

# RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

# MERRILL CREEK - GREENWICH TOWNSHIP

## Riparian Forest Buffers

Communities of trees, shrubs and other plants growing along streams and lakes.

### Buffer Benefits

Protect and enhance the water quality of streams and their aquatic environments by filtering non-point source pollutants such as sediment and nutrients from storm water runoff. Buffers also reduce streambank erosion and provide improved wildlife and fisheries habitat.

Additional Buffer Information:  
[www.northjerseyrcd.org](http://www.northjerseyrcd.org)  
or  
[www.rce.rutgers.edu/njriparianforestbuffers](http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/njriparianforestbuffers)



North Jersey  
Resource  
Conservation  
and  
Development

54 Old Highway 22  
Suite 201  
Clinton, NJ 08809-1389

Phone: 908-735-0733

Objectives of the Riparian Forest Buffer Projects were to demonstrate:

1. Effective site design utilizing naturally-occurring plant communities
2. Design flexibility that can incorporate such things as aesthetics, recreation & environmental benefit to a waterway in a park setting
3. The use of native plants

Waterway Buffered: Merrill Creek Tributary to Pohatcong Creek

Location: Greenwich Township Park, Greenwich Township, Warren County

Description: Heavily used recreational park setting with manicured lawn up to waters edge. It is utilized for youth recreation with a pavilion for picnicking. There are a few exciting trees on the west side of the creek. Merrill Creek tributary in this section is designated trout production–category I water. The completed buffer consists of 52 native trees representing 13 different species & 142 native shrubs representing 15 different species.

Size: 450 feet long on each side of creek , 0.83 acres

Planting Dates: April 2005 and April 2006

Total Cost: \$11,836.00



Site prior to planting July 2003

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## Dominant Trees & Shrubs Planted

### Trees:

- Sugar Maple
- Shadbush
- River Birch
- Eastern Redbud
- Sycamore
- Swamp White Oak
- Pin Oak
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Ironwood

### Shrubs:

- Speckled Alder
- Summersweet
- Buttonbush
- Silky Dogwood
- Southern Arrowwood
- Winterberry
- Elderberry
- Highbush Blueberry
- Spicebush
- Inkberry
- Nannyberry
- Blackhaw

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Project Partners & Volunteers: The riparian forest buffer demonstration is part of a larger regional project, it was coordinated and implemented by North Jersey RC&D. The design was created by Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants. Volunteers from NJ Youth Corps, Stewartsville Middle School and township residents were invaluable participants in the planting and establishment of this planting site.

Project Funding: Originated from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Nonpoint Source Pollution 319h grant program administered by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection through a grant awarded to the North Jersey RC&D.

## Design Components

1. Buffer Installation: deer resistant species, heavily plant low growing trees and shrubs in order to resist people from entering creek
2. Recreation: plant low growing vegetation in key areas to allow adults to view youth ball fields on both sides of creek
3. Bank Protection from erosion
4. Buffer Signs: install numerous signs educating about buffer importance and to restrict entrance from bank into creek along entire creek bank.



After planting June 2006