

CRC Fall Plantings Covered a Lot of Ground!

CRC held three main tree plantings this past fall, comprised most often of a corporate volunteer group day followed by a day for community volunteers. Each was a great success – we added more than 475 trees and shrubs to our local watersheds with the help of more than 100 volunteers from Aqua, Workday, DePuy Synthes, BlackRock and Apple Leisure, as well as many community members.



Garrett Williamson's Fall 2019 planting with Aqua, with grant funding provided by TreeVitalize, was a continuation of CRC's attempts to restore the canopy of the largest privately-owned parcel in Newtown Township. As opposed to our other projects, which focused on the replacement of Ash trees that were preemptively cut in anticipation of the Emerald Ash Borer (a jewel beetle native to north-eastern Asia that feeds on ash species), this planting site featured a sloping area overrun by Rosa multiflora and other shrubby invasives. Given the north-facing aspect of the site at the bottom of a valley, the site is probably among the coolest in Delaware County, and so featured many plants towards the southern limits of their range, such as Sugar Maple and Nannyberry.

CRC's planting in Easttown Township, sponsored by PECO and supported by volunteers from DePuy Synthes, focused on stabilizing the streambanks of a private landowner who purchased a property with little riparian buffering on his stream, with grass growing right up to the edge. Grass does not provide significant bolstering of streambank stability, nor does it provide shade to cool the water for aquatic habitats. CRC also cleared and replaced a large thicket of invasive privet, lined the streambanks with moisture-loving River Birches and Alders, and replaced the privet with native thicket-forming shrubs such as Wild Indigo.



Ridley Creek State Park's planting, funded by a DCNR grant and with BlackRock volunteers, centered on the replacement of canopy previously dominated by Ash trees. Given the exposed slope, CRC's tree selection featured trees that had deep, anchoring root systems, such as Black Oak and Bitternut Hickory.

In addition to the main plantings, CRC also held maintenance days at the Serpentine Preserve with Workday and at Cheyney University with Apple Leisure.

