

Little Cacoosing Creek Restoration

Growing Greener Plus Grant Project # C990002974

The Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) and project partners completed a stream and floodplain restoration project on 2,850 linear feet of the Little Cacoosing Creek in Lower Heidelberg Township, Berks County, PA. This included floodplain and natural channel restoration, wetland creation, legacy sediment removal, native riparian buffer restoration and enhancement, invasive species management, and the reduction of sediment and nutrient pollution.

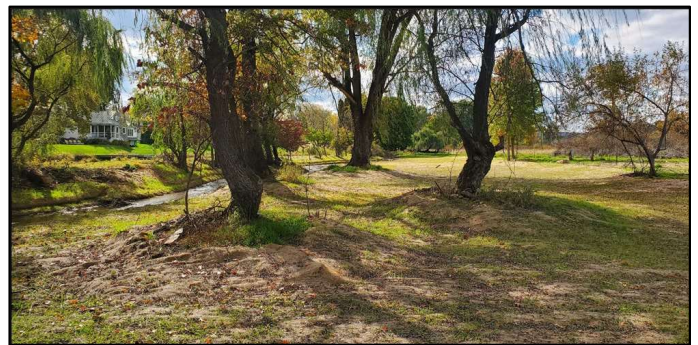
Project Results:

- Completed a stream restoration on ~2500 linear feet of impaired stream.
- Realigned stream flow from a ~700 ft. manmade [straightened] channel, and restore flow to ~1,100 ft. of historic channel and reconnected to existing coldwater springs.
- Completed 7 acres of floodplain/wetland enhancement along ~2100 linear ft. of stream.
- Created 0.5 acres of new wetland habitat. Installed 1 acre of new riparian forest buffer. Planted 4.5 acres of riparian herbaceous cover.
- Complete 6 acres of invasive species control on callery bradford pear, reed canary grass and phragmites sp.
- Implement 1,800 ft. of soil lift Biod-17 structures to protect pond infrastructure. Install single log sill for grade control.
- Plant 255 native tree and shrubs, 3700 native wetland & floodplain plugs, and 850 live stakes.

Project Pollutant Load Reductions	Nitrogen (N) lbs./yr.	Phosphorus (P) lbs./yr.	Sediment (S) T/yr.
	1,032.0	260.5	58.4



BEFORE: Stream channelized to align with road culvert. Riparian corridor predominately callery bradford pear and invasives.



AFTER: Channel and floodplain restoration. Invasive species communities removed and replaced with native communities.

Project Partners:

Berks County Conservation District (BCCD), LandStudies, Inc., Lower Heidelberg Township, Wilson School District, Green Valley Country Club, Schuylkill Action Network, and Dave and Stephanie Wierzbicki.

Project Cost:

Growing Greener Plus Grant contributed \$374,128.00 to the Little Cacoosing Creek Restoration project. Furthermore, a total of \$216,226.60 was contributed to the project as a cash match from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund. Total project cost was \$590,354.60.

Lesson Learned:

Inter-agency and cooperative partnerships are critical to allocate and leverage funds to implement BMPs in impaired watersheds. Collaborative efforts expand public funding and ultimately reduce sediment and nutrient pollution to Pennsylvania's waterways.

