

Plum Creek Restoration Project

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Juniata Clean Water Partnership (JCWP) / Blair County Conservation District (BCCD)
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Project summary

This project was meant to address erosion issues as well as limited habitat along Plum Creek. The project area is in the upper reaches of the HQ-CWF section of Plum Creek. This section was suffering from several anthropological impacts. These impacts included previous agricultural impacts on the banks and riparian area, impacts from the upstream township bridge as well as historic impacts from the old mill dam just downstream. The project stabilized eroding banks, provided much needed habitat using rock and log vanes and will include a significant riparian buffer which will be planted in the fall of 2015.

Work was completed by staff from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, volunteers from the John Kennedy Chapter of Trout Unlimited as well as the Blair County Conservation District. Construction took two days with two days of preparation work and materials delivery. Equipment work was completed by Fran Camaroto Excavating. In addition to CHP funds cash contributions came from a complementary grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. In-kind funds came from the John Kennedy Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Blair County Conservation District and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Project Outcome

Despite several glitches that significantly delayed the project, primarily from permitting and project manager changes the project was successfully completed. The only two minor changes were that the completed project's total length was slightly shorter than planned due to the need for a few longer trees. That section can just be added to the second half of the project. The second change came with slightly higher cost for materials and construction.

Is your project complete?

No, this project was the first phase of a 2,500+ foot project to stabilize eroding banks, increase habitat and establish a riparian buffer. This fall an 800' long/ approximately 50' wide riparian buffer will be established on the west bank. The buffer will be planted during the dormant season by local high school students and volunteers. The second half of the project is still in the planning process. Estimated costs are higher than originally anticipated so the final plans may change some. Once the planning is completed we'll move to design and permitting. Most likely construction will not start on the second half of the project until fall 2016 or spring 2017.

Sustainability of project

This site will be monitored by the John Kennedy Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Blair County Conservation District. Monitoring will include annual inspection of structures, regular inspection of the riparian buffer for mortality and invasive plants and semi-annual water quality monitoring. At this time no operation and maintenance plan has been completed for this project. After construction is completed on the entire length the JKTU and BCCD will work with the landowner to develop an operation and maintenance plan.

List of partners and their involvement in the project

Juniata Clean Water Partnership – project and grant management

John Kennedy Chapter of Trout Unlimited – project management and volunteer coordination

Blair County Conservation District – grant management and labor

Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds – grant funds

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission – project design and construction (equipment and labor)

Accomplishments:

1. Eight hundred linear feet of fish habitat/ stream bank restoration (approximately 24 structures) was completed on Plum Creek a High Quality Cold Water Fishery.
2. Additionally, in the fall of 2015 an 800' riparian buffer will be planted.