

## About the Park

The Purdy Nature Preserve is a small park in Manchester, CT. It is located on Adams Street, next to an apartment complex, and has a brook that runs through the park, leading up to a crowded plaza.

At this site, many forces have damaged the environment, some from human interaction, such as pollution, while others have a more natural origin, such as alien plant species and the recent introduction of beavers to the habitat. This project serves as a breakdown of some of the many negative factors influencing this field site.

This project is ongoing, and future Natural Resources Conservation Academy students will be able to use this presentation to identify one of the problems at the Purdy Nature Preserve and address it in their future projects.



## Recent Problems

The Purdy Nature Park is located in Manchester, CT. It is a small park, with an entrance located between an apartment complex and Timken, company that manufactures steel.

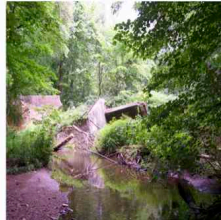
The Bigelow Brook runs through the middle of the park, and has become subject to an increasing number of foreign items throughout the years, one of the most popular being, shopping carts and plastic bottles.

One of the largest problems at the site are the remains of a dam that once stood in the water. The dam wasn't removed properly, and was instead taken down with explosives. This improper removal technique has been the cause of many of the problems since. Large columns of cement still remain leaning against the unstable walls of the riverbank. As pieces of the cement continue to break off, chemicals and minerals that aren't native to the water, or necessarily good for it are put into the Bigelow Brook. This can be deadly to organisms that live in the water, such as fish and microscopic organisms.

The soil around this site is also subject to contamination from many different sources. There is a footpath that runs through this park and at times, runs very close to the water. The plaza that is next to Bigelow Brook is also a large source of pollution. A road divides the plaza from the brook, and from this road pollutants come from cars and litter is frequently thrown over the barriers of the road. The riverbanks are constantly eroding and depositing compacted and contaminated soil into the river. With this soil, many other items, like litter, make their way into the water, and liquids like oil and gasoline are washed off of the roads and into Bigelow Brook.

Many invasive species have become a problem in the Purdy Nature Park. One of these problem species is the Black Locust Tree. This tree has become one of the most notoriously invasive species in Connecticut.

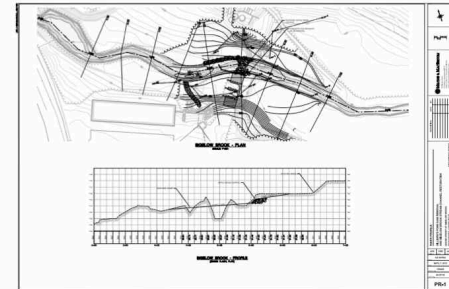
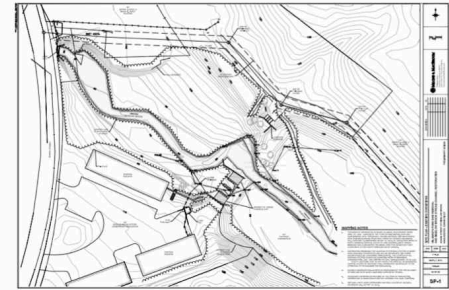
The Black Locust's presence in The Purdy Nature Park has forced out some of the more native species of trees and has made a permanent home for itself in the Bigelow Brook area. The Black Locust tree is one of a few invasive species that have begun to reconstruct the Purdy Nature Park.



## Proposed Restoration of the Park

There is a proposed restoration plan for the park, being considered by Manchester Land Trust. This plan aims to restore the channel in the brook, which was compromised by the improper removal of the dam that once stood there. Also, groups of volunteers continue to play a huge part in the maintenance of the park. Several times a year these groups will gather and walk through the park, picking up the litter, and pulling shopping carts from the banks of the brook.

The Manchester Land Trust and it's members continue to play a role in the revitalization of the this site and many others in the area.



## References

Photos: Matthew Bordeaux  
Proposed Plans: Milone and MacBroom, Inc.