

LONG CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Planning for the improvement of stream water quality and habitat

Project Profile

June 2008

Project mission: identify and implement a cost-effective, environmentally-responsible, and equitable plan for restoring and protecting Long Creek and its watershed.

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.



Restoration will address existing and new development. Above is an example of a vegetated swale that collects and treats stormwater from the surrounding parking area.

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.



Photo Credit: Jeff Varricchione, MDEP

What you can do now to improve water quality and habitat.

Participate

- ✓ Ensure your needs are represented.
- ✓ Build partnerships to maximize resources.
- ✓ Find solutions that are in everyone's best interest.
- ✓ Find the most cost effective solutions to address water quality and habitat impairments.
- ✓ Go to www.restorelongcreek.org to learn about upcoming events and meetings.

Learn more

The project website is designed to evolve in order to provide the most current information for Long Creek property owners to meet their restoration objectives. Project staff are available to respond to requests for information.

- ✓ Go to www.restorelongcreek.org to learn more about your role in restoration.
- ✓ Sign up for the e-mail list to receive information.

Does your property include pavement? Roofs? Landscape elements?

- ✓ Go to www.restorelongcreek.org to get more information about how to manage pavement, roof runoff, landscapes and dumpsters to reduce impacts on water quality and habitat.

Provide input

- ✓ Go to www.restorelongcreek.org to provide input as the plan develops.
- ✓ Also, tell us what you want to see on the website—we need to hear from you to make the website a useful tool.



Restoration will improve fish habitat and recreational opportunities.

Long Creek Restoration Project website: www.restorelongcreek.com



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 Steering Committee

- City of South Portland
- City of Westbrook
- Town of Scarborough
- City of Portland
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maine Department of Transportation
- Maine Turnpike Authority
- Portland Regional Chamber
- Fairchild Semiconductor
- National Semiconductor
- Maine Wetlands Bank
- Marriott Sable Oaks
- Sable Oaks Golf Course
- ecomaine
- Portland International Jetport
- Maine Mall
- South Portland Land Trust
- Casco Bay Estuary Partnership
- Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Conservation Law Foundation