

Forest City Borough

Phone: (570) 785-3326

Project Manager: Annette Schultz

Grant Award: \$15,000

The **Forest City Community Forestry Program** is located at Babe Ruth Park in Forest City Borough, Susquehanna County. The Park is a 4.8-acre site of which 1.2-acres are wooded and 3.6-acres are open grass. This project helped community members improve recreational opportunities, build on existing planning efforts and further their involvement in forest resources stewardship.

The park woodland directly accesses the 42-mile Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Rail-Trail corridor. Although used frequently, the connection was undefined, degraded, and dangerous. The woodland had little understory, park edges were infested with Japanese knotweed, large gaps were present in the woodland canopy, and many hazardous trees were present.

The first phase improved the linkage between the park and its woodland. Steep ash-filled slopes were graded and seeded. A certified arborist evaluated large trees along the park edge and in the woodland. Dead trees and hazardous limbs were removed. Stands of Japanese knotweed along park edges and within the woodland understory were sprayed using up-to-date eradication methods.

A planting plan was formulated and canopy trees were placed to provide shade for park users. A once unsafe entrance to the woodland trail was better designed and planted. Canopy trees were planted in woodland gaps, native understory vegetation was planted, and the trail was defined with mulch and plantings.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$15,000
Cash Contributions	\$14,876
In-kind Contributions	\$1,717
Total Project Cost	\$31,593



Significant Revisions to Scope of Work

Improvements along Route 171 at the north entrance to town were deleted because of the high cost related to utility concerns, traffic, and steep roadside banks. Spraying of downtown Callery Pear street trees for peach scale was deleted from the scope of work and accomplished by the Forest City Business Association with other funds.

Project Accomplishments

- Planted 3 canopy trees, 19 evergreen trees, 5 understory trees, 2 flowering trees, 16 shrubs, and 109 herbaceous plants.
- Planted 45 Stream ReLeaf seedlings in the park.
- Improved 1.2-acres of degraded woodland.
- Eradicated 17,000-sq.ft. of Japanese knotweed.
- Improved 150-l.ft. of woodland trail and enhanced 300-l.ft. of woodland edge with new plantings.
- Hazard pruned 5 large trees and removed 7 hazardous trees.
- Supported two regional plans: “*A Strategic Planning Program for the Greater Forest City Area Comprehensive Plan,*” and “*D&H Master Plan.*”
- Provided stewardship opportunities for 12 local Cub Scouts.
- Provided planting instruction to 8 Summer Youth Corps students.
- Worked with volunteers who committed 480 hours of service.
- Achieved a 1 to 1.11 cost share ratio for the grant.

Partners’ Contributions

Forest City Parks and Recreation – Equipment and labor
 Forest City Borough – Administrative assistance
 Forest City High School Biology Club – Park cleanup
 Lackawanna County Conservation District – Technical assistance
 Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority – Technical assistance
 PA DCNR Parks & Recreation – Cash match for play equipment
 Pennsylvania Power & Light Company – Park lighting installation
 Penn State Cooperative Extension Service – Technical assistance
 Rail-Trail Council of Northeast Pennsylvania – Volunteers
 Youth Corps – Seedling planting, trail mulching

