

STORMWATER BMP SITES IN PAXTON CREEK WATERSHED

BMP Type: HACC Riparian Buffer



HACC Riparian Buffer

Name and Location: Riparian buffer is located 50 m south (in front) of the C. Ted Lick Conference Center at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), Wildwood Campus, One HACC Drive, Harrisburg

Project Site Number and BMP Type Code: 1C

GPS Coordinates: Lat N40.29779 degrees, Long W76.88750 degrees

Site Features: The HACC riparian buffer consists of vegetation (trees, shrubs, herbs) at the periphery, and alongside Paxton Creek. Waterway buffers provide many waterway benefits: partial protection from overland stormwater runoff (with pollutants) entering the creek; shade for the creek that helps cool stream waters, and enhance dissolved oxygen levels; habitat (living places) of water and land-based creatures; other benefits. Buffer vegetation occurs throughout the HACC campus during the creek's passage, but the quality of the buffer varies from surrounding woods, to a single line of trees and shrubs. The enhanced buffer near the C. Ted Lick Conference Center has 3 zones separating the creek from a service road behind HACC bookstore: grasses and forbs strip next to the road; stand of hardwood trees and woody shrubs; herbaceous plants and shrubs atop the creek bank. This buffer does not achieve full buffer benefits because it is young, too narrow, lacks desirable density, and is located near too many human activities (including vehicles transport, occasional mowings of herbaceous plants). Buffers are significant best management practices for runoff, particularly for headwaters and slightly degraded streams vulnerable to overland runoff. Expected pollutant removals in fully functioning riparian buffers approximately are: total suspended solids (mainly dirt), 65%; total phosphorus, 50%; nitrate, 50%. The pollutant removal efficiencies vary by season (greater removal in spring and summer), and by buffer drainage area or condition (vegetation grows denser, declines, alters species).

Site Directions: HACC entrance 4 off Industrial Road is closest to the riparian buffer. After driving east across the west lot, park in a designated space near the bridge. Walk over the bridge towards the conference center. The riparian buffer is on the right, stretching from the creek to a service road at the rear of buildings. Access to Industrial Road is at 2 places: Rt. 39 (Linglestown Road) near the Rt. 322 overpass in

Susquehanna township; the junction of Cameron Street, Elmerton Avenue, and Wildwood Park Drive at the edge of the northern parking lot of the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.