



Launt Hollow Brook after excavation.

Hamden Highway Department and Delaware Bulldozing Corporation Restore Section of Launt Hollow Brook

Following several high-water events in recent years, a portion of Launt Hollow Brook in Hamden became filled with gravel. High velocity flows deposited gravel downstream, impeding normal water flow and redirecting the stream. In response, the Town of Hamden Highway Department, led by Roger Dibble, and Delaware Bulldozing Corporation, managed by Duane LaFever, worked together to remove the gravel deposit and restore the stream to a healthy state. Members from these organizations completed post-flood emergency stream intervention training in 2009, sponsored and funded by the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD), New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The program was designed to educate contractors and municipalities how to identify and prioritize stream sections in need of repair following flood events and how to effectively work in streams to re-establish proper stream function.

Using information obtained from the training program, the Highway Department and Delaware Bulldozing were able to recognize and obtain the permits necessary for construction. They were then able to determine the correct stream dimensions and bank slope for restoration of the impaired section of the brook. Excavation of the deposited gravel has returned the floodplain to an operable condition. The work, which was completed with efficient use of time and resources, will have a positive impact on the stream function and will improve water quality.

The DCSWCD is currently instructing its second year of course participants for the post-flood emergency stream intervention training. The first classroom exercise has already been offered to 33 participants; a site visit to construction on the East Branch East Handsome Brook is to be scheduled in August and a final classroom summary will take place later this fall. For more information on the training program or the work performed on Launt Hollow Brook, please contact Graydon Dutcher at (607) 865-5223.