

The Peachy-Renno and M. Brown Farms at Saddler Creek Stream Restoration Projects

Growing Greener Grant Project # 4100080113

Sponsor: The Trust for Tomorrow

Project Description The Peachy-Renno and M. Brown Farms at Saddler Creek Stream Restoration Projects addressed severe erosion along a tributary to Mill Creek, and subsequently the Juniata River in Brady Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. On the Mark Brown property, there were several areas of over-widened stream due to bank erosion, which is continuously adding sediment into the system. A lack of riparian buffer exacerbated this condition. At the Peachy-Renno site, Saddler Creek meanders through pasture fields, almost all of which was unbuffered. The agricultural practices on this farm left the stream banks exposed and vulnerable to erosion, adding sediment and nutrients to the waterway. Erosion on the many curves resulted in several over-widened areas. Impacts from livestock were consistent throughout the property, and several unprotected stream crossings were being used as travel corridors.

Project Goals The goals of these projects were to first restore and stabilize a combined 5,800 linear feet of streambank across the two properties. At completion of construction, plant and restore approximately 10,809 linear feet of riparian buffer, resulting in approx. 7 acres. These improvements were realized by the installation of various in-stream stabilization structures and the addition of over 4,470 feet of exclusion fencing and three stream crossings.

Project Results At the Mark Brown farm, an array of mudsills and log vanes were placed strategically to restore a more centralized channel and protect vulnerable banks where, in some areas, lacked any substantial vegetation besides seasonal grasses. The over-widened portion downstream was made more gradual, and areas that lacked a sufficient buffer are now planted.



At the Peachy-Renno property, over-widened areas trampled by livestock were restored with mudsills and brush mattresses. Numerous log vanes were installed to keep flows centralized and relieve pressure on the banks and adjacent pasture field soils. Exclusion fencing and designated cattle crossings throughout the project reach ensure that future bank trampling will not occur and provides a barrier for a planted riparian buffer to establish itself and line the banks of the creek. Excessive nutrients and sediment that was being added to the waterway will be reduced drastically.

Through these project activities, 2,909 pounds of nitrogen, 134 pounds of phosphorus, and 14.6 tons of sediment were prevented from being delivered annually to the Chesapeake Bay.

Project Costs \$249,194.00 in grant expenses with \$52,961.59 in-kind, for a total of \$304,508.00

Lessons Learned The importance of establishing good relationships with landowners and teaching sustainable practices that they can build upon.

Partners The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Huntingdon County Conservation District; Habitat Forever; California State University.

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