

Tioga-Hammond Lakes and the Endless Mountains Resource and Conservation District Work to Develop Riparian Buffers

POC: Molly Wilson, Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes, 570-835-0112

A Memorandum of Understanding between Tioga-Hammond Lakes (USACE) and the Endless Mountains Resource and Conservation District (EMRCD) (non-profit group 501c3) was executed on October 28, 2020. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded EMRCD a riparian grant for improving riparian buffers throughout the Tioga County Region. EMRCD awarded Tioga-Hammond Lakes a portion of the grant totaling \$36,000 dollars to purchase and install 900 native trees and 400 shrubs along a 6.5-acre long section of Hammond Lake with the utilization of a local vendor, Hale Forestry from Westfield, Pennsylvania.



The buffer along Hammond Lake is vitally needed due to the location having minimal tree and shrub coverage and erosion along the shoreline. Riparian buffers provide erosion control, maximize water quality, and provide substantial benefits for the wildlife. The location was prepped for the riparian buffer plantings by Tioga-Hammond Project personnel the last week of October 2020 and plantings began on November 3, 2020. Preparation that took place included spraying invasive plant species with herbicide treatment and mechanically mowing the location.

Tioga-Hammond Lakes staff will perform random inspections of trees/shrubs, remove invasive species from the planted area, and mow the location when necessary. The EMRCD will replace any damaged plantings due to natural loss. The plantings will provide a lifetime of erosion control prevention, improved water quality, enhanced habitat for wildlife and make the lake more aesthetically pleasing for the recreating public.

