



Outreach Project Opportunity in Easton CT

Volunteers needed to work the Native Riparian Buffer & Rainwater Garden project established to help filter runoff into river at Aspetuck Park, Black Rock Turnpike, Easton, CT.



Volunteers of all experience levels needed at the Aspetuck River to join the Aspetuck Park (formerly Toth Park) project where we maintain and improve the multi-stage native plant and pollinator gardens that reduces the impact of polluted runoff on the river's water quality and attract beneficial pollinators.

Join the community effort to continue to improve fish habitat and stream water quality at Aspetuck Park. Restoring the native buffer along the stream bank and maintaining the rainwater garden has helped deter the geese from loitering, created a beautiful place for children and adults to learn about native plants and storm water management.

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 + attracting pollinators
- Public education about IPM in the garden including “labs for kids and adults” + Pollinator Pathway Activities 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 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. Work a few hours or the whole season.** To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Jean Stetz-Puchalski, AMG at (203) 541-5515, or by email at jean@idatwork.com (subject: Aspetuck).

UConn Master Gardener volunteers and community volunteers from all over CT partner with project lead Jean Stetz-Puchalski and Easton Park & Recreation to maintain no mow zones and support for this perpetual conservation initiative. We thank the volunteers who collectively donate over 150 hours of time each season to the project. You are making a difference!

