

Fact Sheet
Ecosystem Restoration Measures

Option: Expand and Improve Habitat

- Description:** Existing structures can be removed and vegetation can be established along riparian corridors or in wetland buffers. Areas with little to no native vegetation can be enhanced by planting native wildflower meadows, trees and shrubs. Fallow and un-used agricultural fields can be planted with native vegetation. Often a component of other non-structural measures, such as purchase of property or easements/deed restrictions.
- Example(s):** In conjunction with state, regional and local government entities, as well as the cooperation of several not-for-profit conservation organizations, a planned 134-acre residential subdivision in Morris County New Jersey is being restored to its native state. Prior to declaring bankruptcy, the site developer had cleared the forest and installed roads, stream culverts, detention basins and house foundations. Using a variety of funding sources, the land was purchased by a conservation organization and a conservation easement was established. All site “improvements” have since been removed and plans for native vegetation establishment are being implemented.
- Benefits:** New or improved wildlife habitat; improved water quality; increased groundwater infiltration; aesthetic improvements; can incorporate opportunities for passive recreation; can involve school and civic groups in smaller projects.
- Challenges:** Existing development limits opportunities; expensive to implement, particularly if structure removal is required first; requires pre-design studies, detailed design, post construction monitoring and maintenance; long-term control of invasive species can be difficult; may involve land acquisition costs; funding sources are limited.

