

Stream Buffer Restoration Project

The Horsepen Run Committee applied for and received approval to do a project with specifications provided by the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, as part of the Stream Restoration Buffer project to help prevent erosion and help clean water flowing into the streams. These buffers help filter pollutants from storm water runoff, which improves water quality for people and wildlife and makes streams, creeks, and rivers safer for recreation. Forested buffers can also reduce mowing costs and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.

The project will include 156 trees in 0.6 acres, planted 13 feet on center and 15 feet away from any storm runoff drain lines. Less than 25% will be evergreens. The trees will be installed in a tiered fashion, with the deciduous canopy trees planted closer to the existing tree line and the flowering trees towards the front. Each tree will have deer fencing applied to the trunks in the form of chicken wire, to deter deer from damaging the trunk. All trees will have a wire cage with a diameter of 2' attached to 2- 48" wooden stakes surrounding each tree. The area is mostly full sun right now.

Evan Keto, Loudoun County Urban Forester picked the trees listed below in coordination with the HPR committee. We chose some trees that he thought would be reasonably tolerant of drought as well as others that are tolerant of very wet conditions. We also picked trees that are great for wildlife (butterfly host plants, nectar plants, trees that feed wildlife etc.)

Tree Selections:

- 19 ct. Hackberry
- 24 ct. Black Gum
- 24 ct. Birch
- 18 ct. Sweet Bay Magnolia
- 12 ct. Hophornbeam
- 12 ct. American Hornbeam
- 12 ct. Redbud
- 12 ct. Viburnum Blackhaw
- 13 ct. Loblolly Pine
- 10 ct. Eastern Red Cedar

156 total trees = 90 canopy trees and 66 understory trees

The projected date of installation was May 22, 2015. As you travel down the HPR gravel road, on the left side there is a large grassy field, this is the area for the installation of the trees. The work was to be done by Clippers Landscape Services.