

Lidgerwood Park Forest- Edge Ecological Planting

From Invasive Disaster to Native Habitat

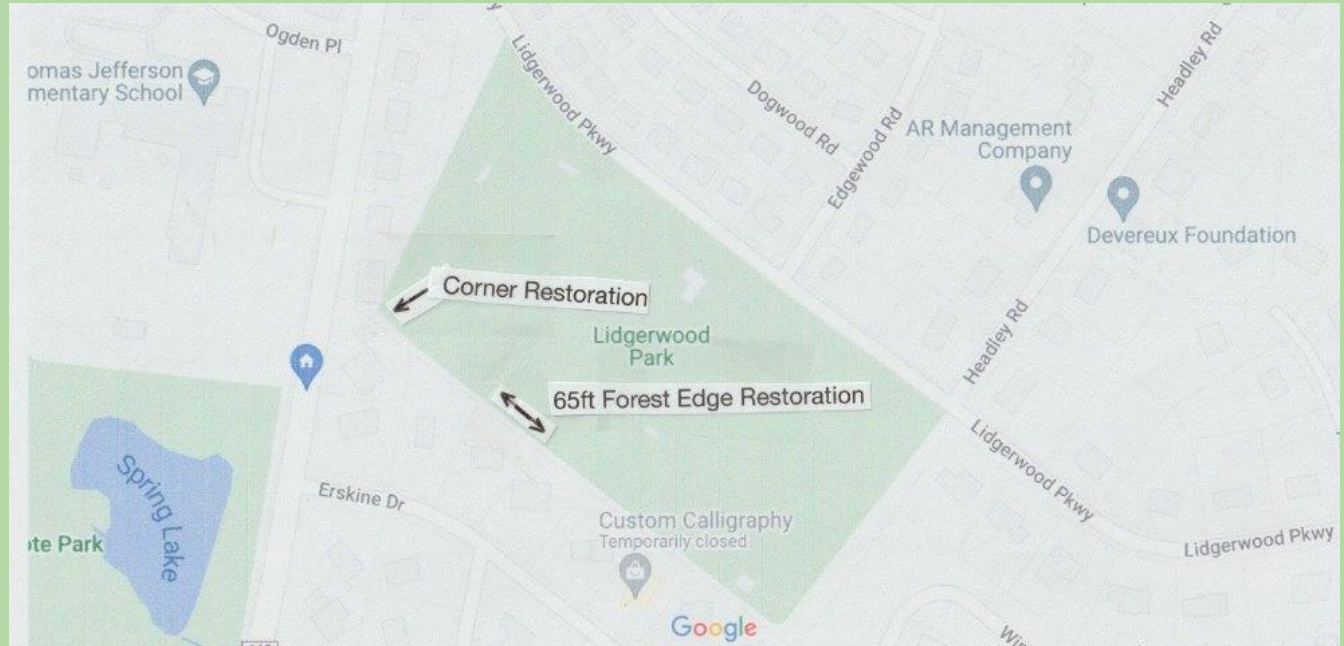
This project was initiated by Kristin Ace.

STC is partnering with FoFPW with funding from Kristin
Ace and the Rotary Club

Sincere thanks to all our volunteers

Special thanks to Joe Curlo and his DPW

We are focusing on 2 areas to begin because the adjacent neighbors will water the plantings for the first 2 years so they will establish nicely.



September
2020

Primary
vegetation was
Porcelain berry
covering
multiflora rose



September 2021

DPW did a brilliant job removing all the invasive plants. In the corner area we laid cardboard and DPW spread mulch on top.



October 2022: Planting



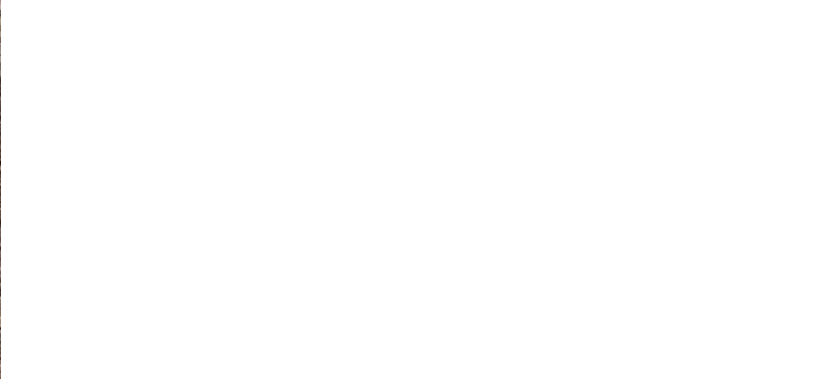
Along the fence line:

DPW removed all the invasive plants and seeded grass in September 2021

Absolutely, an amazing job. They have been mowing ever since.



February 2023, Sheet Mulch



Sheet mulch complete
and ready for planting in
March, April and May



Planting in 3 layers:

Canopy layer to include

- 1. Swamp White Oak
- 2. River Birch
- 3. Magnolia



Shrub layer to include:

1. Spicebush
2. Blueberry
3. Sweetspire
4. Fothergilla
5. Bottlebrush buckeye
6. Summersweet

These will bloom from
March through August



Shrubs will
also provide
beautiful fall
color



Ground layer blooms
spring through late fall
to support pollinators
and covers soil to
suppress weeds.

Importantly provides
soft landings for
overwintering insects.



I hope I have convinced you that this will be beautiful after it grows in, full of blooms and color. Layers of plants and contrasting textures.

But there is more to it than **beauty for us**.

The **ecological services** are key to definition of success. We need to provide food and shelter for wildlife in Morristown.

96% of all seed eating birds need caterpillars to feed their babies. Chickadees need to find **6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars** in just 2 weeks to raise a clutch from egg to airborne. Caterpillars can only eat plants native to our area.

Native plants= caterpillars=baby bird food!

Native plants provide a place for little critters to overwinter in the leaf litter= more butterflies and pollinators. (Leave the leaves= more wildlife)

Native plants will help control stormwater runoff and flooding of adjacent yards. They make the soil into a sponge.

