

Closure Memo

Date: 1/15/2015

Project: Restoration of Forests at Audubon's First Bird Sanctuary (NY)

Number: 1401.11.027926

Grantee: National Audubon Society, Inc.

Project Description: The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center (The Sanctuary), Audubon's first and oldest bird sanctuary, originated in 1923 when the property was gifted to the Audubon in memory of the late President. The Sanctuary's grounds are rare old growth woodlands comprised of American Tulip Tree, Oak, Red Maple, Beech, and Hickory trees. Beneath the treed canopy, Spicebush, Holly, Viburnums, and other Long Island native plants thrive. A major disadvantage of the property is the invasion of non-native invasive botanical species. Norway Maple is sterilizing the soils surrounding its roots, English Ivy clings and smothers beautiful old trees, Japanese Spurge coats the understory, out-competing native groundcovers, and other problematic invasives have asserted their presence. This project proposes to restore the Sanctuary through a direct, hands-on restoration of the 14 acres of the Sanctuary to its native Coastal Forest habitat. An integrated approach to reduction, towards elimination, of non-native invasive species will be utilized, including mechanical, muscle (pulling), and chemical techniques. Native plantings will restore successional forest, forest edge/meadows, and shaded understory/woodland floor areas within the property.

Final Products:

- The project will restore 14 acres of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center to its native Coastal Forest habitat by reducing non-native invasive plant species throughout the property and by planting native plants in the successional forest (1.5 AC), forest edge/meadows (.5 AC), and shaded understory/woodland floor (1 AC) areas within the property.

Treatment of non-native plant species was accomplished through chemical and mechanical methods and was implemented on a total of 3.17 acres. The 3.17 acres (2.45 of forest/understory and 0.72 acres of meadow habitat) were restored with 716 native plantings. Although the planting acreage goals were exceeded, the acreage differed in location from what was indicated in the proposal. Staff and volunteers planted 148 individual trees and shrubs in forest and understory areas and meadow and garden areas were replanted with multiple species comprised of 328 individual wildflowers. These areas were also supplemented with plantings of three species of native grasses. A work plan and framework has been developed to maintain these new restoration sites and establish goals to restore the remainder of the property. After evaluating areas for replanting, a decision was made to plant one gallon or larger plants instead of the small 2' plugs originally proposed to introduce less vulnerable native stock to the site. This decision reduced the overall number of plants purchased.

- The project will educate the public on the benefits of native restoration through photo-documentation stations as well as encourage community engagement through volunteer activity days.

A total of 47 volunteers donated 200 hours to the project. The project held two volunteer invasive species removal programs at the site as well as a public workshop about native plants and their benefits to wildlife in the community. The impacts of invasive species were discussed in 25 school education programs each year.

LISFF award: \$34,977.27

LISFF funds spent: \$34,977.27

LISFF Match requirement: \$13,210.00

LISFF Match spent: \$19,659.78