

OUTDOORS



Brooklyn students planted 447 native trees and shrubs along the East Kill to keep the water clean and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife. These trees will provide long term benefits for local fisheries.



Gilboa-Conesville students planted 793 native trees and shrubs along the Schoharie Creek including flood tolerant Red maple and and Elderberry.



Sites with herbaceous vegetation and/or bare soil provide minimal bank stabilization. Brooklyn students visiting the NYC watershed plant native species with deep roots, including this Redosier dogwood, along 700 feet of the East Kill to restore the riparian buffer.

Planting native trees to protect streams and improve fisheries

Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) in partnership with New York City Department of Environmental Protection hosted two student plantings in May as part of the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) and Schoharie Watershed Month. The projects were designed to help residential landowners protect their property and enhance natural habitats along stream banks in the Schoharie Basin, part of the New York City watershed.

On Thursday May 5, twenty Brooklyn, NY teens from the Bushwick School for Social Justice and the Academy of Urban Planning planted 447 native trees and shrubs along the East Kill, which flows into the Schoharie

Reservoir, part of the reservoir system which provides unfiltered water to approximately 9 million people. In addition to protecting water quality, the goal of planting the 35 foot wide streamside buffer along 700 feet of the East Kill is to revegetate the riparian corridor to enhance species density and diversity while providing long-term stream bank stability. Stream bank erosion means property loss to landowners, expensive road maintenance for highway crews, and fisheries degradation.

The planting area in Jewett, NY was approved for planting by the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative after the development of a Riparian Corridor Management Plan. CSBI works with eligible

streamside landowners to develop planting designs for their property. The local initiative pays for conservation plantings using native plant materials. For streamside landowners, planting and maintaining a healthy buffer of native trees and shrubs along stream banks and floodplains is one of the most cost effective and self-sustaining methods to protect streamside property.

The 11th and 12th grade students with their teachers planted twenty one different species in the riparian zone. They have been participating in GrowNYC's Environmental Education Program which included multiple water units covering the city's water sup-

Planting

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ply system and water hydrology. In addition to the East Kill planting, the students have implemented planting and mulching projects on both their school campus and the school's neighborhood.

GrowNYC's funding for the project came from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Project design and native plant materials were provided by the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The following week, fifteen Environmental Science students from Gilboa-Conesville Central School planted 793 containerized trees and shrubs along the Schoharie Creek on Friday, May 13. A 50 foot wide riparian buffer of evergreen trees, deciduous hardwoods, and shrubs was installed along 950 feet to provide long-term stream bank stabilization, enhance wildlife habitat, and filter out sediments and pollutants. Riparian buffers, designed to intercept surface runoff, have been shown to be effective in controlling nonpoint source pollution by removing nutrients, especially nitrogen and sediment.

The riparian planting was one of three restoration projects and a semester-long program of Watershed lessons involving students from two New York City schools and four schools in the watershed. This program was partially funded by the Catskill Watershed Corporation through an education grant awarded to

Grow NYC, which coordinated the upstate-downstate service learning effort.

Several tree planters wondered, "If a stream has a row of mature trees, why do you have to plant more?" Keeping a buffer zone of trees and shrubs, especially in the first 50 to 100 feet, along stream banks helps prevent erosion and protects property, increases habitat value, provides fisheries habitat, and filters pollutants. Historically, floodplain forests were cleared for agricultural purposes because of the mineral rich soil. Now, local stream management plans have identified areas that will benefit from enhanced buffer width and establishment of more woody vegetation. Increasing the area of trees and shrubs along stream banks to restore and enhance stream habitat will provide multiple benefits to the stream. Maintaining large buffers and a shaded environment along streams is very important to a healthy fish habitat. We know that trout need colder water to function than do bass and other warmer water species. Shaded stream temperatures can be ten degrees cooler than non-shaded streams in the hot summer months.

Reforestation of stream banks is perhaps the single most important step that can be taken to improve water quality and stream health. The Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative, a voluntary stewardship program, offers

streamside landowners technical assistance and financial support for proactive planting projects that can help create, enhance or protect riparian buffers, in turn reducing erosion and improving habitat for regional wildlife. To find out if you are eligible to participate in the CSBI program contact Laura Weyeneth, GCSWCD CSBI Coordinator, at 518-622-3620 or laura@gcswwcd.com. Or, for more information, visit <http://catskillstreams.org/CSBI/>

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED
2010 HYUNDAI SANTA FE AWD GLS
SHP 59223, Green, 34K, PK, PL, AWC Cruise, CD, 7/Seat, 8 Passenger, 10 Year/100,000 mi. Power Train Limited Warranty & Roadside Assistance on Certified Pre-Owned. *2009-2011 Certified as long as 72 months - 5.49% **2007-2008 Certified as long as 60 months - 4.49%

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AS LOW AS 2.49% APR
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10 Year/100,000 mi. Power Train Limited Warranty & Roadside Assistance on Certified Pre-Owned. *2009-2011 Certified as long as 72 months - 5.49% **2007-2008 Certified as long as 60 months - 4.49%

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