



Implementation Grant Final Reporting

1. Before and after photos of the project site(s)

(See attached)

2. Project summary

Heritage Conservancy – Fuller Preserve Riparian Buffer Restoration Project 2015

HC staff and volunteers manually removed (via 2 mowings/weed whacking) approximately 990 feet of invasive plants (predominately Japanese stilt grass and Japanese barberry), planted approximately 130 deer-resistant native trees and shrubs with tree shelters, and erect interpretive signage to educate the public on the importance of healthy riparian buffers for maintaining healthy water quality and wildlife habitat.

- First invasive removal with volunteers to establish planting zone – early May 2015
- Second invasive mowing/removal – September 2015
- Volunteers from PennExtension Master Watershed Steward Program (Bucks and Lehigh Valley volunteers), Community, Cooks Creek Watershed, and Quakertown National Bank
- Donated over 28 hours
- Planted over 130 trees and shrubs consisting of 13 species in the Cooks Creek Watershed at Fuller - some species included arrowwood viburnum, blackgum trees, red maples, oak trees, dogwoods, sweetgum, and pawpaw - October 6, 2015
- All plants were tree tubed and/or shrub caged to protect them from our herbivore friends
- The planting is helping to improve water quality, prevent erosion, increase habitat for wildlife and diversity of species in the area (hopefully will out-compete a few nonnative plants in the area). The beautiful trees will also be visible from the Jere Knight trail.
- Volunteer/staff monitoring – staff monitored the site on three occasions since the planting (as of May, 2016)
- Installation of interpretive sign – April 2016

3. Did the project turnout differently than originally intended? If so, how and why?

The project turned out as anticipated.

4. Is your project complete? If not, what still needs completed?

Yes, the project was completed.

5. Detail your project monitoring plans, next phase or future projects.

The site will be visited periodically to monitor plant survival and health and to perform needed maintenance. A second phase of this riparian buffer restoration was planned and funding was sought from the Coldwater Heritage Program but we were unsuccessful in securing the grant for 2016. We anticipate reapplying to extend this project for 2017.

6. Detail your project operation and maintenance plans.

Regular site visits will be made to monitor the plantings and to perform needed maintenance. Tree tubes and shrub cages will be straightened and repaired as needed. In times of drought, the trees and shrubs will be watered using water from the stream. During the growing season, these site visits will also entail continual cutting back of invasive plants in the subject area as well as weed whacking around each planting to control competition from Japanese stilt grass.

7. List of partners and their involvement in the project

PennExtension Master Watershed Steward Program (Bucks and Lehigh Valley volunteers), Cooks Creek Watershed Association, and Quakertown National Bank volunteers helped with invasive plant removal and native plantings.

8. Accomplishments: How will it improve the overall condition of the stream or watershed.

a. Riparian Projects and Natural Stream Channel Projects:

1. How many linear feet? 990 ft for buffers be sure to count for both stream banks if applicable)

Cooks Creek Project Before



Cooks Creek Project After

