

# CLOSTER NATURE CENTER ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES Reforestation Program

By Sarah Ritter Chung

Closter Nature Center Association is pleased to announce the Reforestation Program, a three-year initiative, and the first such public fundraising campaign in the organization's 62-year history.

Through the Reforestation Program, Closter Nature Center is working to raise \$15,000 over the next three years to restore the wetland forest ecosystem around Ruckman Pond. Funds will be invested toward the purchase and planting of tree and shrub saplings, and installation of protective fencing. To date, Closter Nature Center estimates 1,000 trees or 10% of the forest canopy has been



destroyed by factors including Beech Leaf Disease, Emerald Ash Borers and invasive growth. Deer browse prevents the natural regeneration of the forest, requiring all new plantings to be protected.

"We selected the pond area for this phase of the Reforestation Program because tree loss there is already visible to the many visitors of the most public







## COMMUNITY INTEREST

The Reforestation Program will run through spring 2027.

### ABOUT CLOSTER NATURE CENTER ASSOCIATION

For more than 60-years, Closter Nature Center has provided hands-on educational nature programming for children and adults and has served our community as a safe, family destination for hiking, fishing, bird watching & enjoyment of our natural world.

To learn more about the Reforestation Program and issues impacting our forest please visit [closternaturecenter.org/rp](https://closternaturecenter.org/rp) or contact [giving@closternaturecenter.org](mailto:giving@closternaturecenter.org).

part of the nature center," said Mary Mayer, Trustee and Chair Natural Resources Committee. "While tree loss from age or disease is a natural occurrence, deer browse prevents new young trees from replacing those that die. Unless we plant and protect new trees our forest will gradually cease to exist."

"With the loss of our beech and ash trees and the forest's inability to naturally regenerate due to the overpopulation of white-tailed deer we are forced for the sake of the future of our forest to intervene," said Closter Nature Center Naturalist and Educator Marc Gussen. "Devoting greater resources towards planting and protecting trees like oak, hickory, birch, and cherry is the answer."



Scan QR to donate & learn more



Become a member today!  
[www.closternaturecenter.org](https://www.closternaturecenter.org)  
 154 Ruckman Rd.  
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 Closter, NJ 07624

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Scan QR to read the September issue of The Neighbors of Closter, Demarest & Haworth

