



Clarion County Restoration

CLARION COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, is the setting for an Arbor Day Foundation reforestation partnership with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Green Forests Work, the American Chestnut Foundation and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative. The Appalachian region is home to some of the most diverse temperate forestland in the world, but past mining activities have left thousands of acres devoid of trees and suffering from compacted soils.

The primary objective of this project is to enhance habitat for wildlife. Targeted wildlife species include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and timber rattlesnakes.

Spring of 2015 was a critical time for the partnership. Soils that were compressed from years of mining needed to be “ripped” in order to mitigate the compaction, provide better water infiltration and allow space for tree root systems to flourish.

A late April start ensured the perfect planting window, with the majority of the planting taking place in the month of May. A professional tree planting contractor forested the 38-acre site with high-value hardwoods and wildlife trees at a density of 680 trees/acre. The planting prescription included a mix of high-value hardwoods and shrubs.

The diverse selection of trees will not only restore much-needed wildlife habitat but also provide protection in a watershed that has seen acid mine drainage for many years. With your help, we are making a difference in the Appalachian landscape.

