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Tour examines wilderness restoration

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By MARK MARONEY (mmaroney@sungazette.com) , Williamsport Sun-Gazette

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MONTGOMERY - At first glance, the marsh repository for golfers' balls at the 16th hole at White Deer Golf Course, resembles an overgrown, unkept area where weeds have taken over and ground-keepers gave up.

Upon closer inspection it's actually a man-made area with a beauty and purpose all its own.

"They're corridors of experiences," said Alice Trowbridge of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, of what are called buffer zones and floodplain restoration areas, two of which were highlighted Friday as part of the Lycoming County Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Advisory Committee fall tour.

Situated deep in the boundaries of the public golf course near Route 15 lies the Black Hole Creek Floodplain Restoration Project, a wetlands that soaks up runoff water that otherwise would rush into the main stem of the creek and another tributary and lead to pollution of the river from nitrogen and other nutrients, a result of nature, including goose dung.

Getting nutrients out of the smaller waterways becomes important because they dump into the river, which flows south and eventually empties into the Chesapeake Bay, a body of water that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has long sought to clean up by having communities reduce their nutrient content and sediment flows.

The Black Hole project has become an economic driver for the course Pro Shop, said Megan Lehman, environmental planner for the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Community Development.

While Lehman half-joked about the golfers' swings coming up short or going awry, she and Andrew Korzon, a landscape designer with

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