

RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

BRASS CASTLE CREEK- WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Riparian Forest Buffers

Communities of trees, shrubs and other plants growing along streams and lakes.

Buffer Benefits

Protect and enhance the water quality of streams and their aquatic environments by filtering non-point source pollutants such as sediment and nutrients from storm water runoff. Buffers also reduce streambank erosion and provide improved wildlife and fisheries habitat.

Additional Buffer Information:
www.northjerseyrcd.org
or
www.rce.rutgers.edu/njriparianforestbuffers



North Jersey
Resource
Conservation
and
Development

54 Old Highway 22
Suite 201
Clinton, NJ 08809-1389

Phone: 908-735-0733

Objectives of the Riparian Forest Buffer Projects were to demonstrate:

1. Effective site design utilizing naturally-occurring plant communities
2. Design flexibility that can incorporate such things as aesthetics, recreation & environmental benefit to a waterway in a park setting
3. The use of native plants

Waterway Buffered: Brass Castle Creek tributary to Pohatcong Creek

Location: Meadow Breeze Park, Washington Township, Warren County

Description: Heavily used recreational park setting with large stand of multi-floral rose an invasive exotic species. It is utilized actively as a recreation park on both sides of creek. There are a few larger trees around the creek, and some smaller trees that were being choked out by the multi-floral rose. The Brass Castle Creek in this section is designated trout maintenance. The completed buffer consists of 305 native trees representing 10 different species & 340 native shrubs representing 11 different species.

Size: 1500 feet long on both sides of creek, 5 acres

Planting Date: May 2005

Total Cost: \$17,728.00



Site prior to planting January 2004, looking towards Kayharts Lane

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Dominant Trees & Shrubs Planted

Trees:

- Silver Maple
- Green Ash
- River Birch
- Sycamore
- Swamp White Oak
- Pin Oak
- Shadbush
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Ironwood

Shrubs:

- Smooth Alder
- Summersweet
- Buttonbush
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Southern Arrowwood
- Swamp Rose
- Elderberry
- Cranberry Viburnum
- Spicebush
- Inkberry
- Blackhaw

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Project Partners & Volunteers: The riparian forest buffer demonstration is part of a larger regional project, coordinated and implemented by North Jersey RC&D. The buffer design was created by Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Inc. Volunteers from Warren Hills High School Environmental Club, Warren County Technical School Key Club, Warren County Community College, Pohatcong Creek Watershed Association, NJ Youth Corps, and township residents were invaluable participants in the planting and establishment of this planting site.

Project Funding: Originated from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Nonpoint Source Pollution 319h grant program administered by NJ Department of Environmental Protection through a grant awarded to North Jersey RC&D.

Design Components

1. Buffer Installation: deer resistant species, tree protectors and tubes
2. Wetland Buffer and Transition Area: species tolerant to prolonged periods of wet conditions
3. Control Measures of Invasive Plants: multi-floral rose, Japanese knotweed



After planting June 2005, looking towards Kayharts Lane