STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT

NATICK, MA

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Wetlands restoration and ditch maintenance are integral parts of the Integrated Pest Management Program performed by the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP). CMMCP currently works in 39 cities and towns in Massachusetts, and last year alone cleaned over 146,000 feet of ditches.

One of our projects that has not quite performed to our expectations due to continued streambank failure is the subject of this poster. At the subject site, located in Natick, Massachusetts, we cleaned the ditch system for the first time in 1993 using a low ground pressure excavator. Work crews were out several times since that time as part of our stream maintenance program using hand tools to keep the system free from obstructions. By 2004 the downstream section had degraded again to a point where it breached its banks and flooded over the resident's driveway. Each time the excavator was called to action, the downstream area required removal of accumulated silt due to the failure of the streambank upstream. In all of our work in this system, we did not touch the 75 foot area closest to the culvert mouth due to concerns from the homeowner that he will lose additional sections of his lawn. This bank has failed due to poor slope (1:1) and increased pressure from residents and yard maintenance personnel. In an effort to correct this problem and as a long term solution, Northeast Environmental Solutions (NES) was contacted to give their opinion on the site and to see if a solution could be worked out.



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