

2019 EcoAction Project

Stabilizing Municipal Drains with Fruit and Nut Trees



SNC received Federal Funding support from the EcoAction Community Program to provide boots on the ground riparian tree planting demonstration sites in Eastern Ontario.

With this funding SNC restored several kilometers of river shoreline by planting over 3,000 native trees and shrubs in partnership with local landowners, secondary schools and First Nations.

After assessing the environmental health of area rivers, 4 farms were identified in Casselman, North Dundas, Nation and the City of Ottawa that would benefit from increased tree buffers along watercourses (also municipal drains). Fruit and nut trees were planted along one side of drains, and native pollinator grasses were planted on the other side to support future drain clean outs.

SNC worked with volunteer property owners and five secondary schools and volunteers to arrange learning opportunities and demonstration planting events for over 100 students who received certifications towards their high school diplomas.

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas that provide

a buffer between land and rivers. They act as a sponge during flooding, filtering the water and reducing erosion of riverbanks. This helps prevent excess nutrients from contaminating waterways. Buffers also provide key habitat for many species.

SNC's Forest Conservation Report and the State of the Nation Watershed Report Card identify that the lack of riparian tree cover along watercourses is contributing to decreased water quality in the region.

This project demonstrates alternative methods to providing tree and grass buffers along drains with additional "edible" incentives for property owners.

Please contact SNC for site locations to visit. Applications through SNC's Tree Planting and Clean Water Programs will support similar projects on private property.



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