



Implementation Grant Final Reporting

Wildlands Conservancy's LITTLE LEHIGH FISH HABITAT AND RIPARIAN BUFFER RESTORATION 2018 Final Report for Coldwater Heritage Partnership Implementation Grant

Please include the following information in your final report for your Coldwater Heritage Partnership Implementation Grant.

1. Before and after photos of the project site:

Before:





After:



2. Project summary of project:

Little Lehigh Creek is a HQ-CWF fishery and naturally reproducing trout stream, which runs adjacent to the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary. At the point where the stream enters the sanctuary, the access road for the preserve runs atop a steep and narrow embankment. Along this approximately 250-foot reach of stream there is significant erosional pressure in an outer-bend of the stream. The bank instability at this point threatened the access road and numerous mature trees, many of which have already been lost during high water events. Sedimentation downstream from this point was also significant, impacting habitat for a long stretch of stream bottom further into the preserve. Continued erosion at this site would necessitate removal of the emergency access road, and elimination all mature vegetation from the stream bend.

This project stabilized the bank and created in stream habitat improvements, which together will preserve the emergency access, protect the mature vegetation, and provide additional habitat for instream species which support natural trout populations.

3. Did the project turnout differently than originally intended? If so, how and why?

Construction went well and addressed the severe erosion concerns while enhancing fish habitat. We were able to expand the scope of work to install additional structures and planted the banks with native seeds. However, we did not have enough funds remaining in the budget to plant with native trees and shrubs and will add that to the scope of phase II.

4-6. Is your project complete? If not, what still needs completed? Detail your project monitoring plans, next phase or future projects. Detail your project operation and maintenance plans.

The bank stabilization and fish habitat structure installation is completed. We expanded the scope of work to address additional bank erosion needs and did not have the funding in the current grant to cover plantings. We have funds pending through DCNR and will plant the restored banks as needed with native trees and shrubs, when funding is secured. All trees and shrubs will be protected with tree shelters upon installation to prevent deer browse damage.

7. List of partners and their involvement in the project

Partners for the Cottage Lane Restoration project include the Lehigh County Conservation District, Flyway Engineering, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Little Lehigh Trout Unlimited, and Lower Macungie Township

8. Accomplishments: How will it improve the overall condition of the stream or watershed?

Riparian Projects and Natural Stream Channel Projects: How many linear feet? (for buffers be sure to count for both stream banks if applicable):

The Cottage Lane Restoration project has stabilized the banks of approximately 400 feet of High Quality Coldwater stream. Installations of saw tooth deflectors, boulders and root wad are preventing erosion of steep slopes, loss of mature native riparian trees, decreasing sediment accumulation, preserving the viability of the emergency access road, and increasing the availability of instream habitat.