

Salmon Kill Arbor Day Planting Event 2017

January 2017



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since 2012 Trout Unlimited (TU) has partnered with the local community and private landowners to complete the Salmon Kill Enhancement and Restoration Project with funds secured from the General Electric Natural Resource Damages (NRD) fund administered by the Connecticut Council of Trustees. The goal of the project is to improve in-stream and riparian habitat for native and wild trout. During the first few years, the team focused on assessing the creek, meeting landowners and determining restoration “need” along six miles of the mainstem Salmon Creek. Over the next two years, seven sites were enhanced using large wood additions and riparian plantings.

Although the NRD contract expired in December 2016, there is still much to do and TU continues to fundraise and plan for the continuation of this important project. Before the final days of December 2016, TU was able to use the remaining NRD funds to purchase trees to be planted along the banks of the Salmon Kill in spring 2017. Additional funds have been secured to complete wood additions at two more sites during summer 2017. The two sites are located on Whipoorwill Farm.

In addition to the in-stream wood treatments that we have installed at our restoration sites, riparian planting is another restoration technique that is used to achieve our project goal of improved habitat and water quality. The benefits of a riparian buffer are well known. Plant roots provide bank stability and filter overland flows. Plants provide shade to the creek and contribute organic material and insects to the waterway, while providing important habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. In order for us to successfully achieve our buffer establishment goal, we will protect the plants from both deer and beaver with fencing. Site preparation and maintenance is also necessary to ensure plant survival.

Planning has begun for the spring 2017 Salmon Kill Arbor Day Planting Event. The vision for the event is to engage local students in hands on, place-based learning along the Salmon Kill. Place-based education increases a students’ sense of stewardship and environmental consciousness and adds to their sense of attachment to place. Using our restoration as the backdrop, the Salmon Kill Arbor Day Planting Event will provide an opportunity to foster this stewardship with the goal of connecting local students to nature and their local environment. The activities will take place during the week following Earth Day (April 22nd) through Arbor Day (April 28th). TU, with help from community volunteers, will lead the onsite activities which will include the planting of 400 native trees and shrubs and activities focused on watershed science, water quality, wildlife and art. We anticipate engaging students from Salisbury, Sharon and Falls Village Center Schools, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Hotchkiss and Salisbury Boys School.



Site 2 was constructed in 2015 on Whipoorwill Farm and included large wood treatments and riparian planting.

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Students from local schools have participated in activities on the Salmon Kill Restoration Project sites.