

2017 PBC Minigrant Project Wood Duck Box Restoration on Lake Brandt

Submitted by Bruce Billings and Tripti Suwal, 2017 PBC Minigrant Awardees

If you've ever walked around the trails that border the Greensboro lakes, then you've probably seen some of the wood duck boxes that stand just off the shoreline. Many of these boxes were put up over 10 years ago and in that time the boxes have weathered significantly. The shoreline has also begun to encroach upon these boxes due to the buildup of sediment. With these expanding shorelines comes the growth of trees and shrubs and the potential for predators to invade wood duck boxes during the nesting season.



Two members of the PBC, Bruce Billings and Tripti Suwal, took notice of these boxes and decided that some of them needed to be replaced or repaired. They applied for one of the PBC mini-grants in an effort to restore a few of the wood duck boxes on Lake Brandt and were granted \$250.



With the funds they were able to purchase a kit of 6 white cedar wood duck boxes for \$220. White cedar naturally resists weather and insect damage, making it an ideal lumber to use for the project. Bruce was able to assemble these boxes with help from Mark Burns, a friend of the PBC who builds birdhouses as a hobby.

Once the houses were built, Bruce and Tripti contacted Greensboro Parks and Recreation to see what the next steps should be. With the help of

Michael Romano and Neil Thompson, they decided to take down some of the damaged wood duck boxes and reuse the posts for the new boxes. This task proved much harder to accomplish than anticipated. The old posts were firmly stuck in the mud of Lake Brandt and too close to the encroaching shore to ensure a safe distance between the new boxes and any low hanging branches.

Neil and Michael suggested that the Parks and Recreation Department purchase new poles, under the condition that predator guards also be used. Bruce and Tripti were able to use the remaining money from the grant to assemble 6 predator guards.

Once all the materials were gathered, Neil and Bruce assembled each pole and installed all 6 boxes in the western part of Lake Brandt. In fact if you travel north from Greensboro on Highway 220 you may be able to see the wood duck boxes that were installed. There are 3 just west of the bridge and 3 east of the bridge.



Note from the PBC Minigrant Committee: Thanks to Bruce and Tripti for a job well done!

Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2018 PBC Minigrant Program coming in September.

