

Updated January 2024 (Updates in green)

Annual Progress Report on Stewardship Goals Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve



Progress Report on 2011 PECO Green Region Grant Projects

Grant Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
1. Remove existing shrubs around main entrance sign and replace sign with new double-sided carved sign.	X			
2. Construct and install new information sign at the main Preserve entrance on Mathews Ave.	X			<i>A permanent kiosk was constructed and installed at main entrance. New message board installed in 2017.</i>
3. Install trail map at the main Preserve entrance.	X			<i>Trail map created and posted in 2019. QR codes linked to trail map added at entrances in 2022</i>
4. Install three new welcome signs with Preserve rules at main trail entrances.	X			
5. Install two benches around perimeter of Miriam's Meadow and four additional benches in main Preserve.	X			
6. Install 2' x 3' illustrated interpretive sign in front of Miriam's Meadow.	X			
7. Install small boundary signs around entire perimeter of the Preserve.	X			
8. Install interpretive sign re. Landis Mill at Miller Point.	X			
9. Purchase materials for birdhouses for local Boy Scout troop to construct.	X			<i>A total of 21 birdhouses were constructed and installed using PECO grant funds.</i>

Progress Report on Natural Lands' Recommendations

2007 Stewardship Plan Recommendations	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
1. Survey and remove hazard trees. Establish a monitoring program for future removal of hazardous trees.	X			<i>Bartlett Tree completed survey of hazard ash trees. Hazard trees are removed as needed.</i>
2. Remove old wire fence in Unit 1 and barbed wire fence from Unit 2.	X			
3. Install gates or chains at trail entrances to prevent motor vehicle use.			X	<i>Not under consideration. Has not been a problem.</i>
4. Divert stormwater at Aarons Avenue entrance to prevent further erosion.	X			<i>Large gravel stones at this entrance had partially resolved the problem. Additional trenching and stone placement along Landis Mill Rd. completed in 2019.</i>
5. Relocate Aarons Avenue trail entrance to flat stretch of Landis Mill Road. Keep existing entrance to allow access for maintenance equipment.	X			<i>New entrance has been created along Landis Mill Road, but old Aaron's Avenue entrance is still in use.</i>
6. Take measures to address soil erosion caused by stormwater runoff in Unit 2 on the trail leading from East Meadow down to the creek to prevent further erosion.	X			<i>Completed in 2017 with help of local Boy Scouts. Repair work completed in 2019.</i>
7. Survey property boundaries adjacent to private parcels to determine unwarranted use, including encroachment.	X			<i>Encroachments around Groner estate area and Miriam's Meadow have been addressed. Boundary signs have been erected.</i>

Recommendations	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
8. Monument corners and mark Preserve boundaries adjacent to roads and private property.	X			<i>Monument corners now in place and boundary signs have been erected around all parts of the Preserve.</i>
9. Contact property owner to south of Preserve to discuss protection options.	X			<i>Powers tract appraised 2011 and 2015.</i> <i>Coleman property sold to New Britain Township in 2019</i> <i>Powers tract was put up for sale in 2021 and the Borough had the property appraised again. Powers declined to sell for the appraised value and the property was sold to another buyer.</i>
10. Remove trash and materials from dumping in Units 1, 3, and 6.	X			
11. Establish a deer management program.			X	<i>Has not been considered to date.</i>
12. Cut vines to canopy trees in Units 2, 4.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Continued in 2023.</i>
13. Clear areas where heavy invasive shrub and vines have prevented tree regeneration and replant with native trees and shrubs, as resources permit.		X		<i>Large area of Unit I (Area C) cleared in 2015. Sections of Unit I along Sunrise Trail (Areas A and B) and riparian area cleared in 2017. Another large area of Unit I (Area D) cleared in early 2020</i> <i>Continued planting in Areas D and E of Unit 1 in 2022</i> <i>Native trees and shrubs continually planted in all the above areas 2017-2023</i>

