

## **Multi-functional Riparian Buffer installed in Montgomery County**

In late September 2019, Montgomery County Conservation District worked alongside Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy staff and 22 volunteers from Scout Pack 17 to plant a “multifunctional riparian buffer” along Macoby Creek (tributary to Perkiomen Creek) in Upper Hanover Township. Funding for the project was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, through a “Multi-functional Riparian Buffer Sub-Grant.”

PA Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards designates Macoby Creek as “Trout Stocked Fishery, Migratory Fishery.” The proposed project site is owned and maintained by the Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA (serving Pennsburg, East Greenville, Green Lane, Hereford, Palm and the surrounding communities).

Objectives of the project are to widen an existing an existing riparian buffer, slow and filter site runoff, improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat and provide potential for the township to secure a source of income from resources harvested from the buffer once it has reached maturity. The project will also provide educational benefits for project partners and the surrounding community.



Project partners worked hard to plant, mulch, water and install protection around 90 trees across approximately three quarters of an acre. The project featured plantings of Pawpaw, Redbud, Flowering dogwood, Hazelnut, Persimmon, Black gum, American plum and Black locust. The native species were selected based upon existing site (soil, water, sunlight) conditions, and will develop a buffer that will be biologically and structurally diverse.

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA are working together to maintain the plantings by watering, mulching, maintaining tree protection and implementing periodic mowing to reduce competition by invasive plants. Montgomery County Conservation District will conduct post-project monitoring to ensure successful establishment.

Special thanks to PACD for its funding support, and to our PA DCNR District Forester for their technical expertise in providing guidance toward the development of project Planting and Maintenance Plans. Additional thanks to the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA and Scout Pack 17 for their hard work in putting this project “on the ground.” The project would not be possible without the assistance of these dedicated partners!

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