

WHEATLEY RIVER IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Final Report

Summer 2006

Simon White – Supervisor

This report is an overview of all work completed this work season.

Objectives

At the beginning of the summer, there were several objectives agreed upon:

1. Enhance and maintain the WRIG tree nursery
2. Complete at least 2 kilometers of stream enhancement work
3. Plant trees in riparian zones
4. Improve relations with landowners

WRIG Nursery

After my initial survey/planning week, the workers and I began work on the nursery. It was overgrown with weeds and there were hemlocks that needed a shade constructed for them. The trees were in bad need of pruning. We started by weeding, which was slow arduous work. Mulch was ordered and we spread it over the beds in an attempt to deter weed growth in the future. I pruned any trees that needed growth removed.

Nursery Recommendations

I was advised by Shelly Cole that since the government nursery is allowing groups to simply order trees and pick them up, the WRIG nursery should be decommissioned as it is a real time and energy eater. Adam Vessey, one of the work crew who has time to make up, has agreed to take four afternoons in the fall and pot trees. The fall is a prime time to move the trees. They can then be planted in the summer of '07.

Stream Enhancement Work

I began with a survey of last years work, as well as areas I felt needed attention and would benefit the most from our work. I felt that the section upstream from last years work, on the other side of Route 2 was a good start. However, before we began this work we cleared a trail on Don Matheson's land, with the hopes of it being used by local residents.

Following this, I met with the landowner of the Route 2 section and he was thankful for the work offer and happy to have his land enhanced. We cleaned and built brush mats approximately 250 meters upstream from Route 2. There was also a large beaver dam about 120 meters in. However the landowner wished it to be left alone as he enjoys the wildlife it attracts.

After this work was completed we moved on to Lloyd Ross's land on the section between the Church and Stead Roads. After Heather Anderson contacted the other landowners along the section, we continued work, right through. There were a lot of alders and overgrowth, and we built several brush mats. This section was approximately 250 meters.

At the completion of this work, we moved on to the section between the Bungay and Millboro Roads. This is possibly the most aesthetically pleasing area we worked in the entire watershed. It had a lot of silt in the stream however, so we cleared and built brush mats. The entire section worked, which was two branches and the main stem, was approximately one kilometer.

Stream Enhancement Recommendations

I was lucky enough to have close contact with the Environmental Futures Program directors so we made good use of their crew's service. There were only two work weeks where we didn't have a crew with us. Because of this we doubled our stream work from last year. The total stream completed, which is approximately 1.6 kilometers may be just under the initial goal, but as far as I am concerned it is still a success, sometime quality out does quantity. I recommend that the environmental futures crew are used as much or more then this year in the future.

Tree Planting

In total, we planted approximately 500 trees, including hemlock, rosebush, spruce, yellow birch, willow, larch, dogwood, and ash. We planted 90 on Lloyd Ross's property, 60 on the Millboro Road and 350 + on the Route 2 section of stream.

Final analysis

In conclusion, this was a very successful summer for WRIG with a work team that was productive and consistent throughout. We exceeded our work target from last year and we had no problems or injuries all summer. I believe we achieved the objectives set forth at the beginning of the summer. On top of our own work, we also spent a day working with the **Hunter Clyde Watershed** crew, as well as a day with the **Covehead Bay** crew. It was beneficial for both groups to team up and compare work experiences. It also gave us a boost in our work day. This year we created a **WRIG Display** showcasing work we completed this year, as well as explaining the common enhancement techniques we use. WRIG can use this at community and government events as it gives a good overview of the work. We enjoyed putting it together. The summer students and I had a good working relationship and we got the work done in a pleasant and fun manner. Personally, this was an excellent job opportunity for me over the past two summers. I gained irreplaceable experience and have genuinely enjoyed my work with WRIG.

My thanks to you for your time.

Simon White
Supervisor '06