Recommendations	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
14. Protect new plantings from deer browse and rubbing.		X		<p><i>Tree seedlings protected by tree tubes</i></p> <p><i>Newly planted trees and shrubs and some volunteers continue to be protected using wire cages.</i></p>
15. Establish program to annually monitor and control invasive plants as needed.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Removal of invasive shrubs / vines continued in 2023</i>
16. Convert meadows to warm-season native grass and wildflower meadows to improve wildlife habitat.		X		<p><i>Miriam's Meadow seeded with native warm-season grasses and wildflowers. Additional plants installed as an on-going project.</i></p> <p><i>Began installing some native grasses and wildflower plugs in East Meadow in 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Continued East Meadow plantings in 2023</i></p>
17. Mow meadows once annually in March to prevent invasion by woody vegetation.	X			<i>Starting mowing half of each meadow in 2020</i>
18. Monitor meadows annually for invasive herbaceous vegetation and control as needed.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Weeds Inc. completed spot spraying in Miriam's Meadow and East Meadow in spring, 2022</i>
19. Install additional bluebird boxes in meadows.	X			<p><i>Nine bluebird boxes have been installed – two in each of the three meadows, two in Unit I, Area C, and one in wet meadow area.</i></p> <p><i>All nine nest boxes replaced with new boxes in 2023</i></p>

Recommendations	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
20. Establish and maintain a meandering trail within the three sections of the Miriam Groner property. Minimize the number of trails in this unit to prevent unnecessary disturbance of wildlife.	X			<i>Trails exist through, and around perimeter of, Miriam's Meadow.</i>
21. Restore collection of horticultural specimens in Groner estate area through the removal of competing vegetation, starting with vines that threaten canopy trees. Remove several species of shrubs that are now considered invasive and pose a threat to the adjacent natural areas.		X		<i>Numerous vines (Grape, Oriental Bittersweet, and English Ivy) have been cut and numerous invasive shrubs (Autumn Olive, Bush Honeysuckle, and Burning Bush) have been removed.</i>
22. Determine the desirability of interpretative signs throughout the Preserve.		X		<i>Education signs about Landis Mill and Meadow habitat have been installed.</i>
23. Monitor area around natural spring in Unit 4 to prevent human disturbance that could degrade its environmental and aesthetic values.		X		<i>Has not been an issue to date.</i>
24. Consider installation of a small diameter culvert pipe to transport water flow under the trail or a short boardwalk across area in Unit 4 where small stream flows from natural spring to the Neshaminy Creek.			X	<i>Underground pipe a possibility perhaps, but boardwalk unfeasible because of mower.</i>
25. Consider installing a bench on the bank overlooking the spring in Unit 4 A short trail could connect bench with the main trail.			X	<i>Not under consideration, but eight other benches have been installed throughout the Preserve.</i>

Recommendations	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
26. Consider installation of a few nesting boxes to attract wood ducks. <i>Placement along more isolated southern channel of the Creek would be particularly beneficial.</i>	X			<p><i>Three Wood Duck boxes have been installed – one along Cook’s Run Creek and two on the southern bank of the Neshaminy Creek.</i></p> <p><i>Box along Cooks Run was relocated to southern channel of Neshaminy Creek</i></p>
27. Install new entrance signs at all trailheads with the Preserve name and ownership that welcome visitors and include a consolidated list of rules.	X			<p><i>Rules signs installed at all entrances. “No Bikes” signs were added at all entrances in 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Vandalized “No Bikes” sign at main entrance replaced in 2022</i></p>
28. If dogs are allowed in the Preserve, a strict leash rule should be imposed to protect wildlife and other visitors.	X			<p><i>“Dogs Must Be on Leash” signs have been installed along paths at each entrance of the Preserve.</i></p> <p><i>Additional signs were installed in 2016 that specify the borough ordinance and penalty for violation of this ordinance.</i></p>
29. Consider producing a brochure showing trail layout and points of interest to guide use and improve appreciation of the property’s natural resources.			X	
30. Maintain lawn area at main entrance through regular mowing and maintain loop and parking area by regrading and adding gravel as needed.		X		<i>Parking loop widened with additional stone in 2021</i>

