



P.O. Box 341 · Middletown, DE 19709 · (302) 382-0335

Progress of Appoquinimink River Association (ARA) from January 2008 – December 2008

MOT Senior Center Rain Garden Stormwater Retrofit

- Worked with a lawn care company to develop weed controls and mulch for the rain garden.
- Worked with an engineer to develop and install erosion and sediment controls.
- Planted areas within the rain garden lacking vegetation with native grasses to establish a meadow habitat.

Newsletter (Spring/Summer 2008 and Fall/Winter 2008)

- Worked with a graphic designer and printer on design, production and cost saving techniques.
- Wrote the text for the newsletter distributed in April and October with articles on wetlands, the water cycle, community habitats, water conservation, the Blackbird Reserve, Forest Stewardship Council, and rain barrels.
- Gave each newsletter to around 500 people.

NFWF Riparian Buffer Project

- Worked with St. Andrew's School and the University of Delaware to reforest 11.5 acres of riparian buffer along Noxontown Pond. This included plant procurement, educational outreach, volunteer recruitment, deer fence, and invasive species removal.

Urban Reforestation and Protection in Open Space Areas

- Met with the residents of the Springmill development in Middletown to discuss options for plantings, wetland enhancement, and invasive species removal in their open space.
- Helped to monitor sediment and stormwater issues in the Townsend Village II development which aided in the repair of a faulty stormwater pond.
- Contacted EARTHNET and DNREC Coastal Programs about possible planting opportunities at the Blackbird Creek Research Reserve in Townsend, DE.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Help provide water monitoring volunteers with the supplies they need to accurately measure pollution in our waters.
- Collecting data from monitoring to create a database of pollution data from the sites.

Community Habitats

- Met with committee members to develop project ideas including increasing Backyard Habitat awareness and hold a bird feeder/bat box workshop.

- Met with an interested homeowner to create a demonstration rain garden in their side yard.
- Received a P2 Grant from DNREC with DNS to run two outdoor conservation workshops in Townsend including teaching participants how to make their own rain barrels and compost bins.
- Received funding from the DNREC 319 Program to create a rain barrel brochure explaining their benefits and how to make one on your own.

319 Stream Restoration Project

- DNREC working with Biohabitats to develop design of area and do surveying.
- Worked with the Delaware Nature Society to do biological monitoring of the site before construction.
- Monitoring stream chemistry before construction
- Worked with the Town of Middletown and 5 property owners to agree on considerations for a stream restoration project along Silver Lake Park in Middletown.

Appoquinimink Race for Our River

- Planned a 5K Race and Walk Fundraiser to benefit the Appoquinimink River Association including t-shirt design, sponsor and participant recruitment, raffle preparation and other logistical administration of the event.

St. Andrews School Spring Educational Event

- Worked on planning committee to develop concept for a spring environmental education festival.

Creating Partnerships

- We attended monthly city council meetings for Middletown, Townsend and Odessa.
- We represented the ARA at various conferences and meetings including the following:
 - American Water Resources Association (Delaware Chapter)
 - Town of Townsend Park Consultants Meeting
 - Delaware Nonpoint Source Annual Meeting
 - EPA Webcast Seminars
 - Appoquinimink WS Study Meeting
 - 2008 Environmental Candidate Forum
 - 11th Annual Wetlands and Watersheds Workshop
 - Invasive Species Forum

Middletown Transcript

- We wrote and contributed to educational and update articles on what the Appoquinimink River Association is doing and on nonpoint source pollution and what residents can do to help prevent it (once a month).

Updates

- We sent email and postal updates to all members and prominent partners on what the Appoquinimink River Association is accomplishing.

School Visits and Outreach

- Participated in public outreach events including the Odessa Halloween in the Park, Blackbird Creek Festival, Townsend Fair and DelDOT Stormwater Education Calendar Contest.
- Gave presentations on the Appoquinimink watershed and water pollution education to Redding Middle School, Townsend Elementary School, Brick Mill Elementary School and a Cub Scout troop in Odessa.
- Gave a presentation on the creation of the Appoquinimink River Association to the St. Jones Tributary Action Team.
- Presented a display on the watershed at the Middletown Odessa Garden Club's Flower Show.

Nonprofit Organization

- We worked towards the goal of having Appoquinimink River Association as a completely independent nonprofit group with steps including administrative, financial and project based planning for the future.
- Administrative:
 - Managing a University of Delaware graduate student intern Kate O'Brien who became full-time staff in June 2007.
 - Ran several Board of Directors meetings, the ARA annual meeting and ARA general meeting surrounding the topic of the PCS status.
 - Updated the Association bylaws.
 - Determined project goals for the ARA for the new fiscal year.
 - Obtained a full-time permanent position for the ARA Executive Director in DNREC with funding. Worked with DNREC to determine job description and requirements for the position.
 - We completed the IRS Form 990 for the Association.
- Financial:
 - Looked for funding to be able to implement the recommendations of the assessment.
 - Working towards implementing fundraising techniques to raise funds to cover operational expenses.
 - Met with DelDOT on future funding opportunities.
 - Created a budget for the new fiscal year.
 - Ran membership drive to solicit funds and new members.
 - Worked on finding a CPA to do a financial review of the organization.
- Project – planning BMP projects that would help reduce nutrient loads but at the same time change behaviors in the future.

MISC

- Brought together St. Andrews School and the Town of Townsend to discuss potential stormwater issues and solutions to problems within Town.
- Organized the ARA's second member social event on the Appoquinimink River where the ARA provided eco-tours of the river.