

## Tree planting at Paterson Farm – Nov. 2020

On Saturday, November 7, 2020 the Lower Makefield Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works, and 100 community volunteers planted 246 shrubs and trees at Patterson Farm. The planting stretched over approximately 400 feet of a headwater to Buck Creek.

Headwaters exert a strong influence on the integrity of downstream waters. All tributary streams, connected to downstream rivers via channels where water and other materials are concentrated, mixed, transformed, and transported. Headwater streams also convey water into local storage compartments such as ponds, shallow aquifers, or stream banks, and into aquifers. These local storage compartments are important sources of water for maintaining baseflow in rivers. In addition to water, streams transport sediment, wood, organic matter, nutrients, chemical contaminants, and many of the organisms found in rivers.

The plantings along the banks of the Buck Creek headwater are anticipated to stabilize the banks minimize erosion, filter and retain stormwater runoff, and expand and promote interconnectedness with nearby habitats and open space. This project is not be an isolated system, but rather a riparian zone enhancement and restoration site that interacts and contributes to regional efforts and the quality of the overall watershed.

The plantings included various sizes of shrubs and trees consisting of arrowwood, sweet pepperbush, buttonbush, winterberry, magnolia, pussy willow, musclewood, river birch, blackgum, silver maple, red maple, American beech. Planting material was acquired from Feeney's Nursery, Shady Brook Farm Nursery, and Pinelands Nursery.

The EAC is planning a second large volunteer planting to complete the project along the headwater in Fall 2021.

