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# Forest Restoration Project in the Gordon Natural Area

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**FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE GORDON NATURAL AREA**

(Funded by: Tree Vitalize Program-Department of Conservation & Natural Resources—Chester County Conservation District and the USDA Forest Service)

The stated purpose of the Robert B. Gordon Natural Area for Environmental Studies (GNA) ([www.gordonarea.org](http://www.gordonarea.org)) is for education, research and protection of biodiversity. The public education role can be better filled by using this area to explain to interested publics, politicians and the media the role of forest restoration on ecosystems and ecosystem services that are provided at little or no cost to the public. The outcome will be that more focused efforts are directed toward forest restoration in Chester County. The undeveloped protected lands will be managed in a way to assure good land health. In jeopardy on the GNA are the 506 plant species, 52 birds (three area sensitive-wood thrush, oven bird, scarlet tanager) and 11 reptiles and amphibians (one in decline-four toed salamander) and 14 Orders and 55 species of stream-based macro-invertebrates that call this area home. Bryophytes and wood decay fungi are being cataloged in 2008/9. Without any restoration, it is projected that 75 years from now (once all the large native trees are gone) the area will be made up of maybe 20 plant species. Fifteen to 17 will be non-native plants! The primary tree species will be two not fed on by deer-American beech and white ash and two non-natives: tree-of-heaven

species	number
Black cherry	7
Black gum	3
dogwood	7
hackberry	2
Loblolly pine	10
Maple	1
Red maple	13
Red oak	9
redbud	4

Southern red oak	3
Sugar maple	4
Swamp white oak	5
sweetgum	6
sycamore	1
Tulip poplar	10
White ash	3
White oak	14
Total	102

It is projected that by 2040 that our climate will mimic that of eastern North Carolina. With that in mind we have included loblolly pines and southern red oak in our species mix. Each year the diameter and heights of the trees will be measured.