



Volunteers Save Plants and Reforest Streams in Southeast Ohio.

A group of 30 volunteers move plants from a highway construction site to reforestation site



Volunteers dig plants from the US 33 bypass construction site to be moved.

In 2006, the Wayne National Forest and Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management, joined together to treat acid mine drainage in the Monday Creek watershed. Construction of a limestone leachbed and lining the tributary of Lost Run Creek (that then drains into Monday Creek) required the removal of overstory trees. On March 24, 2007, volunteers arrived to help Rural Action, Monday Creek Watershed, and Wayne National Forest replant the tributary's edges with trees and shrubs.

Volunteers spent the morning salvaging young shrubs and tree seedlings from the future Highway 33 bypass corridor. These plants were put in plastic bags to travel to their new home. Species collected included sycamore, prickly ash, cucumber magnolia, dogwood, ash, viburnum, blackberry and many more.

After a warm, home cooked lunch of white bean chili provided by Rural Action, the group returned to the field in the afternoon with the young plants. Volunteers divided into groups and planted the young trees and shrubs all along the edges of the tributary. Matt Miller, a VISTA volunteer with Monday Creek Watershed, and co-coordinator of the project day estimated that the 30 volunteers dug and transplanted approximately 1,000 individual plants. Matt's enthusiasm was uncontained, "this is a great project to save plants, enhance water quality and involve local stewards in the reforestation of our streams!"

There were many tired muscles and sweaty brows when the group ascended out of the small hollow, but the reward of helping the local ecosystem shown from each face. A special thanks goes to Dr. Phil Cantino, his local stewardship group and all other volunteers for their hard work that day.

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