SITE-TO-SOURCE / SAMPLE CONSULTATION

Forest and floodplain restoration: a property-wide strategy

Baldwinsville, New York

$2,750 Illustrative Professional Scope • 24-acre conceptual restoration

Illustrative report for a fictional client and site; no real property inspection or purchase. Sample edition: 7 Nov 2026 | PHY-SAMPLE-002B_Baldwinsville_Forest_Floodplain

Your recommended direction

Favor a diverse forest-and-meadow mosaic instead of a uniform tree plantation. Verify hydrology, flood hazards, jurisdiction and soil units before defining planting areas; maintain natural regeneration and protect wetland functions.

The client behind the question

Fictional client: Bailey Habitat Partnership, represented by George Bailey

"Starting with a trial plot makes sense, but our long-term responsibility is the whole twenty-four-acre property. We want a real forest to return to the old fields, with better wildlife cover and a small meadow still open for flowers. The river side is a different story: spring water gets into the low areas, and I don't want anyone excavating or planting there until we understand the restrictions. Please show us a sequence we can budget and monitor over time, not just a shopping list of trees."

Illustrative mock submission, not an actual customer testimonial. Adapted from the fictional intake originally prepared for this example.

Selected answers from the client intake

Intake question	Client's answer
Decision to be made	How to organize an entire hypothetical 24-acre former agricultural site for native forest, meadow and floodplain recovery.
Client entity	Fictional Bailey Habitat Partnership represented by George Bailey; no actual organization or landholding.
Provisional habitat goals	Most acreage eventual forest/woodland, with a small intentionally open pollinator meadow.
Known uncertainties	Land boundaries, actual soil series, flood hazards, wetland jurisdiction, past herbicide use and natural regeneration.
Implementation instructions	Separate dry upland, transition, and river-associated zones; show a feasible sequence and monitoring measures.
Scope/fee distinction	Illustrative $2,750 remote professional planning fee; materials, implementation, specialized surveys and permitting are separate.

How we answered the client's questions

Client asked	How this report responds
Is this just a bigger version of the 1.8-acre report?	No. The professional report introduces property-wide conceptual zoning, evidence requirements, restoration phases and performance indicators.
Can we keep a meadow in a future forest landscape?	Yes. A provisional 22-acre woodland intent / 2-acre open meadow concept can be refined after real mapping and field work.
Can you tell us where riverbank or wetland planting is allowed?	No permit or jurisdiction is certified. The professional work identifies the investigations and specialists required before those actions.
How will we know if this is working in year five?	Track survival, native cover, deer browse, invasive pressure, habitat structure and adaptation decisions through a multi-year monitoring framework.

What we clarified in the simulated consultation

Follow-up question	Client reply and resulting decision
Is the goal a uniform tree plantation?	Client: No. We need forest, edge structure, some meadow and wildlife habitat. Report decision: Use a forest-and-meadow mosaic with distinct upland, terrace and floodplain units.
Are you asking us to design construction or file permits?	Client: No, first we need a defensible restoration strategy and a path to the specialists. Report decision: Separate conceptual plant-selection work from jurisdictional, engineering and permit work.

How the project developed through feedback

Point in the example	What changed in the recommendations
At the illustrative professional kickoff	Confirm the whole-property goal, a modest open-meadow component and a phased restoration approach.
During the illustrative technical review	Treat floodplain acreage, wetland boundaries and soil conditions as unresolved until qualified site evidence is obtained.
For the consolidated professional strategy	Supply candidate plant communities, source requirements, milestone sequencing and a five-year monitoring framework.

The plant recommendations and next steps that follow show the result of these client-specific choices. Site observations remain fictional, and conditions must be confirmed before real installation.

How we interpreted this project

A hypothetical 24-acre former agricultural holding adjoining the Seneca River landscape, with distinct upland, terrace, floodplain, and intended open-habitat components. The boundary and jurisdictional status have not been surveyed.

This custom professional example adds a defined project scope, staged decisions, sourcing considerations and specialist referral points. Its illustrative fee is not a fixed published price or an installation budget.

Three decisions that matter most

01 Confirm property boundaries, map units, existing vegetation, wetland/waterway constraints and any land-use restrictions.

02 Organize implementation into field-verified units; plant upland areas first and defer sensitive floodplain work.

03 Measure establishment, invasive pressure and habitat structure over a multi-year monitoring period.

How to read a professional strategy

The plants and phases below are an evidence-based starting framework. Areas, hazards, permissions and management arrangements must be established with the appropriate local professionals before installing at scale. This illustrative professional fee covers consulting, not construction or implementation.

