

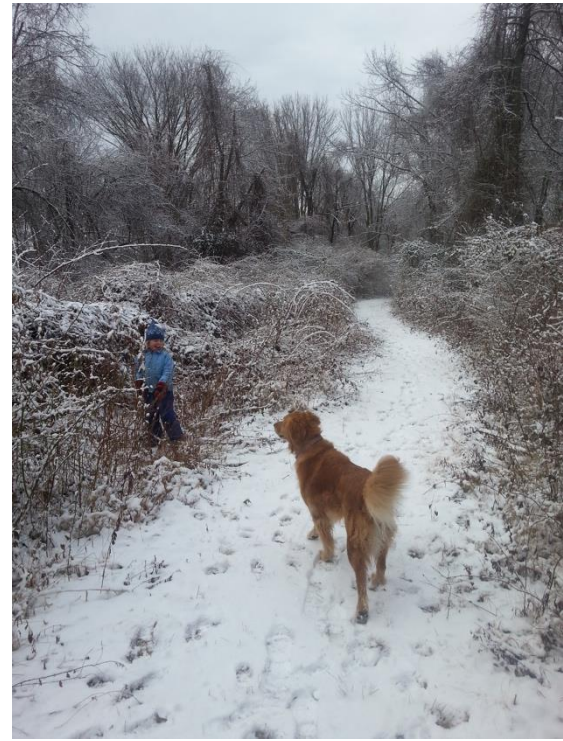
Canonchet Farm Habitat Restoration Project

A case study of the project's impact provided by local resident Melissa Crawford.

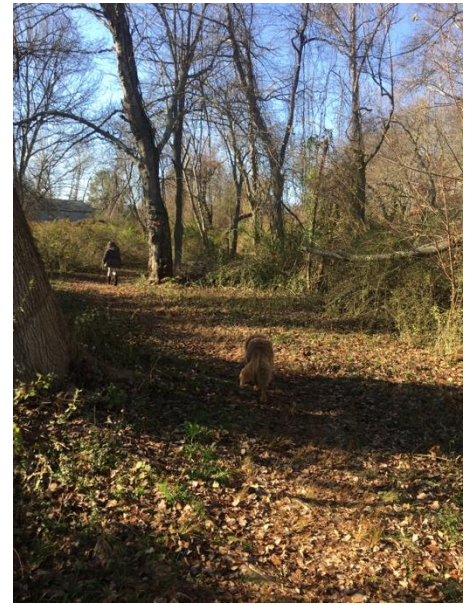
November 12, 2018

I've been walking the trails at Canonchet Farm for about 10 years. I've witnessed the transformation of the trails with my own eyes. I've seen stone walls uncovered from piles of tangled vines. I've seen new wooden planks set down on the muddy sections, which was especially nice when I was using a stroller! I used to look at the old, thick bittersweet vines hanging down from branches thirty feet above the trail and think how long they were able to grow and maintain dominance among the other plants that wish to grow here. Then one day we'd walk the trail and some of the vines were cut, some portions cleared. The amount of work being done amazed me. We even swung on the dangling cut vines like Tarzan. The path is now so much wider, its loaded with big bushy native ferns. My kids enjoy reading the new sign in the clearing, our favorite section of the trail. This spot benefits from long and warm afternoon sun, it might be the warmest place in South County on a winter day. Also, I've noticed another very important thing- the people. I used to walk these trails and see no one. I thought I was the only person who ever walked there. Now its common to see several people using the trail in the time it takes me to complete a loop. If you've never been, you should. The stone walls, the view of Narrow River through the trees, the loop back through South County Museum. These trails are a treasure for my community, a space of quiet refuge away from the hustle and bustle of life. I attached some photos for evidence- the photos with some snow were taken 5 years ago. The others we took over the past weekend to compare the changes. Its almost unrecognizable at the same location. All the pictures show the "clearing" before it was cleared, before the stone wall emerged, both the long one along the side of the trail and the low retaining wall abutting the wetland area (we know this now thanks to that sign!).

Melissa Crawford



2014 - 2015



Fall 2018