

Orange teens' work continues at Reservoir

Orange Transcript

City officials in Orange said Monday that 24 teen residents have been participating in the city's employment and training program.

The summer work program, said city officials, is a partnership between United Water and the city's department of community services and public works, and the Essex County Department of Development Training and Employment.

More than one-half of the students are working on a cleanup-and restoration project at the Orange Reservoir in West Orange, said city officials. The reservoir at one time was used as one of Orange's sources for water. Today, it sits as a continuous part of the county's South Mountain Reservation and is used as open space for passive recreation. The program was created last year to help Orange students prepare for the work force. The project, partially funded by United Water, clears brush from areas to create a walking trail area residents can use. Many of the teens are members of the after-school job-readiness program. The workers put in a 7½-hour daily, clearing an average of 15 to 20 bags of garbage daily from the reservoir.

City officials said that during the summer of 2009, in partnership with United Water, students painted and refurbished the city's fire hydrants.