



Case study 2: Trees 2020 Nursery

Background:

The tree farm is a 4500sq' portion of a 2.375 acre property located on the west side of Providence. The entire property, formerly Sprague Industries, is contaminated with lead and other heavy metals consistent with the site's history of jewelry plating. In the spring of 2012 Groundwork Providence began the design, remediation and installation of the 300 pot tree farm in partnership with RI Housing, Groundwork USA, West Elmwood Housing Authority and R.I. Department of Environmental Management. The farm will support the Trees 2020 program in its effort to plant trees in communities with the least coverage of tree canopy. It will also support arboriculture and horticulture curriculum included in the Groundwork Providence Adult Job Trainings and act as a grower/supplier for GroundCorp.

Training objectives:

This unique site was used in the hands-on portion of the Adult Job Training sequence. Groundwork Providence trainees who received their OSHA HAZWoper licences were asked to partake in the installation of the sediment and erosion control measures for construction as well as assist in the landscape grading for the retaining wall for the soil cap under the supervision of the Director of Field Operations. For two days students experienced the process of entering, working on and exiting a brownfield site including all safety and decontamination elements. The task of building the retaining wall, laying of geotextile barrier, capping and fencing was entirely done by GroundCorp employees. GroundCorp crew employed the skills and knowledge they acquired in their Adult Job Training as well as applying new landscape construction skills.

Hands on Experience:

Site analyses: general survey for master plan, brownfield remediation planning and materials scheduling.

Deconstruction and construction: daily safety/materials checks, concrete preparation, fence fabrication/installation, timber wall construction, carpentry, geotextile installation.

Landscape construction: Tree / Shrub planting and care, landscape materials calculations, landscape maintenance, irrigation set up, installation of Geo-Block™ erosion control system.



Installation of 16.5" timber wall at 6 degree angle



Corner of finished wall with corner dead-man



Installation of spray irrigation system



Fence installation, windscreen installation and tree installation



Finished installation of Geo-Block™ permeable sidewalk



Initial survey, site grading and first course for retaining wall



From Left: Orange visual barrier, 3/4" crushed stone drainage layer, 6-8" barrow material and insert/socket pot growing system.



Concrete water box and 5-8" of wood chips