed a watershed-wide survey of fish passage barriers started in 2009. Detailed data was collected from almost 1400 sites. The survey data is being used to identify high priority fish passage restoration sites.

### **Salt Marsh Restoration**

CBEP has recently restored tidal circulation at the Thomas Cove saltmarsh. The project reduced the severity of a tidal restriction by replacing an undersized culvert under Adams Road (funded in part with NOAA restoration funds) thus reestablishing tidal activity to more than 22 acres of wetland. Project partners include the Town of Brunswick, the New Meadows Watershed Partnership and Maine’s Department of Transportation.



*Casco Bay Watershed fish barrier assessment*



*Adams Road pipe installation.*

Photo by Stade Moore

# Protecting Shellfish Beds

## **Expanding and Sustaining the Shellfisheries of Casco Bay 2011**

CBEP contracted with Normandeau Assoc. who worked with Department of Marine Resources (DMR), towns and harvesters to identify and prioritize shellfish resource areas in nine Casco Bay communities for pollution remediation. In addition, the 2011 project supports DMR's water quality monitoring efforts by providing stream flow monitoring data at selected streams in Brunswick, Freeport, and Yarmouth.

## Toxics

### **Casco Bay Sediment Sampling**

CBEP collected data on the concentration of toxic chemicals in Casco Bay sediment in the early 1990's and early 2000's. With the help of the Friends of Casco Bay, sediment samples were again collected from 70 locations around the Bay in 2010 and 2011. Analysis of these samples will give us a 20 year perspective on changing levels of toxics in the Bay.

## Stewardship

### **2011 Community Based Habitat Enhancement Projects**

The Habitat Enhancement Program supports local, community-based projects that combine habitat enhancement activities with strong educational and stewardship components.

- Town of Falmouth: *East Branch Habitat Improvement Project*
- Friends School of Portland: *Reclaiming Mackworth Island One Student at a Time*
- Portland Trails: *Land Stewardship Service Learning*
- Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District: *Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corp's Smelt Hill Habitat Enhancement Project*

### **Portland Waterfront Exhibit**

CBEP installed an outdoor waterfront exhibit at Bell Buoy Park, a small park adjacent to Portland's busy Commercial Street. The exhibit's intent is to articulate in graphics and straightforward text the connection between small choices in our daily lives and the condition of the Bay.

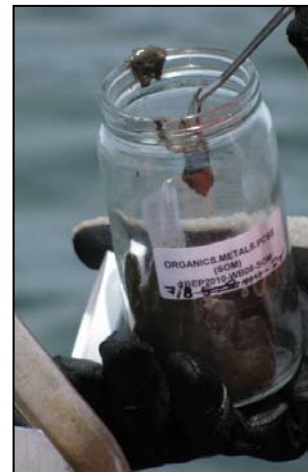
## Responding to Emerging Issues

### **Circulation Workshop**

CBEP hosted a two-day workshop in May 2011 for regional and national scientists and coastal managers. The workshop identified obstacles to improved understanding of circulation in Casco Bay. Better knowledge of circulation would support many management needs, from responding to oil spills, to managing coastal fisheries, and to understanding the effects of excess nutrients on the Bay.



*Clamming*



*Sediment sample collection*



*Bell Buoy Park waterfront exhibit, Commercial Street in Portland.*

*Protecting and restoring the ecological integrity of the Casco Bay watershed*



The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership works to preserve the ecological integrity of Casco Bay and to ensure compatible human uses of the Bay's resources, through public stewardship and effective management.