



Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

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PRESS RELEASE

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SEBAGO TO THE SEA TRAIL PROJECT TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service has announced that the Sebago to the Sea Trail collaborative project, facilitated by the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and with numerous partners including the City of Westbrook, Healthy Maine Partners, Town of Standish, Portland Trails, Portland Water District and many more, has been selected to receive assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. This project was selected from the most competitive field of requests ever received by the agency and was one of only 12 new projects accepted in New England, New York and New Jersey.

First developed by the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, the Sebago to the Sea Trail collaborative initiative is a 3-5 year trail connectivity project to create a continuous trail from Casco Bay to Sebago Lake. Numerous trails which already exist in this corridor will be linked together to provide recreation and alternative transportation through Portland, Falmouth, Westbrook, Windham, Gorham and Standish.

The Sebago to the Sea Coalition establishing this trail includes: Portland Trails, Portland North Land Trust Collaborative, Town of Windham, Windham Parks & Recreation, City of Westbrook, Town of Standish, Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, Portland Water District, Mountain Division Alliance, Healthy Maine Partnerships, National Park Service and many others.

With assistance from the National Park Service, the Sebago to the Sea Coalition, is now entering Phase II of the project. This will include collecting information, identifying existing trails and evaluating how to fill the gaps, beginning to inform and communicate with the public, and raising funds to further develop the project.

"The National Park Service is proud to support such capable partners and eager to help contribute to the Sebago to the Sea Trail initiative," Julie Isbill, National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program, Northeast Region.

Through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, the National Park Service helps communities and neighborhoods preserve their important local resources, protect river resources, develop new trails and greenways and create new open space. These projects are locally-led with RTCA staff supporting local recreation and conservation leaders. This year, 23 projects were selected as Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance recipients in the 8 states across New England and New York and New Jersey. In 2007-2008, RTCA efforts helped over 100 communities leverage \$13 million in funds for targeted projects.

For more information on the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, please visit www.nps.gov/rtca. For more information about the Sebago to the Sea collaborative trail project, or the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, contact Tania Neuschafer, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, (207) 272-2847 or prlandtrust@yahoo.com, or go to www.prlt.org.