

Project Description - Pennsylvania is blessed with over 86,000 miles of streams and rivers and some of the highest quality coldwater habitats. Unfortunately, many coldwater streams have become degraded through past land practices and are in need of improvement. The purpose of this project was to stabilize streambanks to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution and increase habitat for trout and other coldwater organisms. More specifically, the focus of this project was to use a variety of in-stream best management practices and stabilization structures to reduce sediment and nutrients within the Schuylkill River watershed in Schuylkill County.

Project Timeframe – December 11, 2018 through December 31, 2023

Project Goals - The goals of the project were to improve and restore 2,500 feet of stream with 80 habitat enhancement structures and reduce 28,800 pounds of sediment annually in the Schuylkill River near Middleport, PA.

Pictures –

Before: Streambank erosion/lack of habitat



After: Stream stabilized/habitat enhanced



Project Results – Three project phases were completed from summer of 2021 through summer of 2023 by Trout Unlimited staff, the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, the Schuylkill Conservation District, and a hired Contractor under the construction oversight of Trout Unlimited. In total, 133 fish habitat and streambank stabilization structures were installed. The project led to the restoration of 3,510 feet of stream and the reduction of an estimated 51,471 pounds of sediment pollution annually.

Project Costs - \$107,502 Growing Greener plus an additional \$18,509 in match funds.

Partners - PA DEP, Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Schuylkill County Conservation District, Flyway Excavating, Hollow Mountain Contracting

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