

# Long Creek Watershed Implementation Property Database

## #2009RR15

Waterbody Name: Long Creek

Location: South Portland, Westbrook, Portland, Scarborough – Cumberland County

Waterbody Status: Urban Impaired Stream, Impaired

Project Grantee: Cumberland County SWCD

Project Duration: May 2009 – December 2009

604(b) Grant Amount: \$30,000

Local Match: \$22,000



### PROBLEM:

The Long Creek watershed covers 3.45 square miles, primarily in Westbrook and South Portland. The watershed includes the Maine Mall, a golf course, light industrial facilities, office parks and some forested areas. A large stretch of the Maine Turnpike and a major regional waste incinerator and landfill also lie within in the watershed. This five mile freshwater stream and its tributaries are on the DEP Urban Impaired Stream and 303(d) lists due to problems with degraded habitat, dissolved oxygen, biological criteria, heavy metals and chlorides.

From 2007-2009, the City of South Portland worked with consulting firms, Cumberland County SWCD, municipal stakeholders, MTA, Maine DOT, local nonprofits and business owners in the watershed to develop the *Long Creek Watershed Management Plan* (2009), which outlines a cost-effective strategy for the restoration of Long Creek. In December 2008, in action independent of the planning effort, Long Creek became the first watershed in the State of Maine to have a Residual Designation Authority (RDA) petition filed. This resulted in an order by the US EPA for watershed landowners with one acre or more of impervious cover to obtain a stormwater permit from the Maine DEP. In August 2009, municipalities of South Portland, Portland, Westbrook and Scarborough executed an interlocal agreement to create the Long Creek Watershed Management District (LCWMD). Most of the watershed properties subject to the RDA order have since joined the LCWMD and are contributing to a coordinated restoration effort, and several stormwater retrofits and restoration projects have already been implemented.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project plan was to develop a property database to aid in the implementation of the *Long Creek Management Plan*. The database contains watershed parcel information such as parcel features, impervious areas, location of best management practices (BMPs) and property owners and operators. The database will be used to track treated impervious areas and monitor BMP performance and maintenance needs during future phases of restoration within the Long Creek watershed.



## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- A database was developed and is now being used to support the implementation of the *Long Creek Watershed Management Plan*. The database design considers the complexities and interrelatedness of watershed parcels (e.g., a single parcel can have multiple BMPs, a variety of uses and different management activities).
- A web-based content management system was developed that includes user-friendly features such as drop down menus.
- The contracted cost for developing the database was well under the total amount allocated, and the additional funds were used to establish and input parcel data into the database. This allowed the database to be tested to a greater degree and led to the development of several new components that helped simplify data input and output.
- The completed database can be cost effectively replicated for use in other watersheds.

City of South Portland

Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

*Long Creek Restoration Project - Data Management*

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Web based database application developed by [J.K. Barbalace, inc.](#)

## PROJECT PARTNERS:

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