

Brokenstraw Watershed Improvement – Phase 2

DEP Identifier 4100080933

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The *Brokenstraw Watershed Improvement - Phase 2* project is a continuation of a comprehensive community-based approach to collaboratively improve the Brokenstraw Creek watershed since 2014. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Warren County Conservation District have been working with municipalities to host public workshops about stream conservation and enroll interested landowners in this restoration initiative. Once enrolled, conservation partners provide landowners with technical assistance to design, permit, fund, implement, and monitor projects to restore their streams and improve the overall health of the watershed.

PROJECT GOALS

The specific project goals of Phase 2 were to stabilize 2,095 feet of eroding stream banks and prevent an estimated 108 tons of soil loss each year. These stabilization devices also would increase the availability of aquatic habitat within the Andrews Run and Indian Camp Run tributaries of the watershed.

PROJECT RESULTS

A total of 3,665 feet of eroding stream banks were restored with 125 stabilization and habitat improvement devices at project sites on Andrews Run, Indian Camp Run, and Matthews Run in the Brokenstraw Creek watershed. These improvements are expected to reduce sedimentation by an estimated 205 tons/year. The project sites were further supplemented with 135 native potted trees and approximately 2,200 transplants of fresh-cut stems of self-rooting shrubs, like willows and dogwoods, that will provide long-term, self-sustaining vegetation that will stabilize the stream banks and improve riparian habitat.

PICTURES



Before



Live stakes newly transplanted



One year after live stake install

PROJECT COSTS

PA DEP Growing Greener funds used to complete Phase 2 totaled \$92,846 and were matched with cash grants and in-kind donated labor and services of \$100,352.

LESSONS LEARNED

Initial public outreach efforts to recruit cooperating landowners were so successful that partners had to group projects into phases and fundraise to implement them over several years. We found it very important to be transparent and communicate those timelines with landowners to manage expectations, so their interest, excitement and/or commitment to the project and process didn't wane.

PARTNERS

The Department of Environmental Protection, and the Warren County Commissioners contributed cash grants to fund this project. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy worked closely with the Warren County Conservation District, Brokenstraw Watershed Council, Caldwell Creek Trout Unlimited, and the Allegheny Watershed Improvement Needs (WINS) Coalition of the Allegheny National Forest region.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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