



Bringing the Bobolink to Peapack



A male bobolink

Pfizer's Green Journey includes a local commitment to protecting and improving the environments in which we live and work. Together with the [New Jersey Audubon Society](#), the [New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership](#) and the [Great Swamp Watershed Association](#), Pfizer colleagues in Somerset County, NJ, have taken this to heart.

Pfizer's Peapack-Gladstone Borough, NJ, campus covers approximately 170 acres along Peapack Brook, a Category One waterway as determined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. There and at the neighboring Drew University campus and Great Swamp Watershed, colleagues are supporting and volunteering their own time and talents at habitat restoration projects.

The challenge was that invasive plant species, such as multiflora rose and autumn olive, reduce plant diversity and habitat value. Although the invasive species found on the Pfizer campus cannot be fully eradicated, they can be managed while other native plant cover is reestablished. By eliminating invasive plant species, native plant species can grow and support threatened and endangered wildlife.

Pfizer colleagues helped turn eight acres of old field and mowed grass into scrub-shrub habitat, a particularly important habitat type for many migratory birds. Scrub-shrub habitats typically consist of low, sometimes patchy, woody vegetation and shrubs or trees in an early state of succession.

Combined with 35 acres of meadow, the nesting opportunities for migratory birds are greatly improved. In fact, within three months of delayed mowing, a Bobolink, a threatened song bird species, was seen on the Peapack campus by a representative of NJ Conserve Wildlife. It also helps enhance the long-term value of the campus for Indiana bats and other bat species.