

Protecting our waters and our land for 30 years

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Local Volunteers Keep Pollution Out Of NJ's Great Swamp

Environmental restoration at Seaton Hackney Stable a model of community cooperation.



Great Swamp Watershed Association's silt fence work crew at Seaton Hackney Stables in Morris Township, NJ. (l to r) Steve Gruber, Long Hill Twp. volunteer; Jeff Czapor, Princeton Hydro; Joe Balwierczak, Madison Borough volunteer; Tyler Overton, Princeton Hydro; Geoff Knapp, Morris County Park Commission; Wes Boyce, Bernardsville volunteer. ©2012 GSWA

Morris Township, NJ— A group of local volunteers recently completed construction of one hundred feet of silt fence at Seaton Hackney Stables off of South Street in Morris Township, NJ. The new fence is designed to protect Loantaka Brook from receiving excessive amounts of pollution during and after storms when rainwater carries animal waste, bacteria, nutrients, and sediment away from the nearby Equine Center.

Loantaka Brook is one of 5 major streams feeding New Jersey's Great Swamp—home of the United States' first national wildlife refuge east of the Mississippi River and a critical resting place for migrating birds along the Atlantic Flyway.

Installation of silt fencing is the first in a series of environmental restoration projects planned for the stable grounds. The Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA), a non-profit group dedicated to protecting the waters and land of the 55-square mile Great Swamp Watershed, has been tasked with overseeing each project in partnership with experts from the Morris County Park Commission, Rutgers University, and the environmental consulting firm Princeton Hydro. Future work at the site will address the relocation of livestock quarters away from Loantaka Brook, the restoration of a natural buffer of vegetation along the streambank, and the installation of rain gardens and other stormwater and bioretention improvements.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection awarded \$300,000 in federal funds for environmental remediation at Seaton Hackney Stables—site of the Morristown Race Track at the turn of the 20th century—following a joint grant application filed by GSWA and the Morris County Park Commission. A GSWA volunteer first identified problems with stormwater pollution at the stables while visiting a flooded pony corral at the location on a rainy day in 2010.

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Additional photos and high-resolution photo files are available upon request. Write to [sreynolds\[at\]greatswamp.org](mailto:sreynolds[at]greatswamp.org).

Founded in 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the water and land of the 36,000-acre watershed region in Morris and Somerset counties. We work to maintain the beauty and health of our open space, and to monitor and protect five streams: Loantaka Brook, Great Brook, Primrose Brook, Black Brook, and the Upper Passaic—which feed into the Passaic River and provide drinking water to more than a million people.