

Riparian Enhancement in the Belleisle Creek Watershed

Funded: \$6000 from NB Wildlife Trust Fund (WTF) and used as our restoration site for the KWRC's collaborative Atlantic Ecosystems Initiative (AEI) project that we are a partner in. Total project costs \$12,333.68.

Project Objectives:

- Repair a section of Belleisle Creek using bioengineering approaches
- Engage with landowners in the watershed to improve riparian areas
- Improve canopy cover to reduce water temperatures and provide cover through tree plantings
- Educate the community about the importance of health riparian areas



Wattle Fence site on Belleisle Creek (Erb Property)

How the money was spent:

- Hired 1 fulltime summer student to work on this project (with additional support for NB SEED program)
- Hired 1 additional student fulltime for 2 weeks to help with the harvesting stock
- Project manager salary
- Planting supplies, materials, tree stock, and mileage.

The project:

- Fencing material (Red Osier dogwood and willow) was harvested from local stock and thus required a great deal of time find and cut the fence materials before the fence could be constructed
- They were chosen because they root easily from a live cuttings and can grow in unstable conditions and are common to the area.
- To build the fence:
 - Stakes were used to provide stability



Wattle fence under construction

- Cuttings were tied with twine and weaved through the stakes
- Once the fence was built it was backfilled with soil and watered regularly
- Tree planting:
 - 100 trees and shrubs were planted behind the wattle fence bank to provide extra stability and stream cover to the area
 - 45 more trees and shrubs were planted to 2 other sites to enhance the riparian area
- Social media posts about bio-engineering and the importance of riparian enhancement and ways that they can take on projects like these
- Met with various landowners to give them advise on what species of trees would work well in their area and how even this small improvements can greatly improve wildlife habitat both for aquatic and terrestrial species.



Bur oak seedling being planted

Result:

- This fence and the improvements to the three riparian areas with tree plantings from this project will help stabilize and prevent further erosion along the creek. These plantings will also help regulate water temperatures once the vegetation has matured enough to provide canopy cover and improve fish habitat for the cold-water species that live within this sub-watershed.

