



Master Gardener Outreach Project Opportunity

Native Riparian Buffer & Filter Water Garden project established to help filter runoff into river at Aspetuck Park, Black Rock Turnpike, Easton, CT.



Join us at the Aspetuck River at Aspetuck Park to maintain and improve the multi-stage native plant gardens that reduces the impact of polluted runoff on the river's water quality.

The project includes:

- Maintaining & ID of native species to deter geese from loitering in the park by disrupting their view to water from the fields where they feed and helping to decrease streamside erosion;
- Invasive plant ID and removal -- consider native alternatives
- ID beneficial insects and bugs that show up on the native plantings and the pests – great opportunity to see IPM in action
- Mulch and sustainability of new garden areas to intercept and filter warm and polluted runoff;
- Support for continued water-quality monitoring
- Public education about IPM in the garden including “labs for kids and adults” throughout the season



Looking to satisfy outreach hours, learn, and have some fun? Consider joining the project. We plan to **meet on Friday's this year every other week Starting April 20th.** and **once we have our team together for this season we will break out and work on the gardens at different times to accommodate busy schedules.** To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Jean Stetz-Puchalski, MG by email at jean@idatwork.com (subject: Aspetuck).

The efforts of the project leaders -- The Nature Conservancy's Saugatuck River Watershed Partnership; project designer Nancy King, landscape architect and principal with Seventy Acres, LLC in Redding; and Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Advanced Certified Master Gardener and Easton Garden Club --- continue to improve fish habitat and stream water quality. While the work may not restore swimmable water to the park, it is restoring the native buffer, helping to deter the geese from loitering, and creating a beautiful place for children and adults to learn about native plants and storm water management. Coordinated effort to install and maintain plantings and no mow zones with the Easton Park & Recreation department along the stream bank have helped to reduce erosion and provide stream shading. Join us!

