
GROTON PARKS AND RECREATION

Fort Hill Brook Riparian Buffer Restoration

Groton, Connecticut



From left: All Habitat Services drilling holes for plant installation; Herbivory protection

More than 1.5 acres of lifeless, streamside turf is transformed into an ecologically functioning riparian buffer that improves water quality, habitat, and community resilience.

SERVICES

Assess
Plan
Build
Regenerate

On its way to Mumford Cove and ultimately Long Island Sound, Fort Hill Brook flows alongside Sutton Park, a popular and valuable recreational asset for the Town of Groton. For decades, this section of stream was bordered by turf lawn, which was costly and resource intensive to maintain and provided little ecological value.

As part of ongoing efforts to improve ecosystem function, water quality, and community resilience in towns throughout Southeastern Connecticut, The Nature Conservancy obtained grant funding from The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, to restore the riparian buffer and floodplain forest of Fort Hill Brook. To execute the project, they turned to Biohabitats.

After performing a desktop analysis, assessing the site, and evaluating nearby riparian reference sites, Biohabitats developed planting plans to replace 1.5 acres of lawn with over 600 native riparian tree and shrubs. Biohabitats coordinated with the landscape contractor, All Habitat Services, to identify and secure available plant material most appropriate for the site. Vegetation was selected to enhance the ecological value of the site, capture and filter stormwater as it flows into Fort Hill Brook, and reduce the maintenance burden for Groton Department of Parks. Biohabitats then supervised the installation of the plants and developed a maintenance plan to manage the site during establishment and into the future.