

Friends of Salt Springs State Park

Old Growth Hemlock Protection at Salt Springs State Park

Project Manager: Susan Chance and Charles Randall

1998 Grant Award: \$38,500

Salt Springs State Park is a popular and beautiful natural area in the far reaches of Northeast Pennsylvania near the NY border. A healthy stand of old growth hemlock, the state tree, adds to the magnificent beauty of the park.

Friends of Salt Springs, a volunteer organization supporting this resource, has successfully promoted the enjoyment of the park to communities, schools, and tourists. The Friends became aware that the increased pedestrian activity in and around the hemlock grove was eroding thin soils. These soils are crucial to hemlock survival. In 1998, the organization received support for the **Old Growth Hemlock Protection** trail improvements and tree plantings that would protect this fragile ecosystem.

Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work

Friends of Salt Springs was unable to build an overlook because of safety requirements and total project cost.

Project Accomplishments

- Planted 33 trees including 3 evergreen, 30 deciduous, 18 canopy, 15 flowering, and 31 shrubs;
- Amended planting sites with top soil and mulch;
- Cleared and pruned trees along hemlock trail;
- Larry Sharer, landscape architect, designed a site plan;
- Built a 200-foot boardwalk to protect hemlock grove; and
- Installed large trail map at kiosk and blue stone trail markers.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$ 38,500
Cash Match	\$ 558
In-kind Contributions	\$ 20,209
Total Project Value	\$ 59,267

Project Partnerships

Andre and Son, Inc. – supplies

Boy Scouts of America – volunteer labor

Butler Surveying – GPS survey of trails and boundaries

Craige's Store, Inc. – camera

Geoffrey Lay Logging – tree pruning, removal and maintenance

Kessler's Tree Farm, L & A Wholesale and Plantasia – plant materials

McNamara Construction – design, trail clearing and boardwalk

Molenko's Paint Shop – signs

PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry – technical assistance

PA DCNR, Bureau of State Parks – project guidance

Penn State Cooperative Extension – heirloom apple cultivar selection Pennsylvania

Conservation Corp – sign installation and trail clearing

RELY Landscaping – design, stonework, soil amendments, and tree plantings

Tea Garden Organic Herb Farm – plant food

TreePro – deer protection materials

