

LONG CREEK PLANNING PROJECT

Planning for the improvement of stream water quality and habitat

Project Fact Sheet

August 2007

Long Creek Water Quality

Long Creek does not meet required state water quality standards. As a result, the Long Creek watershed municipalities must take steps to restore water quality, **which may require property owners in the watershed to implement fixes that could have a financial impact.**

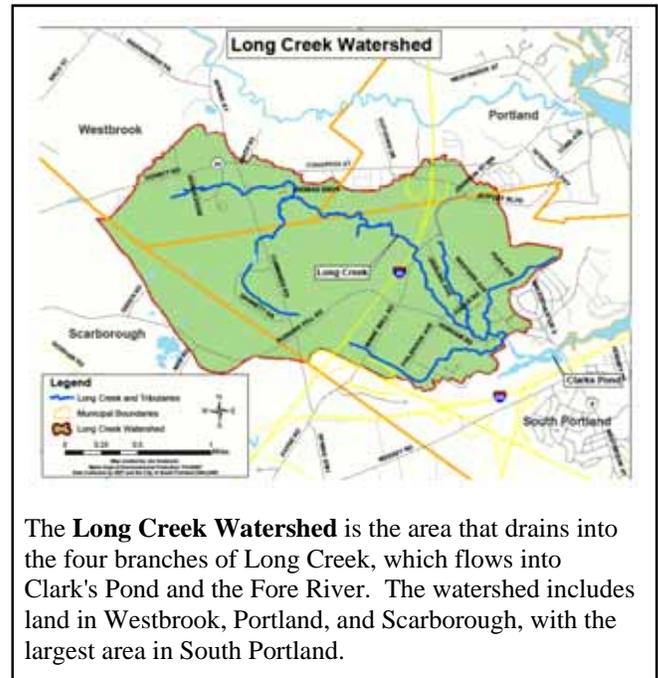
The City of South Portland has received a federal grant to partner with watershed municipalities and stakeholders to develop a locally supported plan for the Long Creek Watershed area. The plan will outline a strategy to help restore the water quality of Long Creek so that it meets the quality standards set under state and federal law.

What causes impairment of stream water quality & habitat?

Water quality problems can be linked to a range of land use activities, including activities associated with development. Generally, impairment is linked to the amount of "impervious surface" -- pavement and rooftops -- in the watershed. When it rains, oil, grease, and silt are washed off impervious surfaces into streams. Instead of seeping through the ground, water runs off rapidly, leading to high volume during storms, and low volume later. Temperature is raised where streams are not shaded, and where run-off is warmer than it would be if it seeped through unpaved ground.

What are the benefits of a Watershed Management Plan?

- ✓ Provides a mechanism to identify the most cost-effective steps to address water quality problems, which will minimize implementation costs to property owners.
- ✓ Leads to more effective restoration of water quality and habitat.
- ✓ Increases opportunities to obtain grants and bring in resources to implement fixes.



The **Long Creek Watershed** is the area that drains into the four branches of Long Creek, which flows into Clark's Pond and the Fore River. The watershed includes land in Westbrook, Portland, and Scarborough, with the largest area in South Portland.

Project Convening Committee

Dan Bacon, Town of Scarborough
Shay Bellas, South Portland Conservation Commission
Tom Blake, South Portland Land Trust
Michael Bobinsky, City of Portland
Linda Boudreau, ecomaine
John Branscom, Maine Turnpike Authority
Pat Cloutier, City of South Portland
Eric Dudley, City of Westbrook
Kathi Earley, City of Portland
John Geddis, Maine Mall
Chris Gillies, SP/CE Chamber of Commerce
Dick Hall, National Semiconductor
Chris Hall, Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce
Steve Hinchman, Conservation Law Foundation
Ryan Hodgman, Maine Department of Transportation
Jim Hughes, South Portland City Councilor
Jerry Jalbert, South Portland Citizen Representative
Tamara Lee Pinard, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District
Ron Owens, Town of Scarborough
Ed Palmer, Marriott/Sable Oaks/Holiday Inn Express
Dave Russell, Fairchild Semiconductor
Don Witherill, ME Dept of Environmental Protection
Karen Young, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

Why should property owners participate?

- ✓ Find solutions that are in everyone's best interest.
- ✓ Ensure your needs are represented.
- ✓ Find the most cost effective solutions.
- ✓ Increase aesthetics and environmental health of your watershed.
- ✓ Build partnerships to maximize resources.

How can property owners participate and stay informed?

- ✓ Sign up for an e-mail list to receive information and provide input.
 - ✓ Participate in a "Long Creek Watershed Committee" that will meet periodically to evaluate and prioritize restoration measures and mechanisms.
 - ✓ Participate on a subcommittee of the planning effort.
- Contact Pam McCarthy at 207-767-7675 ext 7578 or pmccarthy@southportland.org to sign up for any one of these opportunities.
- General questions about the process can go to Ann Gosline, Project Facilitator. Contact Ann at 207-737-8483 or email her at agosline@goslinereitman.com.

Project and Committee Structure



Watershed Committee

The community of stakeholders who attend meetings to develop the watershed plan.

The Watershed Committee will:

- ✓ Identify issues
- ✓ Determine goals and a vision
- ✓ Identify potential resources
- ✓ Approve priority-setting criteria and approve priorities
- ✓ Indicate whether they approve a draft plan (drafted by the Stream Consultant in light of technical information and criteria approved by Watershed committee)

Steering Committee

A subcommittee that provides leadership throughout the process. The Steering Committee will be empowered to make process decisions and any other decisions delegated by the Watershed Committee. The Steering Committee will include watershed municipal representatives and a diverse range of stakeholders.

Technical Subcommittee

Technical representatives of Watershed Committee designated to work with the Stream Consultant in the various stages of developing technical reports. This subcommittee may also be charged with identifying interim successes and potential pilot projects.

Outreach Subcommittee

A subcommittee designated to reach out to stakeholders and work with project staff to hold public education forums and develop effective communications mechanisms, such as a website.

Resources Subcommittee

A subcommittee charged with researching models to implement watershed plans and exploring potential financial and technical resources to assist in accomplishing the goals of the plan.