



July 25, 2010 7:02 pm US/Eastern

Volunteers Work To Clean Up Local Creek



Reporting
[Tim Williams](#)

ESSEX, Md. (WJZ) — It's an important creek with a funny name. Volunteers are trying to clean it up, but they need help.

It's called the Bread and Cheese Creek and, as **Tim Williams** reports, it feeds right into the Chesapeake Bay.

With gloves in hand and boots at the ready, John Long and his volunteers go about their tireless mission of cleaning up the Bread and Cheese Creek.

"We've done approximately half the creek so far and we've already taken out 24 tons of garbage. We've taken a total of 54 shopping carts out and there is at least 30-some more in the stream," Long said.

The historic creek starts at Eastern Avenue, drains into Back River and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. It was used for [travel](#) in battle during the War of 1812, but for the past three years, the battle for Long and his volunteers has been to remove waste and trash from its path before it washes downstream.

Now they need help.

"We've gotten some help with gloves and trash bags in the past from the county, as well as the Alliance from Chesapeake Bay. All the stuff that's not supplied, I pay for out of my pocket. Unfortunately, \$500--which is what it cost for one dumpster--is a little bit out of my budget," Long said.

In the past, dumpsters were donated by state agencies. The budget is now depleted. Volunteers hope their efforts will get a needed boost of a [donation](#), or at least a dumpster.

"Our hope is that if we set the example and show people it can be done--even with a small group of volunteers and a Sunday afternoon--that we can make something good happen," said volunteer Raina Dewald.

At 3.71 miles, the Bread and Cheese Creek is not very long, but recent surveys show it to be the third most polluted tributary in the entire Back River water system.

"My grandfather always said many hands make work light and that's what it comes down to," Long said.

For more information on the Bread and Cheese Creek cleanup, click [here](#).



It's an important creek with a funny name. Volunteers are trying to clean it up, but they need help. CBS