2014 Addendum to Stewardship Plan Recommendations	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
1. Continue to cut invasive vines on canopy trees in Units 1, 2, and 4.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Continued in 2023.</i>
2. Address new invasive species, Japanese hops, growing along south bank of Neshaminy Creek.		X		<i>Weeds Inc. sprayed in spring 2022</i> <i>Ongoing spot treatment in 2023</i>
3. Manage garlic mustard.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Continued in 2023.</i>
4. Reforest woodland gaps in Unit 1 by mowing (in winter) to clear area and plant (in spring) with native evergreen and deciduous tree species.		X		<i>Began with planting of 25 Eastern White Pines in Sept. 2015 and 11 Eastern Red Cedars in the spring of 2016.</i> <i>Ongoing task. Additional native trees and shrubs planted each year 2017-2023.</i>
5. In the event of a fallen canopy tree, replant native trees in the area to restore canopy (Units 1, 2, and 4)		X		<i>Ongoing task. Additional trees planted in 2023</i>
6. Clear invasive shrubs in Units 1, 2, 4		X		<i>Ongoing task. Numerous invasive shrubs have been removed 2014-2023</i>
7. Continue to mow meadows annually (in February or March).		X		<i>Annual mowing occurs in March. Began mowing 1/2 of each meadow in 2020.</i>
8. Control walnut tree sprouts in meadows.		X		<i>Controlled through annual spring removal and through mowing.</i>

Addendum Recommendations	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
9. Continue to pull and cut thistle and other invasive plants in meadows. If large patch develops, treat with herbicide.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Has been extensively done in Miriam's Meadow and efforts to do this in the East Meadow began in 2017.</i> <i>Spot treatment in Miriam's Meadow and East Meadow by Weeds Inc. in 2022</i>
10. In open meadow areas, seed, or plant with native meadow species to create more diversity and support pollinator habitat.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Has been extensively done in Miriam's Meadow</i> <i>Efforts to do this in the East Meadow began in 2017. Continued in 2023</i>
11. Speak with sewer company about their maintenance plans along the sewer line to discuss possibility of assisting with the management/maintenance of right of way.			X	<i>Sewer company has done no maintenance in right-of-way since sewer line was installed.</i>
12. Soil erosion remains an issue on the main trail running from the South Landis Mill Road entrance to the Creek.	X			<i>Erosion at Aarons Avenue entrance and erosion at the bottom of the trail leading to the creek was addressed with placement of stones in both areas.</i> <i>Additional erosion mitigation on trail section along meadow completed in 2022</i>
13. Consider expanding the Preserve through the purchase of land parcels adjacent to the Preserve.		X		<i>Chant donation has added three acres of woodland to the Preserve. Access to this area remains an issue.</i> <i>Purchase of Miller properties in 2019 added three additional acres.</i>

Progress Report on Additional Projects Undertaken Before 2015 Strategic Plan

Projects	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
1. Installation of wildflower meadow (to be called “Miriam’s Meadow”) on former Groner property.	X			<i>Installed by Larry Weiner Landscape Design Associates in 2010.</i>
2. Installation of memorial plaque for Miriam Groner on rock at Miriam’s Meadow.	X			
3. Creation of landscaped garden of native perennials and shrubs around Miriam Groner memorial rock.	X			
4. Installation of several sections of split rail fence along borders of Miriam’s Meadow and adjacent privately-owned properties.	X			
5. Installation of native shrubs and trees around the perimeter borders of Miriam’s Meadow.		X		<i>Ongoing task. Additional native trees and shrubs planted each year, including 2023.</i>
6. Installation of new plantings in bed around new entrance sign.	X			<i>Bed was redesigned and replanted in 2017.</i>
7. Installation of memorial plaque for Larry Miller on rock in East Meadow.	X			
8. Installation of four “Dogs Must Be Leashed” signs at four main trail entrances.	X			<i>Fifth sign installed at Lenape Trail entrance in 2019. Moved to junction of Lenape and Scout Trails in 2021</i>

