



Chamberlain Streambank Restoration Project February 2021 Update

PROJECT TITLE: Chamberlain River Streambank Restoration – Angelica, NY

FUNDED BY: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Restoration and Implementation Program, F20AC00067

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Genesee RiverWatch supported a project implemented by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to design and install toe wood construction to stabilize 2,950 linear feet of un-buffered agricultural field along the east bank of the Genesee River in the Town of Angelica, New York. This project reduced sediment and phosphorus loads to the river by while emphasizing the use of bioengineering techniques and habitat enhancement. Streambank stabilization and the establishment of a vegetated buffer on the reduced bank slope and on the top of bank will slow the rate of erosion and the subsequent loss of agricultural land and with it the loss of fertile topsoil.

Genesee RiverWatch's role on this project was to obtain the necessary environmental permits, provide liaison with the landowner, participate in the design process to enable Genesee RiverWatch to incorporate toe wood construction in future streambank restoration projects, and define and implement appropriate plantings in the riparian zone.

UPDATE

Permitting: The Joint Application for environmental permits was submitted to NYSDEC and USACE in February 2020. Once the archeological assessment was completed in April 2020 and a no further work determination was made by the NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation we received the three permits listed below in July 2020.

1. 401 Water Quality Certification from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
2. Excavation and Fill in Navigable Waters (NP27) from the US Army Corps of Engineers. (This permit was obtained by USFWS.)
3. Flood Plain Permit from the Town of Angelica, NY.

Construction: Construction was completed by the USFWS contractor in November 2020. See: <https://geneseeiverwatch.org/2020/12/12/the-story-behind-the-chamberlain-farms-streambank-project/>

Liaison: Maintained contact with the landowner on issues associated with permitting, construction, and riparian planting.



Design: The engineer that Genesee RiverWatch uses for their other streambank restoration projects worked with USFWS to understand the design and construction details associated with toe wood construction.

Riparian Zone: By the time the toe wood construction was completed in the fall of 2020 and a decision was made on the type of planting should be done here, it was too late in the season to plant it. It was decided that since a cover crop was already planted and growing well that it would be postponed until 2021.

WORK PLANNED FOR 2021

Riparian Zone: A 15-foot-wide section of the relatively flat portion of the bank above the toe wood construction along the whole length of the project will be planted with a Mesic to Dry Native Pollinator Mix. The native wildflowers and grasses in this mix provide an attractive display of color from spring to fall. Designed for mesic to upland sites and full sun to lightly shaded areas. This mix will attract a variety of pollinators and songbirds. We also plan to inspect the riparian zone planting in the fall of 2021 with the landowner and US Fish and Wildlife Service to identify if any further work that needs to be done. Agreed upon work will be completed by Genesee RiverWatch.

Toe Wood Benches: We plan to inspect the plantings on the toe wood benches with the landowner and USFWS to identify if any further work that needs to be done. Agreed upon work will be completed either by Genesee RiverWatch or USFWS.