

RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

NELDONS BROOK STILLWATER 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
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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 natural area
3. The use of native plants
4. Control streambank erosion

Waterway Buffered: Neldons Brook, tributary to Little Swartswood Lake

Location: Swartswood State Park, Stillwater Township, Sussex County

Description: The property is owned by the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry and locally managed by the Swartswood State Park staff. The area offers passive recreation opportunities. The project area contains a line of older trees above the brook with the remaining property in lawn. Initial site preparation included removal of construction debris from the buffer area. The completed buffer consists of 33 native trees representing 9 different species & 81 native shrubs representing 5 different species.

Size: 560 feet long , 1.1 acres

Planting Date: September 2006

Total Cost: \$16,880.80



Site prior to planting July 2004

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Dominant Trees & Shrubs Planted

Trees:

- Red Maple
- River Birch
- Grey Birch
- Swamp White Oak
- Red Oak
- Pin Oak
- White Ash
- Tulip poplar

Shrubs:

- Witch Hazel
- Arrowwood
- Blackhaw
- Cranberry
- Highbush Blueberry

Project Partners & Volunteers: The riparian forest buffer demonstration is part of a larger regional project, it was coordinated and implemented by North Jersey RC&D. The design was created by North Jersey RC&D and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff. Volunteers from the Sussex County Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program, Swartswood State Park, Swartswood Lakes and Watershed Association 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 the NJ Department of Environmental Protection through a grant awarded to the North Jersey RC&D. Additional funds used were obtained through the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Design Components

1. Buffer Installation: deer resistant species
2. Stabilize the streambank
3. Leave designated area for path just above brook for the passive recreation use of small State Park area



After planting September 2006

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