



The Newsletter of Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

Engaging with communities to conserve, steward, access and enjoy local lands and clean water

Fall 2019

New Recreation and Conservation Destination in Westbrook

Mill Brook Preserve South in Westbrook officially opened to the public with a ribbon cutting and guided trail walk on October 20th. This new conservation project protects 32-acres of land along Mill Brook. It provides a 1.5 mile family-friendly loop walking trail, free and open for the public, that includes extensive forests, wetlands, and great views of Mill Brook.

Mill Brook Preserve South is a reality thanks to Westbrook Housing, which generously provided the trailhead parking at their Millbrook Estates senior affordable housing on East Bridge Street, as well as a trail easement. Chris LaRoche, Executive Director of Westbrook Housing, said: "We are excited about our relationship with the Land Trust. We feel that combining affordable housing with the ability to provide open recreational amenities to the greater community is a civic responsibility and a benefit to everyone. It was our desire to incorporate recreational walking for our residents, and our collaboration with the Land Trust provided us with that opportunity. As a result, together we are able to provide an expanded urban recreational corridor that is also available to the general public and benefits everyone." The new trailhead is close to downtown Westbrook, the Westbrook Community Center, the Sebago to the Sea Trail, and is a stop on the Greater Portland Metro #3 Bus Line.

In addition, lead funding by Cornelia Warren Community Association made it possible to engage over 100 youth from Westbrook to be a part of creating the new preserve. Youth from the Westbrook Community Center's Summer Camp, My Place Teen Center and the Westbrook High School's Alternative Education COMPASS Project were engaged. They helped build the trail and improve the wildlife habitat, while getting to know the outdoors and nature close to home.

In the future, while Mill Brook Preserve South is not currently connected to Mill Brook Preserve, it is our vision to create a corridor park that is connected both for wildlife and for people to enjoy for generations to come.



Westbrook Community Center Summer Camp Youth Volunteering.



Kids exploring the giant Oak Tree at Mill Brook Preserve South.

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust engages with communities to conserve, steward, and provide access to local lands and clean water for current and future generations to enjoy.

We are a community based nonprofit primarily serving Gorham, Gray, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham. We hold 1,650 acres of conserved lands with 15 free public access preserves that include trails and water access. We are the water stewards of the Presumpscot River watershed and we coordinate the Sebago to the Sea Trail, a 28-mile trail from Standish to Portland. Learn more at www.prlt.org.

Board of Directors

Gretchen Anderson
Sarah Andre
David Cole
Matt Craig
Richard Curtis
Jesse Ferreira
Melissa Hamlin
Tammy Heiselmeyer
Jim Hughes
Priscilla Payne
Tamara Lee Pinard
Tom Pitman
Matt Streeter

Staff

Rachelle Curran Apse, Executive Director
Toby Jacobs, Stewardship and Outreach Manager

