

Wallisch Wetlands Enhancement and Environmental Education Trail



Location: West Milford Township
Passaic County, New Jersey

Client: Ramapo College of New Jersey
Mahwah, NJ
Mr. Richard Roberts, Assoc. VP

Project Description:



Development of a dormitory complex and loop road on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey required the college to develop a wetlands mitigation plan to minimize the impact of on-campus wetlands disturbance. Since space on campus was limited, an off-site location for the wetlands mitigation had to be found. Through a GIS database analysis of the watershed, White Environmental Services identified a historic farmstead in West Milford, NJ which was publicly owned and contained a substantial amount of disturbed freshwater wetlands.



Following negotiations with the Township and the West Milford Board of Education, Ramapo College initiated a wetlands reforestation project on this site which was designed by White Environmental Services. As part of this mitigation project, the college planted 400 - 2 to 2 ½" caliper trees across three acres of previously disturbed wetlands. The native tree species used in this reforestation project mimic the surrounding forested wetlands. In addition, several species of fruit-bearing shrubs provide additional food sources for wildlife. A vernal pool constructed within the mitigation area provides breeding habitat for indigenous amphibians and reptiles. White Environmental Services supervised the construction of the mitigation project and is currently monitoring the success of the project as required by the NJDEP.



As compensation for using this site for their wetlands mitigation project, Ramapo College agreed to develop an Environmental Education Trail through the site. George White worked with faculty from Ramapo College and West Milford School District to design a trail which would be used by the public. George designed the trail and obtained all NJDEP permits required for its construction. Interpretive signage was then designed by White Environmental Services to provide the public with environmental information at key locations along the trail. The project has been very successful and is an asset to the community.

