

Wetland Remediation Plan

Project Location: 103 South Lake Drive, Stamford, CT

The attached planting plan is designed to address erosion and runoff concerns adjacent to the pond located at 103 South Lake Drive where excess native vegetation was removed. The plan focuses on installing new plants directly adjacent to the shoreline and working twenty-five feet inland from the water's edge, an area of approximately 2500 sq. ft. The best approach to preserving the wetland area is to re-establish the plants directly at the shore. Shrubs were not added upslope beneath the canopy trees where some smaller trees were removed. In this location seeding with traditional turfgrass will resolve any erosion concerns. In fact, thinning out the smaller trees in this area creates an opportunity for more sun to reach the ground allowing for a shade-loving turf grass to take hold.

The stumps of the freshly cut Hazel Alder (*Alnus serrulate*) concentrated near the shore will all sprout back this season. *Alnus serrulata*, commonly called tag alder, smooth alder, or hazel alder, is a multi-stemmed, suckering, thicket-forming, large deciduous shrub, or small tree that typically grows to 10-20' tall. It is most often seen in a multi-trunked form with a densely branched crown. It is native to boggy ground along streams/lakes/streams, wetland margins, springs, spring-fed meadows, ditches, and swampy fields. Its natural growth habit is to sucker and spread. Thankfully, the roots of these trees are still intact in the ground; therefore, they have plenty of energy reserves to re-sprout. The new growth should reach upwards of 4-5 feet by the end of Summer 2024.

One unfortunate result of this unauthorized clearing is the loss of habitat for birds and beneficial insects, in addition to the disturbance to pond species of amphibians and fish. The planting scheme is designed to re-establish this riparian eco-zone in three stages: first the Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*) seeding to immediately address potential soil erosion, followed by Common Rush grasses (*Juncus effusus*) inserted along the shoreline in and around the alder that were cut back to serve as a permanent ground layer buffer. Third, is a planting of indigenous, mesic soil shrubs that will grow to replace the understory brush line adjacent to the pond with improved diversity and ecological resilience. These new shrubs can be inserted among any stumps working up slope. Quantities are based upon proper spacing to allow the plants to mature without overcrowding. Meanwhile the tussock sedge and common rush grasses will start the process of healing the land and mitigate any potential erosion concerns while the shrubs fill in.

Submitted April 4, 2024: Daryl Beyers, Landscape Design & Development
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