Project roadmap and decision gates

Stage	What we evaluate	Decision or deliverable
Site baseline	Confirm the extent of the 24-acre holding, dominant NRCS map units, present land cover, river flood potential and areas requiring wetland/waterway review.	Boundary map, evidence gaps, provisional working units.
Restoration zoning	Use a provisional target of approximately 22 acres of forest and woodland intent plus 2 acres of open pollinator habitat; revise only after site verification.	Landscape-unit concept that responds to habitat and hydrology.
Pilot establishment	Begin on accessible, relatively upland ground. Retain native regeneration and protect young trees from browse; set nursery provenance and maintenance records.	Phased planting and protection priorities.
Long-term review	Track planted-tree survival, invasive pressure, natural regeneration and wetland function over at least five growing seasons.	Annual monitoring observations and adaptation triggers.

Plant recommendations

48 screened plant choices are presented below. They are alternatives organized by planting environment and use—not a shopping list you must buy in full. Mature dimensions and growing conditions remain approximate; confirm the supplied plant form, actual site light and water before purchase.

Upland canopy & pioneers

These are conditional site-unit options, not an instruction to purchase or sow every species.

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Eastern white pine *Pinus strobus* Core	Dry to mesic terrace; evergreen structure **Landscape role or indicative setting: Dry to mesic terrace; evergreen structure** **Check:** Deer protection; avoid wet pockets
Northern red oak *Quercus rubra* Core	Long-lived canopy; wildlife food **Landscape role or indicative setting: Long-lived canopy; wildlife food** **Check:** Moderate-moisture upland, not saturated
White oak *Quercus alba* Core	Long-term mast and canopy diversity **Landscape role or indicative setting: Long-term mast and canopy diversity** **Check:** Slow establishment; well-drained position
Black oak *Quercus velutina* Conditional	Drier sandy/acidic upland option **Landscape role or indicative setting: Drier sandy/acidic upland option** **Check:** Verify local provenance
Black cherry *Prunus serotina* Core	Early cover; bird food and host tree **Landscape role or indicative setting: Early cover; bird food and host tree** **Check:** Avoid livestock grazing and sapling access
Gray birch *Betula populifolia* Core	Fast cover on poor dry ground **Landscape role or indicative setting: Fast cover on poor dry ground** **Check:** Short-lived, pioneer only
Quaking aspen *Populus tremuloides* Conditional	Fast native suckering cover **Landscape role or indicative setting: Fast native suckering cover** **Check:** May spread; use only with room
Red maple *Acer rubrum* Core	Transition canopy and autumn color **Landscape role or indicative setting: Transition canopy and autumn color** **Check:** Use moister pockets; not driest sand
Downy serviceberry *Amelanchier arborea* Core	Fruit for birds; edge transition **Landscape role or indicative setting: Fruit for birds; edge transition** **Check:** Protect from browsing

Wildlife shrubs & edge structure

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Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Sweetfern *Comptonia peregrina* Core	Dry acidic sand; nitrogen-fixing nurse shrub **Landscape role or indicative setting: Dry acidic sand; nitrogen-fixing nurse shrub** **Check:** Can spread by rhizomes

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Lowbush blueberry *Vaccinium angustifolium* Core	Acidic open edge; berries **Landscape role or indicative setting: Acidic open edge; berries** **Check:** Confirm low soil pH; slow establishment
Witch-hazel *Hamamelis virginiana* Conditional	Mesic woodland edge; late bloom **Landscape role or indicative setting: Mesic woodland edge; late bloom** **Check:** Avoid exposed droughtiest site
Gray dogwood *Cornus racemosa* Core	Thickets; nesting & bird fruit **Landscape role or indicative setting: Thickets; nesting & bird fruit** **Check:** Spreads; reserve adequate edge area
American hazelnut *Corylus americana* Conditional	Nut-bearing thicket and cover **Landscape role or indicative setting: Nut-bearing thicket and cover** **Check:** Requires space; check browsing
Mapleleaf viburnum *Viburnum acerifolium* Conditional	Emerging woodland understory **Landscape role or indicative setting: Emerging woodland understory** **Check:** Viburnum leaf beetle and browsing risk
Chokecherry *Prunus virginiana* Conditional	Wildlife edge; rapid cover **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wildlife edge; rapid cover** **Check:** Suckering; foliage problematic for livestock