Progress Report on Goals Outlined in 2015 Strategic Plan

Highest Priority Environmental / Ecological Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
1. Clear designated sections of the Upland Woodland / Forest (Unit 1) of invasive plant species and replant with native evergreen and deciduous tree species.		X		<p><i>Large section of this area cleared in 2015. 25 white pines, 11 red cedars planted in 2015-2016. Additional areas along Sunrise Trail cleared in 2017. Another large area of Unit 1 (area D) cleared in early 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Numerous trees and shrubs planted in these areas in 2017-2021. Additional planting was done in these areas, along with Areas D and E of Unit 1 in 2023.</i></p>
2. Plant bird-friendly native trees and shrubs along the borders of the East Meadow.		X		<p><i>Native trees and shrubs planted along northern border of meadow starting in 2016.</i></p> <p><i>Additional plantings installed 2017-2023.</i></p>
3. Protect new tree and shrub plantings from deer browse and rubbing.		X		<p><i>Large Pines and Cedars are not protected but are monitored for deer browsing.</i></p> <p><i>Tree seedlings planted in 2017 are protected by tree tubes.</i></p> <p><i>Ongoing task Newly planted trees and shrubs always protected with cages.</i></p>

Highest Priority Goals (cont.)	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
4. Mow open areas in Riparian Zone (Unit 4) and keep these areas cleared for future tree/shrub plantings.		X		<p><i>Large areas of riparian area cleared for planting in 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Open areas weed-whacked prior to new tree and shrub plantings each fall, including 2023.</i></p>
5. Remove bamboo incursion into the Preserve from adjacent private property.			X	<i>Bamboo was cut and treated with herbicide by Weeds, Inc. in 2015. There are still large areas where bamboo has spread across the boundary line.</i>
6. Continue to maintain Miriam's Meadow by controlling weeds, replanting, and mulching.		X		<i>Ongoing maintenance task. Spot treatment by Weeds Inc. in 2022.</i>
7. Seed or plant native meadow species (i.e., milkweed) in East and West Meadows to create diversity and pollinator habitat.		X		<i>Native grass and wildflower plugs planted 2017 – 2021. Additional native grasses and perennials added in 2023</i>
8. Continue to remove or control invasive shrubs, vines, and other plant species throughout the Preserve on the north side of the Neshaminy Creek.		X		<p><i>Numerous invasive vines, shrubs and trees are removed each year</i></p> <p><i>Additional removal completed in 2023.</i></p>
9. Address the soil erosion caused by stormwater runoff from the Landis Mill Rd. entrance down to the creek.	X			<p><i>Erosion at Aarons Avenue entrance and at bottom of trail leading to creek have been addressed with addition of stones.</i></p> <p><i>Erosion mitigation on trail completed in 2022</i></p>
10. Make trail improvements to address the soil erosion issue on the short connecting trail between the West Meadow riparian area.	X			<i>"Zig-zag" trail was redesigned and reconstructed.</i>

Mid- Priority Environmental / Ecological Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
1. Continue efforts to restore the forest canopy in Units 1, 2, and 4 by filling gaps in the canopy with native trees.		X		A total of 196 native trees were planted in these areas in 2017 – including 125 tree seedlings purchased from Octoraro Native Plant Nursery. <i>Additional trees and shrubs planted 2018 - 2023</i>
2. Fill gaps in understory layer in Units 1, 2, and 4 by planting native shrubs and understory trees.		X		

Progress Report on Additional Goals Established Since 2015 Strategic Plan

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
1. Construct and install trail signs.	X			All trails, the East and West Meadows, and Miller Point are now identified with signs.
2. Install additional benches.	X			Two additional benches have been installed -- one at Miller Point and the other on the Beech Tree Trail.
3. Construct and install new message board at Landis Mill Rd. entrance.	X			
4. Create off-road parking spaces at Landis Mill Rd. entrance.	X			Gravel parking area for two vehicles has been created.

