



Outreach and Restoration

This program was established to provide accessible funds to organizations and agencies to implement community-led stewardship efforts that increase public understanding of environmental challenges; implement demonstration-scale, community-based, on-the-ground restoration projects; and expand the base of public support necessary to advance the restoration of Maryland's bays, tributaries, and other natural resources.



Heurich Community Park Stream Buffer

In the spring of 2013, the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) engaged 123 students and 130 volunteers to reforest one acre of riparian buffer along the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River by planting 500 native trees.

Although this site required significant invasive removal prior to planting, we chose this location for the project due to its high visibility and the benefits that a riparian buffer would provide in a highly urbanized area of the watershed. This particular segment of the Northwest Branch is not channelized, nor is it restricted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or utility easements.

weekends and weekdays during the warmer months with projected cumulative park users numbering in the thousands by minority and disadvantaged populations.

Our project demonstrates the success of "no mow" zones surrounding newly-established riparian buffers and meadow habitat. Naturalizing borders in public spaces can be very difficult for the general public to perceive. This project provides AWS with a pilot method for best ways to transition a naturalizing planting into a high use area.

Our efforts for this project will be sustained through ongoing maintenance and observation of the site for the next 3 to 5 years. As needed, the invasive cover will be removed through volunteer events with tree and meadow maintenance activities will be scheduled for both the public and university interns seeking to gain hands-on experience with invasive removal and sustainable landscape maintenance practices.

Due to the dense use of the site, other future projects such as additional bioretention for parking areas, stream restoration and meadow plantings are very viable and desired by the Town of Hyattsville, which partially owns segments of park. The Home Depot parking lot sits directly above the park, and stormwater is channeled to rip rap area which then turns to unprotected scoured soil channel/possible form tributary which then enters into the stream unimpeded.

A filter area that is now a thriving wetland is in need of meadow area and sustainable mowing practices. Stakeholder use is heavy on the

Track 3: Outreach & Restoration

60,000 sq. ft. of buffers installed

123 students engaged

1,000 sq. ft. of bank stabilized

500 trees planted

5,000 sq. ft. of invasive species removed



Project Elements

Outreach/Awareness: AWS successfully engaged 123 students and 130 community volunteers from various parts of the watershed through their participation in this project. As part of a three-part service-learning program, 90 6th grade students from Rosa Parks Elementary School planted 210 trees; 15 high school students from DeMatha’s ecology club planted more than 50 trees; and 18 students from the Wilderness Leadership and Learning (WILL) program planted 200 trees. Additionally, AWS interns and local adult volunteers planted approximately 40 trees and conducted trash clean-ups, tree plantings, mulching and watering activities. During these events, AWS staff educated volunteers about the benefits of stream buffers to local wildlife and the river’s water quality.

Restoration: Through the Heurich Community Park Stream Buffer project, the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) effectively engaged students and volunteers to plant 500 trees to create a 1,000-linear foot riparian buffer along the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River in Hyattsville, Maryland. The trees were maintained and one acre of invasive plants (i.e. brambles, porcelain berry, etc.) was suppressed by volunteers throughout the summer months. Through these ongoing maintenance efforts, an additional ½ acre of invasive cover was identified for future removal and suppression in the spring of 2014. Due to the success of this project, we plan to engage volunteers and students to plant an additional 200 trees and understory vegetation next spring in order to increase the width of the riparian buffer and create more robust wildlife habitat at the site. The measurements stated above were derived utilizing ESRI GIS mapping in tandem with field observation and measurement of the planting area using 300’ tape measures in grid alignment from stream edge to the limit of the riparian planting.

CBT Funds Awarded:	\$6,120
Maryland DNR:	\$16,053
MARPAT Foundation:	\$2,317
M-NCPPC:	\$880
Total:	\$25,371

Project Partners:



live more, play more



Volunteers and students planted 500 trees in a high-traffic area in order to educate the community about buffers and meadow stabilization

For additional information: visit : www.cbtrust.org