Sunlit pollinator opening

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Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* Core	Dry upland matrix; persistent structure **Landscape role or indicative setting: Dry upland matrix; persistent structure** **Check:** Not suited to flooded soils
Poverty oatgrass *Danthonia spicata* Core	Thin, acidic or dry ground cover **Landscape role or indicative setting: Thin, acidic or dry ground cover** **Check:** Fine texture; gradual establishment
Wild bergamot *Monarda fistulosa* Core	Mid-summer native nectar **Landscape role or indicative setting: Mid-summer native nectar** **Check:** Can spread; monitor in small patches
Gray goldenrod *Solidago nemoralis* Core	Dry poor-soil autumn nectar **Landscape role or indicative setting: Dry poor-soil autumn nectar** **Check:** Use locally adapted material

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Early goldenrod *Solidago juncea* Conditional	Early summer-to-fall flower sequence **Landscape role or indicative setting: Early summer-to-fall flower sequence** **Check:** Watch height and competition
Smooth aster *Symphyotrichum laeve* Core	Late-season pollinator forage **Landscape role or indicative setting: Late-season pollinator forage** **Check:** Confirm taxon identity at supplier
Hairy beardtongue *Penstemon hirsutus* Conditional	Spring flowers on rocky dry ground **Landscape role or indicative setting: Spring flowers on rocky dry ground** **Check:** Plant in well-drained locations
Common evening-primrose *Oenothera biennis* Conditional	Short-lived pioneer flower **Landscape role or indicative setting: Short-lived pioneer flower** **Check:** Biennial, allow natural reseeding
Butterfly milkweed *Asclepias tuberosa* Conditional	Dry-site nectar/host plant **Landscape role or indicative setting: Dry-site nectar/host plant** **Check:** Toxic to grazing livestock; verify local status

Future woodland understory

These are conditional site-unit options, not an instruction to purchase or sow every species.

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Pennsylvania sedge *Carex pensylvanica* Core	Fine dry-shade ground layer **Landscape role or indicative setting: Fine dry-shade ground layer** **Check:** Install after partial canopy develops
Rosy sedge *Carex rosea* Conditional	Woodland groundcover diversification **Landscape role or indicative setting: Woodland groundcover diversification** **Check:** Verify ecological fit and ID
Wild geranium *Geranium maculatum* Conditional	Spring woodland flowering **Landscape role or indicative setting: Spring woodland flowering** **Check:** Requires adequate humus/moisture
Blue-stemmed goldenrod *Solidago caesia* Core	Shade-adapted late nectar **Landscape role or indicative setting: Shade-adapted late nectar** **Check:** Use protected part-shade edge
Blue wood aster *Symphyotrichum cordifolium* Core	Late woodland edge flowering **Landscape role or indicative setting: Late woodland edge flowering** **Check:** Self-seeds; manage if needed

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Christmas fern *Polystichum acrostichoides* Conditional	Evergreen woodland layer **Landscape role or indicative setting: Evergreen woodland layer** **Check:** Only documented nursery-propagated stock; protected New York lists this species as exploitably vulnerable under 6 NYCRR 193.3. Use documented, lawfully propagated stock; do not collect it from the wild for this project.

Floodplain canopy / river-edge trees

These are conditional site-unit options, not an instruction to purchase or sow every species.

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Silver maple *Acer saccharinum* Conditional; specialist review	Floodplain forest canopy **Landscape role or indicative setting: Floodplain forest canopy** **Check:** Avoid bank works pending permit review
Swamp white oak *Quercus bicolor* Conditional; specialist review	Seasonally wet terrace canopy **Landscape role or indicative setting: Seasonally wet terrace canopy** **Check:** Not for continuous deep inundation
Eastern cottonwood *Populus deltoides* Conditional; specialist review	Alluvial pioneer and habitat **Landscape role or indicative setting: Alluvial pioneer and habitat** **Check:** Very large; check local suitability
Black willow *Salix nigra* Conditional; specialist review	Wet river edge, quick cover **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wet river edge, quick cover** **Check:** Bank position and water levels critical
American sycamore *Platanus occidentalis* Conditional; specialist review	Moist terrace tree and structure **Landscape role or indicative setting: Moist terrace tree and structure** **Check:** Require adequate room; verify local stock

Floodplain / terrace shrubs

These are conditional site-unit options, not an instruction to purchase or sow every species.

