

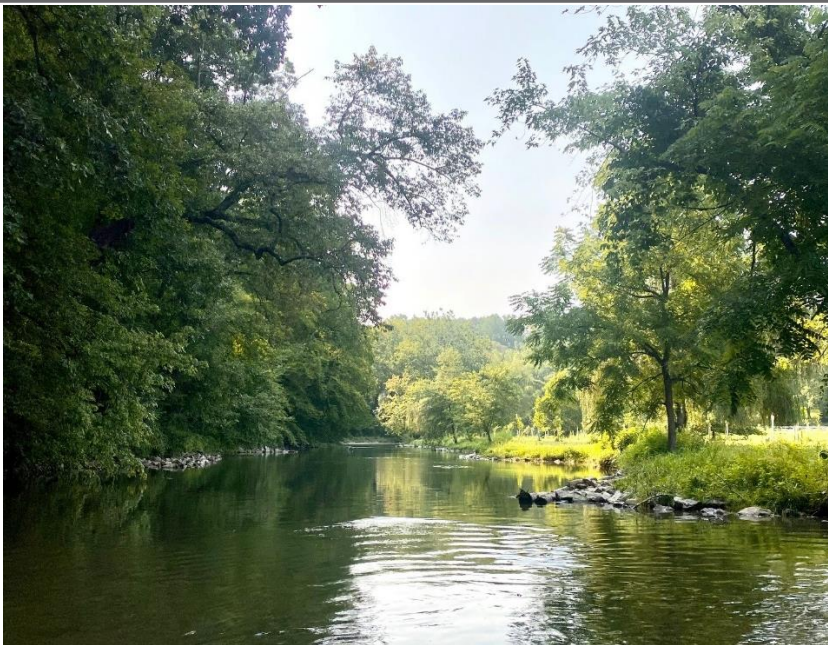
Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

Lehigh Co. Conservation District
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Little Lehigh Creek Stabilization and Fish Enhancement (Awarded 2023)

SUMMARY

The stream reach had significant bank erosion and heavy siltation in the channel, along with no riparian buffer and little instream habitat. LCCD and partners worked together to install habitat enhancement structures, stabilize the banks, and restore a native riparian buffer.



CHALLENGE

The banks were significantly eroded and depositing large amounts of sediment into the Little Lehigh. The channel was mostly deep silt and not wadeable for fishing. There was little to no cover for fish, especially on the left bank where most of the erosion was present. LLTU approached LCCD about improving the stream to enhance fishing in this area.

FUNDING

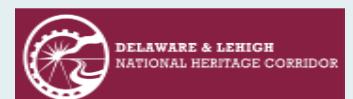
Grant Award:
\$10,000

Match:
\$60,990

Total Project Cost:
\$70,990

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Little Lehigh Trout Unlimited assisted with project planning and outreach, PA Fish and Boat Commission designed the project and provided labor and materials during construction, the City of Allentown (landowner) provided labor before and during planting as well as to establish a native meadow on site.



SOLUTION

PFBC designed the project and assisted with construction along with a contractor. Fish habitat enhancement structures were installed and the banks were regraded and stabilized to a more appropriate slope. LCCD and the City of Allentown coordinated the buffer planting and meadow seeding after construction was complete.

RESULTS

15 habitat enhancement structures were installed and 30 boulders placed in the stream. 730' of streambank was stabilized. 110 native trees were planted in the buffer. Approximately 1 acre was seeded with a native wet meadow mix.

The structures provide adequate habitat for fish at various stages of their lifecycle and stabilizing the bank reduces sediment loading into the Little Lehigh.

The buffer will further enhance aquatic habitat by shading the stream, reducing nonpoint source pollution from runoff, slowing floodwater, and providing substantial habitat for terrestrial wildlife and birds.

Contact



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