

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Tree Vitalize XIV

DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant C990000737

FINAL REPORT – PROJECT SUMMARY

In March 2003, the US Forest Service and American Forests, in collaboration with DCNR, released a study that estimated that there had been a substantial loss of tree cover in southeastern Pennsylvania. Trees and shrubs provide the best protection and improvement for water quality, so the Tree Vitalize Watersheds program was created to address that need.

Since the initiation of the program, PHS has regranted \$3,850,822 in funding provided by the DEP Growing Greener program, with additional cash funding provided by Aqua Pennsylvania. This funding supported 741 projects that have planted 154,145 trees, 296,594 seedlings and nearly 21,000 shrubs by streams, wetlands and stormwater facilities in parks, schools, nature preserves and other public lands. PHS partners with the Watershed Specialists from the Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware and Chester County Conservation Districts to provide technical and grant writing assistance to applicants.

During the DEP XIV Tree Vitalize Watersheds grant period, 7,361 trees were planted and 51 acres were restored. As a result, approximately 720 pounds of total nitrogen, 18 pounds of total phosphorous and 9,457 pounds of sediment will be prevented from polluting our waterways annually.