



Bullseye-Ferry Landing Preserve Reforestation Project

Project Installation Completed
December 2016

Volunteers planting trees

A 22-acre cropland on the Bullseye-Ferry Landing Preserve was reforested with a mixture of native hardwood and pine trees.

Background

Bullseye-Ferry Landing Preserve is a 557-acre easement located along the Indian River near Millsboro, owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Delaware. Its diverse habitats include mature upland forest, tidal marshes, and a small bog with several rare plant species. A 22-acre area within the preserve, formerly leased for row-crops, was planted with a mixture of native hardwood and pine trees by TNC in 2016 in order to reestablish forest habitat and reduce nutrient inputs to the Indian River.

Project Description

The Center planted nearly 21,000 bare-root native hardwood and pine tree seedlings on the property, using a contracted mechanical planter and volunteer labor. Species planted include shortleaf pine, Virginia pine, willow oak, black oak, chestnut oak, pin oak, swamp white oak, hazelnut, American plum and black cherry. Educational signage was installed on Route 24, adjacent to the preserve.

Objective

Because fertilizers are no longer applied, reforestation of this former cropland reduces nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the Indian River. The trees will also help remove nutrients from the soil and groundwater. By planting adjacent to other forested areas, the project also expands the area of unfragmented, interior forest habitat on the preserve. This will provide birds and other species that require this habitat the space they need to survive.

Project Contact

Bob Collins, Program Manager
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Partner

The Nature Conservancy,
Delaware Chapter

Contractor

John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery
Carl Neutzel Landscape Services

Budget and Funding Partners

The total cost of the project: \$22,475

Funding partners:

- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Grant

Project Timeline

Planting was completed in December 2016. The Center and TNC will continue to monitor the site in future years.

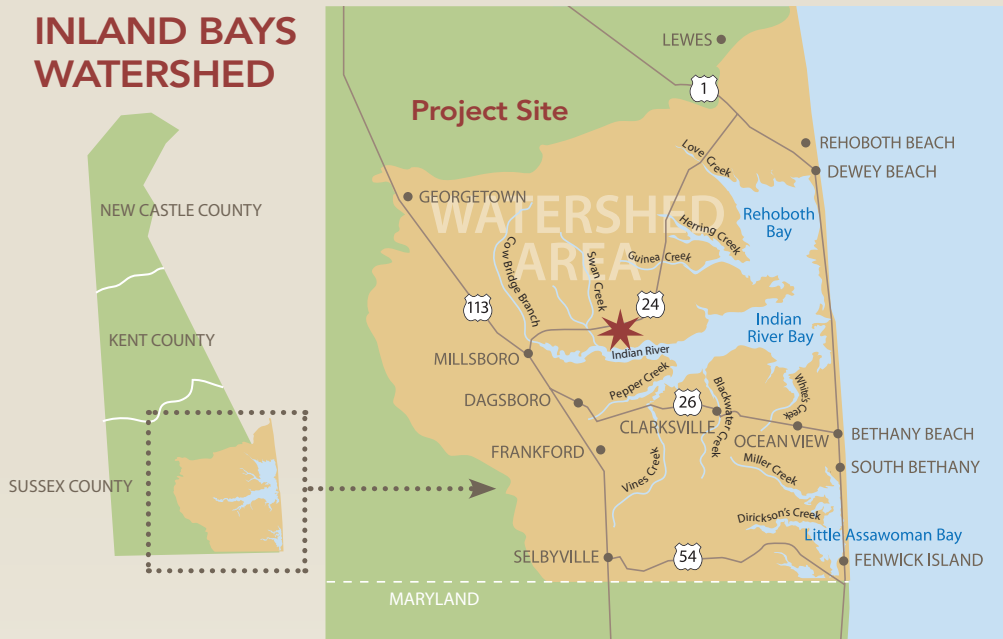


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43% of Delaware's forestland is expected to be developed by 2050. But when an area is fragmented by development, forests are carved into ever smaller pieces, creating less-productive "edge habitat" next to roads, fields and developed areas.

INLAND BAYS WATERSHED



“Reforesting this parcel was an opportunity to improve water quality for anyone who enjoys fishing, swimming, and boating in the Inland Bays, as well as create much-needed habitat for native wildlife.”

—Bob Collins, project manager

CCMP Focus Area

This project fulfills objectives outlined in the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Delaware Inland Bays: Coordinating Land and Water Use Decisions

Objective

Provide maximum protection of waterways, forested stream corridors, groundwater, natural areas, open space, tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and encourage additional acquisitions or conservation set-asides and protection.

This project aligns with objectives outlined in the Clean Water Act: Outputs and Outcomes including Standard Metrics (e.g. # ppl. reached, acres protected, lbs. pollutant reduced).

- Reduction of 8.8 pounds/year of phosphorus and 352 pounds/year of nitrogen to the Indian River and Bay.
- Creation of 31 acres of interior forest habitat.
- Improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory songbirds and other wildlife.

What You Can Do

As urban areas expand in our watershed, protecting and restoring native trees and vegetation is critical for wildlife and water quality. You can help by including native plants in your own yard and gardens. If you are a farmer, consider participating in an agricultural conservation program.

Wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)



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The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is a non-profit organization established in 1994 to promote the wise use and enhancement of the Inland Bays and its watershed. With its many partners, the CIB conducts public outreach and education, develops and implements restoration projects, encourages scientific inquiry and sponsors research. To learn how you can get on board with the bays go to inlandbays.org.