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
5. Build footbridge across gully on Miller easement path and construct steps from this path down to Cooks Run Creek.	X			<i>Original bridge structurally damaged by Ida; repaired in 2022 (Scout project)</i>
6. Plant additional bird-friendly native shrubs and small trees around perimeter of Miriam's Meadow.		X		<i>Additional native trees and shrubs planted every year 2015-2023</i>
7. Install additional screech owl / kestrel boxes.	X			<i>Seven Screech Owl boxes have been installed to date. One came down in 2021.</i> <i>Kestrel box installed in Miriam's Meadow in 2022</i>
8. Cage naturally growing tree seedlings to protect from deer.		X		<i>Numerous pin oaks, a willow oak, and several red cedars protected. Several Beech and Redbuds caged in 2020. Several Oaks along Creekside Trail caged in 2021.</i>
9. Spread wood chips on Beech Tree Trail.	X			<i>Last done in spring 2022</i>
10. Trim back tree branches extending out into East Meadow.	X			<i>One walnut tree leaning out over the meadow was also removed.</i>
11. Inventory plant species (both naturally occurring and introduced) in Preserve.		X		<i>List first compiled by Ann Rhoads is periodically updated with new discoveries</i> <i>List of trees and shrubs planted, along with their health status updated in fall 2022.</i>

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
12. Install identification plates on all planted trees and shrubs.		X		<i>Copper ID plates replaced with new printed tags in 2023</i>
13. Install identification plates on specimen trees throughout Preserve.			X	
14. Construct and install message board for kiosk at main entrance.	X			<i>Built and installed in 2017.</i>
15. Have Preserve map designed for kiosk at main entrance.			X	<i>Trail map completed in 2019. Nothing permanent has been done at the kiosk.</i>
16. Install directional signage for Preserve on Butler Ave.	X			<i>Butler Ave. signs installed in 2017.</i>
17. Formally make donated Chant tract a part of the Nature Preserve and install dedication stone.		X		<p><i>“Chant’s Woods” designated as part of Nature Preserve by Borough Council in 2017.</i></p> <p><i>In 1919, Orphans Court ruled that Groner funds could be spent in Chant’s Woods.</i></p> <p><i>Installation of dedication plaque and stone temporarily placed at top of driveway. Permanent installation dependent on settlement of access issue.</i></p> <p><i>Access remains an issue in 2023</i></p>
18. Redesign and replant bed around main entrance sign.	X			<p><i>Completed in 2017. Brick edging added in 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Bed replanted in 2023</i></p>

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
19. Install additional dog waste station – at Landis Mill Rd. entrance.	X			<i>Installed in 2017.</i>
20. Move pergola into center of Miriam's Meadow to create focal point that will draw people into the meadow.	X			<i>Completed in 2017. Two benches installed at base of pergola.</i>
21. Register Preserve in PA Audubon's Bird Habitat Network and install accompanying signage.	X			<i>Signs installed at the main entrance and at Miriam's Meadow.</i>
22. Register Preserve as pollinator habitat and install signage indicating it as such.	X			<i>Preserve registered with both the Xerxes Society and with the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Signs placed in Miriam's Meadow.</i>
23. Construct brush piles for wildlife	X			<i>Five brush piles constructed on workdays in 2018.</i>
24. Repair and relocate bat box in Miriam's Meadow.	X			<i>Unused and rotted bat box replaced with Kestrel box in 2022</i>
25. Transplant Eastern Red Cedars from retention basin at Chant Engineering.	X			<i>A total of 122 trees were transplanted.</i>
26. Create new trail from Aarons Ave to Miller Point through former Miller properties once they become part of the Preserve.	X			<i>Lenape Trail now extends from Aarons Ave to Miller Point.</i>
27. Create new loop trail through woods on Carol Miller's former property.	X			<i>Scout Trail loops through woods from Lenape Trail.</i>
28. Install "No Bikes" signs at all entrances.	X			

