

Backyard Ecology Project

Background

When the work to restore the CCW was undertaken the strategy was one of implementing a model that could be applied to the other 30 sub-basins in the watershed. The goals included 1. Improved stormwater management 2. Restoring and stabilizing stream banks 3. Reconnection of streams with floodplains and 4. Improving aquatic habitat. At this point much of the restoration work and habitat improvement efforts are complete or well underway. The next phase of activity will focus on implementation of stormwater BMPs.

Project Objectives

This project will focus on educating and engaging 30 landowners on how to control the excess runoff from their property by implementing rain gardens, rain barrels or other landscape designs that capture and infiltrate.

Project Tasks and Expected Outcomes

Homeowners who reside in the Crabby Creek watershed will have the opportunity to participate in a backyard ecology program to reduce stormwater flows into Crabby Creek. The program will be supported through a partnership effort. The partners include VFTU, Cabrini College and Tredyffrin Township. At a scheduled Earth Day Celebration to be held on April 18 at Crabby Creek Park the homeowners will be able to sign up for a free one hour property consultation with an arborist and landscaper. These professionals will suggest how the owner can use plantings, rain barrels, a rain garden or other landscape designs to beautify their property while reducing stormwater discharges. We will work in conjunction with the Tredyffrin Township EAC to support this effort to engage residents in the Crabby Creek watershed.

The goal is to have 30 homeowner consultations in 2009. The professionals will walk and assess the property with the owner. At the end of the one hour tour the property owner will be given a list of suggested actions. The homeowner will then be asked to commit to implementing up to three of the options over the next year. It is expected that implementation will occur in 2009 and 2010.

The Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited (VFTU) has secured a grant from the Valley Trustee Council for \$7675 to support implementation of this project. VFTU will also be prepared to assist home owners with some the effort required to execute the recommended landscape designs. Although funds in the grant provide for some plantings additional plants and trees will sought through a grant from Tree Vitalize. Ongoing maintenance will be the responsibility of the homeowner.