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Red-osier dogwood *Cornus sericea* Conditional; specialist review	Wet edge cover, fruit **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wet edge cover, fruit** **Check:** Use where flooding moderate; browsed by deer
Black chokeberry *Aronia melanocarpa* Conditional; specialist review	Acidic moist higher terrace **Landscape role or indicative setting: Acidic moist higher terrace** **Check:** Not in active scouring channel

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis* Conditional; specialist review	Wet depression shrub, pollinators **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wet depression shrub, pollinators** **Check:** Needs persistent moisture, not dry terrace
Pussy willow *Salix discolor* Conditional; specialist review	Early-season pollen; wet shrub edge **Landscape role or indicative setting: Early-season pollen; wet shrub edge** **Check:** Shrub expansion, buy local stock
Nannyberry *Viburnum lentago* Conditional; specialist review	Moist elevated transition, bird fruit **Landscape role or indicative setting: Moist elevated transition, bird fruit** **Check:** Viburnum leaf beetle monitoring

Wet meadow / seasonal overflow

These are conditional site-unit options, not an instruction to purchase or sow every species.

Plant / selection status	How it may work and what to check
Spotted joe-pye weed *Eutrochium maculatum* Conditional; specialist review	Wet meadow late flowers **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wet meadow late flowers** **Check:** Tall; requires stable moist soil
Blue vervain *Verbena hastata* Conditional; specialist review	Moist sunny margins **Landscape role or indicative setting: Moist sunny margins** **Check:** Best outside active deep flooding
Fox sedge *Carex vulpinoidea* Conditional; specialist review	Seasonally saturated ground cover **Landscape role or indicative setting: Seasonally saturated ground cover** **Check:** Species ID and moisture regime check
Tussock sedge *Carex stricta* Conditional; specialist review	Wet meadow structure **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wet meadow structure** **Check:** Not for upland dry sand
Swamp milkweed *Asclepias incarnata* Conditional; specialist review	Wet sunny butterfly habitat **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wet sunny butterfly habitat** **Check:** Toxic if grazed; no animal access
Soft rush *Juncus effusus* Conditional; specialist review	Wet depression structural cover **Landscape role or indicative setting: Wet depression structural cover** **Check:** Avoid if surface dries for long periods
New england aster *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* Conditional; specialist review	Moist margin fall nectar **Landscape role or indicative setting: Moist margin fall nectar** **Check:** Tall; space for clumps

How to put the recommendations to work

01 Commission or obtain the needed maps and field assessments before committing installation funds.

02 Stage accessible upland plantings and nursery sourcing by site unit.

03 Review monitoring results yearly; adapt planting or maintenance based on survival and competition.

Important site and safety considerations

- Site analysis here is conceptual; it is not a wetlands determination, regulated-waterway permit or engineering plan.
- The illustrative $2,750 consulting fee is not an implementation, contractor, nursery, or permitting budget.

Plant sourcing and expectations

Ask growers for the exact scientific name (including any trade synonym), the plant or seed format, the propagation source and whether stock is suitable for the local climate. A nursery listing is a lead for shopping, not proof of current inventory, correct provenance, or guaranteed establishment.

Examples of places to inquire

New York State Saratoga Tree Nursery. Seasonal tree and shrub seedling sale; product availability and suitability must be confirmed.

Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District. Tree and shrub sale lead; request stock type and known origin.

For a restoration project, request origin information for tree and shrub stock, and keep planting-lot records for monitoring. Schedule any floodplain work only after local jurisdictional and professional review.

Sources consulted

The references below support the regional botanical, gardening, or regulatory decisions in this illustration. Published range, nursery listings and generalized soils information do not prove parcel-scale conditions, county indigeneity or seed-lot origin. Check dated rules and availability before making real purchases.

NYSDEC: Three Rivers WMA regional habitat context

NYSDEC: Saratoga nursery annual seedling program (2026)

NYSDEC: State Wildlife Action Plan - floodplain forests

NYSDEC: 2025-2027 Freshwater Wetlands Permits

NYSDEC: Protection of Waters Program

New York protected native plants - 6 NYCRR 193.3

NRCS: Riparian forest buffer / conservation practice 391

NYSDEC: Tree planting and deer protection

USGS (1986): Baldwinsville glacial-outwash aquifer

NYSDEC: Freshwater Wetland Jurisdictional Determination