

Norwalk River Habitat Restoration Project

Location: Merwin Meadows Park, Wilton
Public property

Implemented: August 1999

Partners:

CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation
Agency (NRCS)
Town of Wilton
Mianus Chapter, Trout Unlimited

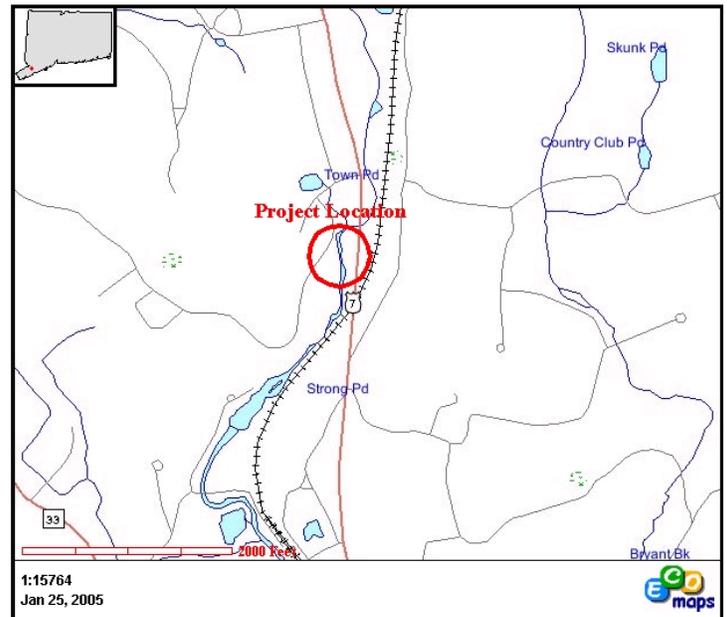
Cost: \$10,000

Engineering and Design:

USDA, NRCS

Project Manager/Contact Information:

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Email: donald.mysling@po.state.ct.us



Problem/Need

A park maintenance road/pedestrian walking trail is founded atop a major sanitary sewer line paralleling the western bank of the Norwalk River within Merwin Meadows Park. Heavy use of the trail by pedestrians combined with increased watershed development helped accelerate streambank instability and erosion and sedimentation within a 500-ft. stretch of the Norwalk River. Streambank instability was compromising the integrity of the sewer line. The project was designed to stabilize the streambanks, stem the introduction of sediment into the river and restore and enhance instream fish habitats.

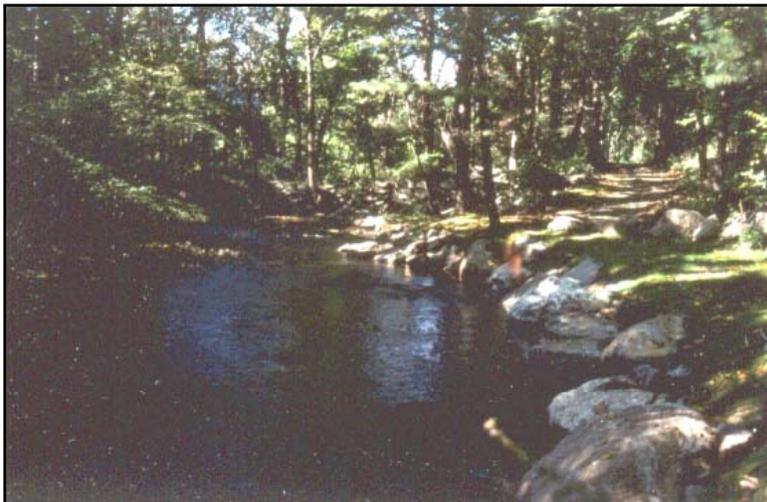
Restoration Actions

This streambank stabilization and fish habitat restoration project utilized a variety of hard armoring and soil bioengineering techniques. The 500 linear feet of streambank was stabilized with a large boulder toe, backfilled with organic soil, and then seeded with a quick growing grass mix. Biodegradable erosion control fabric protected the fill slope until the seed germinated. Live stake plantings were later installed. A rock deflector was constructed to concentrate the river's thalweg towards the center of the channel, away from the eroding streambank. A cantilevered timber structure was installed to replicate an undercut bank; this habitat feature provides valuable overhead cover for fish. Random boulders were placed to enhance instream fish habitats.



Preconstruction view of project area.

Boulder toe construction.



Post construction view of bank stabilization using boulders.