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
29. Stone sections of trails where water puddles, making the trails frequently impassable.		X		<i>Lengths of the Creekside and Pine Tree Trails were stoned in 2020 and 2022</i>
30. Install trail map boxes at main entrance and Landis Mill Rd. entrances.	X			<i>QR codes of trail map added in 2021</i>
31. Register Preserve in National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Habitat Program.	X			<i>Signs placed at main entrance and at Miriam's Meadow in 2021.</i>
32. Install split rail fence along the front of Miriam's Meadow.	X			<i>Installation completed in 2019.</i>
33. Install bike rack at Landis Mill Rd. entrance.	X			<i>Installation completed in 2020</i>
34. Clear another section of Unit I (Area D) of invasives.	X			<i>Clearing completed by Indigenous Ingenuities in early 2020.</i>
35. Reroute section of Lenape Trail from Aarons Ave. to the woods.	X			<i>Trail rerouting project completed in 2021</i> <i>Began reusing original route of Lenape Trail in 2022</i>
36. Install "Dog Waste Only" signs on dog waste stations.	X			
37. Install winter roosting box (located along Beech Tree Trail next to large Pines in Unit 1 Area C)	X			<i>Installation completed in 2020</i>

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
38. Install new landscaping at Groner and Miller houses.	X			<i>Landscape Plan completed in 2020.</i> <i>First planting of native shrubs at the Groner House completed in fall 2020</i> <i>Additional planting of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials on both properties completed in 2021</i> <i>Additional herbaceous plants installed in 2022</i>
39. Widen driveway at main entrance to create additional space for parking	X			<i>Completed in 2021</i>
40. Address stormwater runoff issue on Carol Miller's former property	X			<i>Completed in January 2022. Trail raised with pipes installed underneath. Regrading done to reroute stormwater runoff.</i>
41. Construct four animal shelters in Unit I	X			<i>Eagle Scout Project started in 2021 and completed in early 2022.</i>
42. Fix up ark building on Miller property		X		<i>Ark roof replaced in 2022</i> <i>Decision made not to use Ark for storage, however.</i>
43. Reroute Creekside Trail around hazard "frog pipe" and Beech Tree Trail around stumps	X			<i>Completed in 2022</i>

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
44. Repaint main entrance bulletin board and kiosk and Landis Mill Rd. kiosk. Repair or replace malfunctioning locks	X			Completed in 2022
45. Install live stakes along Cooks Run to help control erosion.	X			Eagle Scout project completed in 2022 (Note: Stakes were all washed away by 2023)
46. Plant the wet meadow area and adjacent hillside on former Miller property.		X		Numerous plantings (herbaceous and woody, as well as bog area, installed in 2022 Planting in this area continued in 2023
47. Clear both sides of wooded section of Beech Tree Trail and start planting this area		X		Sprayed with herbicide by Weeds Inc. in spring 2022. Weed wacked in fall. Began planting in fall. Planting in this area continued in 2023
48. Address worst areas impacted by trail erosion and stormwater runoff	X			Erosion mitigation in East Meadow, on Sunrise and Sunset Trails, and along Landis Mill Road completed in 2022
49. Install gravel retention screen along stoned area of Beech Tree Trail	X			Completed in 2022
50. Install Kestrel box in Miriam's Meadow	X			Completed in 2022
51. Build storage shed on Groner House property	X	X		Shed structure completed in 2023

Goals	Completed	Ongoing / In Progress	Uncompleted	Notes
52. Replace worn copper ID plates on planted trees and shrubs with permanent ID plates		X		<i>Completed in 2023</i>
53. Landscape around new storage shed			X	
54. Treatment of tree next to shed			X	
55. Painting of shed			X	
56. Install tree ID plates on selected tree specimens throughout Preserve			X	
57. Install permanent information board at main entrance			X	
58. Replace main entrance sign with new sign			X	
59. Create new, wider, trail next to zig-zag trail that could be used by mower			X	
60. Reroute intersection of Creekside and Pine Tree trails			X	