

VAMC Martinsburg Land Beautification Program





VAMC Martinsburg Wildlife Viewing Area



In March 2011, I discovered that there were several storm water outlets that have been silted-in over many years. These storm water outlets were dug out and cleaned to maximize their performance. Once cleared of obstructions a series of levees, diversion dams and settling ponds were put in place. With these devices in place I was able to contain 100% of storm water run-off during rain events not exceeding 3 inches per hour.



Prior to building the devices, run-off from our campus would flood in to our neighbors backyards. This created a mosquito breeding area and uninhibited storm water run-off would flow directly in to Opequon Creek.



Working with FMS Energy Engineer, Ted Gross, storm water retention areas were chosen and work began. First, topsoil was stripped from all work sites and dumped in our topsoil pile to be mixed with composted material and used throughout the campus on various grounds keeping projects.



Levees were created to retain storm water below the ball field and recreation area. When basin is filled water does not disrupt ball field use.



(top): Basin and levees working after 16 Apr 11 major rain storm event.

(left): Completed levee and basins

A dam was built to retain storm water runoff flowing from the rear of the campus.



A basin was built by removing remnants of the coal field used long ago. Once spoils were removed, existing clay was used as a liner for the basin. Topsoil was added to encourage plant growth to create habitat and assist with water filtration.





On April 16, 2011 the VAMC Martinsburg received over 10 inches of rain in three days. We contained over 2 million gallons of storm water run-off in one rain event. It was an early structural test of my storm water control devices. Some minor repairs were needed and construction continued.



LEFT: Diversion dam built to redirect storm water run-off to Veterans Nature Area. Storm water run-off from the rear employee parking lot, neighboring cropland and sump pumps from VAMC are diverted using this device to recharge wetland eco-system.



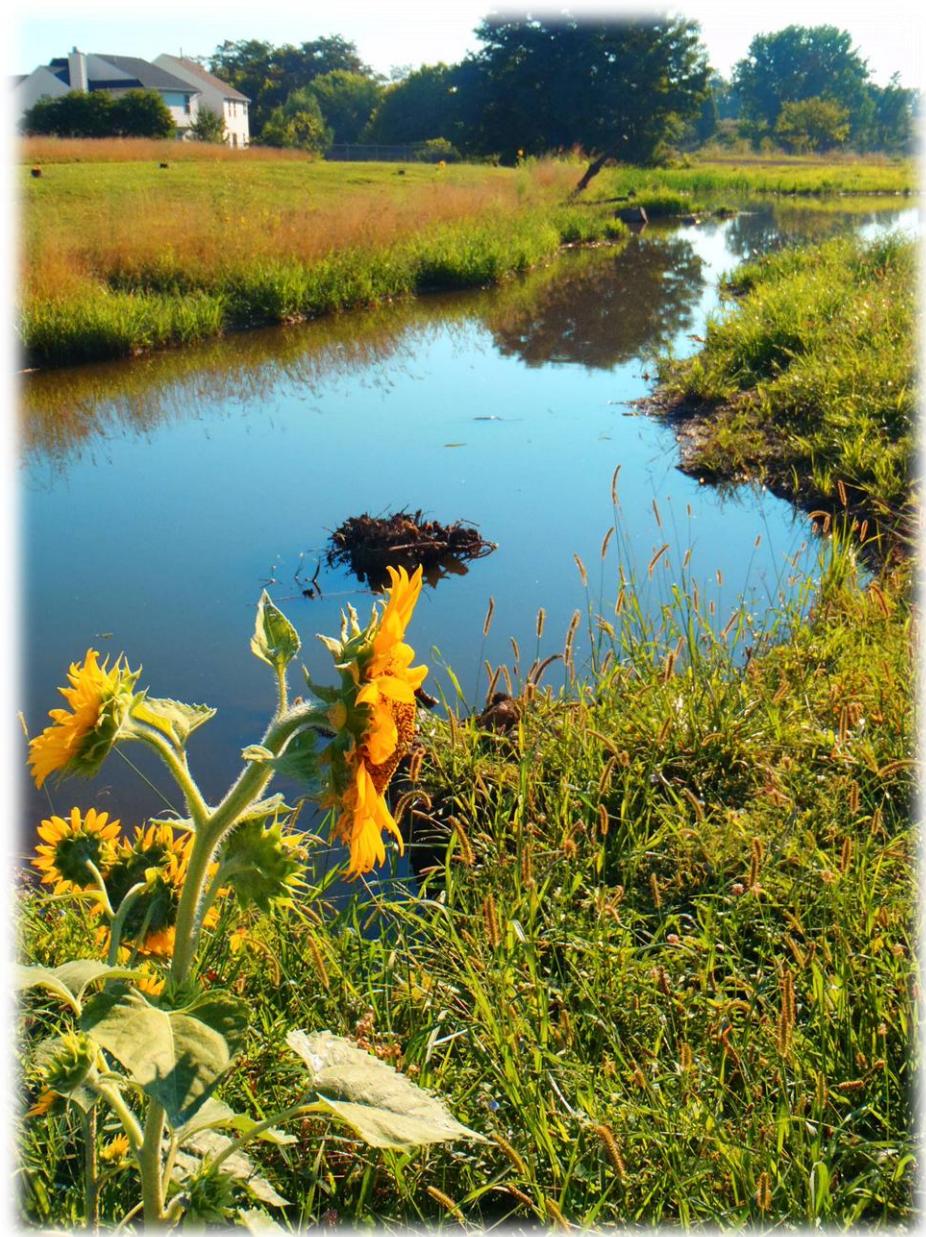
Using the Mountaineer Treeways Program, I've planted over 500 trees, seedlings and seed in the Veterans Nature Area and campus grounds. These trees and ones donated by Boydville Mansion will provide food, cover and habitat for wildlife. These trees will also help percolate storm water run-off, provide erosion control and utilize excess water contained in the Veterans Nature Area



I am currently in the process of securing a \$5000 Demonstration City Grant from the WVDOF once approved by VA Counsel. Also, I attended the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting and was granted \$400 to buy seed needed to re-establish native grasslands, wetlands and wildlife habitat and rent the equipment needed to plant the seed. I have also secured over \$9000 worth of quarried limestone to use in various land beautification projects throughout the campus.



A portion of the nature trail will be a boardwalk. The boardwalk will be constructed using recycled railroad rails, trees harvested on VAMC grounds and telephone poles. Decking will need to be purchased or donated to complete. Work will be performed by FMS Grounds and Volunteers from the American Legion Riders, Post 14.





Cub Scouts from Hagerstown built Bluebird houses
and planted a tree in the nature area.

The following is a list of individuals, agencies and/or organizations utilized during my tenure with the VA.

Jennifer Hammer and Jesse Wise WVFD Urban Forester: Seedling program, pruning workshop, planting workshop, tree risk assessments.

Herb Peddicord, WVFD, Chesapeake Bay Forester: Tree risk assessments, tree selection and placement, Chesapeake Bay tree grants.

Eastern Panhandle Conservation District: Seed reimbursement, technical assistance, no till planter rental, meadowland approval.

Boydville Mansion: Seedling transfer.

Jen Garlesky, Barbie Elliot and Suzy Lucas: WV Soil Conservation Agency: Demonstration area approval, rain garden and other clean water practices.

Nick Schell and Alana Hartman, WVDEP: Partnering with VAMC MWV to demonstrate how best management practices can be implemented on federal property. Other agencies will be brought in to review our storm water management program and apply these practices on their property.