



CONTACT: Candice Cook
Program Manager
617.542.7696
candice@bostonnatural.org
www.bostonnatural.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Youth Spend Summer Enhancing Neponset Parks
20 Teens Make a Difference in the Community
with Summer Job**

BOSTON, MA – September 1, 2011 Two crews of teenagers from Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park and Milton worked hard for six weeks this summer completing park improvement projects along the Neponset River, learning about their environment and earning a paycheck all at the same time. The twenty teens were part of Boston Natural Areas Network’s Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), which employed a total of 45 teens working all over the city.

The Neponset YCC Crew spent their summer at Dorchester’s Pope John Paul II Park where the crew expanded the habitat-enhancing hummocks by mulching, pruning and planting new beds. The River Crew was based in Mattapan, where they enlarged the riverside trail behind Ryan Playground on River Street. The trail really benefited from the YCC attention as many people are eyeing this section of trail as a possible Neponset River Greenway extension to Mattapan Square.

You are invited to visit these parks to enjoy all the hard work the YCC teens have done. As one YCC teen put it, “I think we have worked very hard and I really think the job I am doing is going to change my community.” The community thanks all the YCC teens so much for their efforts this summer!

--More--

The YCC program is made possible by Paul and Edith Babson Foundation, City of Boston Youth Fund, City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Copeland Family Foundation, East Boston Savings Bank, East Boston Greenway Council, Foundation M, Green Leaf Foundation, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, George Macomber Family Charitable Fund, Neponset River Greenway Council, Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust, and Individual Donors.

Boston Natural Areas Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together local residents, partner organizations, public officials and foundations to preserve, expand, and enhance urban open space, including community gardens, greenways, and urban wilds. For more information about the organization, becoming a member or the calendar of events, visit www.bostonnatural.org or call 617-542-7696.

###



Neponset Crew Photo

From Left: Evens Archer, Chris Concannon, John Podier, Shawn Jouthe, Solana Czwakiel, Jakaa Campbell-Branch, Crew Supervisor Mujihad Muhammad, Janet'e Weathers, Medgine Napoleon, Gabriel Howson.



River Crew Photo

From Left: Elizabeth O'Reilly, Israel Mayhew, Adam Cameron, Shafira Myers, Hector Martinez, Crew Supervisor Kurt Wigmore, Myron Gonzalez, Mark Benjamin, Klarissa Ramkissoon, Maggie Larkin. Front Row: Nery Roman. Not Pictured: Chressentina Paul