

Volunteer Conservationists: Habitat Restoration at Brown Bridge

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<http://naturechange.org/2016/01/28/volunteers-help-restore-habitat-at-brownbridge/>

One Saturday last October, a group of volunteers set out to plant thousands of trees and shrubs along the Boardman River in the bottomlands left behind when the Brown Bridge Dam was removed. This was one of several work-bees arranged and managed by the Grand Traverse Conservation District.

With little vegetation along its banks and no shade over the stream, the meandering water warms in the sun, catches silty runoff and provides little useful habitat for native fish and wildlife. The volunteer conservationists are helping to re-establish fish and wildlife habitat lost a century ago. At the same time, they're also helping to make this part of the river more resilient to the increasingly frequent, severe storms visiting Northwest Lower Michigan.

Topics Covered

Habitat; Stream Ecology; Water Quality; History

Next Generation Science Standards

- K-ESS3-2. Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.
- 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.
- 3-LS4-3. Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.
- 5-ESS3-1. Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.
- MS-ESS3-3. Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.
- MS-LS2-4. Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.
- HS-ESS2-5. Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes.
- HS-ESS3-4. Evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on natural systems.