

Final Report - LOWER DELAWARE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

River Management Council Funding – total amount \$5,000.00

PROJECT: Habitat Restoration at Bull's Island, adjacent to the Inlet Trail

Grant accepted: February 8, 2022

Grantee: Delaware Township Environmental Commission

Partners: Kingwood Township Environmental Commission

D&R Canal State Park

AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program

1. Project Summary

This Bull's Island native habitat restoration project will help protect the Delaware River and its environment, including rare and endangered plant and animal species, promote biodiversity by providing habitat, enhance passive recreational opportunities, and educate visitors. Two areas in the former campground of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park were targeted for restoration using LDWS grant funds. The sites were selected due to high visibility along the new Inlet Trail that was once an old campground roadway, and because former campsite buildings had been removed, leaving gaps in the existing floodplain forest. Grant funds were used to purchase 103 native trees, 39 native shrubs, and 234 native herbaceous plants, and fencing and fence posts to protect the trees and shrubs from deer herbivory. On April 28, 2022, volunteers, primarily from the AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program, prepared for the planting days by cutting lengths of fencing, digging approximately 36 Christmas ferns for transplanting from a path which gets mowed, and other tasks. On April 30 and May 1, 2022, over 50 volunteers from Delaware and Kingwood Environmental Commissions, Watershed Ambassadors, and the public planted the native plants, installed fences, and removed invasive plants.

The D&R Canal State Park, one of NJ's most visited NJ State Park, opened the Inlet Trail on June 3, 2022, located in the former campgrounds of Bulls Island Recreation Area. This multiuse trail will provide the public an opportunity to explore the beauty of the floodplain forest while appreciating the history of the D&R Canal. The D&R Canal State Park is listed on the National and State Historic Registry for rich transportation history. This new trail at Bulls Island allows people to view the beginning of the D&R Canal at the northern area of the island and the wing dam on the Delaware River. Most of the pavement roads and all of building infrastructures have been removed from this area and this project will help to restore the forest habitat in these areas.

2. Timeline

April 25-28, 2022 – picked up plants, fencing, and fence posts from vendors

April 28, 2022 – Prep Day - Work with twelve (12) Watershed Ambassadors to make cages for trees; dig up Christmas ferns for transplanting in the Planting Plots

April 30, 2022 – Planting Day, 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

May 1, 2022 – Planting Day, 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Total number for both days – 51 volunteers

(non-project related volunteers and employees)

May 19, 2022 – final purchase of materials for project, total spent: \$4,965.62 (see section 5).

3. Outreach Announcements

April 3, 2022 – Eventbrite invitation (see Figure 1)

April 20, 2022 – Announcement before Delaware Township Environmental Commission for Planting dates and times

March 28 & April 26, 2022 – Announcement at Kingwood Twp. Env. Commission meetings
 May 9, 2022 – Announcement before Delaware Township Committee Meeting for Opening Day of Inlet Trail
 June 3, 2022 - NJDEP Press Release: “Ahead of National Trails Day, Murphy Administration Opens New Trail at Bulls Island Recreation Area”

Figure 1. Eventbrite and Facebook Announcement



4. Maintenance and Upkeep – Summer to Fall, 2022

Kathy Klink is a member of the Rutgers Environmental Stewards (RES) Class for 2022. She has written an internship plan that was accepted by Patricia Kessler of D&R Canal State Park and the RES mentors, Kathryn Homa and Rebecca Magron.

- Rain Log – to monitor rain and water plots when there has been a period of ten days without rain, or less than one inch of rain per ten days
- Map two planting areas – to map plants that were planted and monitor growth and survival
- Recruit volunteers – to remove invasive species and help maintain plot growth

5. Funding Details for \$5,000.00 grant

Vendor	Description	Amount	Final price
Home Depot	fence and posts		\$928.24
	gas powered pump/hose	1	\$366.27
	deer spray		\$26.27
Feeney’s	10-12’ white dogwood	1	\$315
Pinelands	trees and shrubs	84	\$1,239.16
White Oak Trail	Christmas ferns	36	0
Wild Ridge	herbaceous plants	210	\$1239
Toadshade	trees, shrubs, plants	71	\$851.68
	Totals	402	\$4,965.62
	Remaining		\$34.38

6. Plant List

Latin name	Common name	Type of Plant	Number Planted	Source
<i>Acer negunda</i>	boxelder	tree	5	Toadshade
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple	tree	20	Pinelands
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	ironwood	tree	7	Pinelands
<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood	tree	1	Feeney's
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tulip poplar	tree	20	Pinelands
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	black gum	tree	20	Pinelands
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	wild black cherry	tree	7	Toadshade
<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak	tree	20	Pinelands
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern red oak	tree	3	Toadshade
		Total Trees:	103	
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	shadbush	shrub	20	Pinelands
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Americn witch hazel	shrub	2	Toadshade
<i>Sambucus nigra Ssp. Canandensis</i>	American black elderberry	shrub	8	Toadshade
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	nannyberry viburnum	shrub	9	Pinelands
		Total Shrubs:	39	
<i>Allium cernum</i>	nodding onion	herbaceous	5	Wild Ridge
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	wild columbine	herbaceous	10	Wild Ridge
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Gray's sedge	herbaceous	10	Wild Ridge
<i>Carex squarrosa</i>	squarrose sedge	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
<i>Elymyus hystrix</i>	bottlebush grass	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	boneset	herbaceous	10	Wild Ridge
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	white wood aster	herbaceous	14	Toadshade
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	hollow stem Joe Pye	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	bottle gentian	herbaceous	10	Wild Ridge
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides.</i>	Christmas fern	herbaceous	36	free
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	broadleaf mt. mint	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
<i>Ranunculus caricetorum</i>	swamp buttercup	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	tall coneflower	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>	Canadian burnet	herbaceous	5	Wild Ridge
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	wreath goldenrod	herbaceous	10	Toadshade
<i>Symphotricum cordifolium</i>	blue heart-leaved aster	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
<i>Symphotricum novae-anglia</i>	New England aster	herbaceous	20	Wild Ridge
		Total Herbaceous Plants:	270	
		Total all types of plants:	412	