

FINAL REPORT

First Order Stream Restoration at Jackson Reading Park, Prichard, AL

EasyGrants ID: 27571

NFWF/Legacy Grant Project ID: 2011-0059-002

Completed, Continuing, and Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, December 7, 2011 – We received a letter of permission from Willie and Marjorie Jackson to conduct restoration activities on their property on the southern side of the Reading Park Creek.
- Thursday, January 25, 2012 – Joyce Nicholas informed Christian Miller that the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District would be unable to provide engineering or construction management services to this project. Jessica Roberts' relocation to Piscataway, NJ stimulated discussions over potential SWCD involvement, but currently no time or resources was available.
- Wednesday, February 1, 2012 – Given Corp recommendations to wait through winter months to undertake any excavation activities, and having not yet received a permit to do so, MBNEP contracted Eric Steele of A & S, Inc. to remove the nearly monophyletic stand of invasive privet from the south side of the creek and just east of the Park on the north side. He used a Kubota compact track loader with a mulch head attachment to clear an area 30-foot deep along a linear distance of 250-feet from Newton Street to the eastern most margin of the project area. This treatment method was sufficient to eliminate this dense stand of privet, leaving a blanket of mulch to buffer the erosive effects of hard rain. Follow up spot treatments of glyphosate with a backpack sprayer will be necessary and scheduled.
- Friday, March 2, 2012 – With all supplemental permitting material submitted, restoration of the Reading Park creek was authorized under Nationwide Permit 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities – by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), Mobile District, Inland Branch-South Team, Regulatory Division. Rudolph Villarreal indicated that with activity commenced on the project prior to March 18, 2012, the permit will expire on March 18, 2013.
- Tuesday, March 6, 2012 – Christian Miller and Tom Herder met with City of Prichard Parks Superintendent Grenetta Ward and Councilwoman Ossia Edwards, and Mobile Master Gardeners Judy Stout and Marie Dyson to discuss incorporating the stream restoration strategy with upland landscaping plans. Application of glyphosate herbicide the cleared south side of the creek was unnecessary, as re-sprouting of invasive privet had not yet commenced.
- Thursday, March 8, 2012 – Project oversight personnel, including project manager Tom Herder, Non-point Source Pollution Specialist Christian Miller, project engineer Jessica Roberts, landscape architect Charlene LeBleu, and extension specialist Dr. Eve Brantley participated in a conference call to discuss project strategy. Ms. Roberts expressed commitment to completing a construction-ready engineering plan and providing construction oversight. With excavation as yet uninitiated, the team made the decision to postpone construction activities until late fall, 2012, to ensure the best conditions for planted riparian vegetation. This strategy would require a six-month extension to complete the project. Christian Miller volunteered to undertake application for an extension.
- A no-cost, one year extension was requested and granted March 15, 2012.

- Tuesday, May 22 - As part of routine control of invasive plants, Tom Herder and Christian Miller applied glyphosate (3% active) to the cleared South side of the project area. Predominant species, including privet and popcorn trees, were adequately controlled upon inspection at three weeks post-treatment.
- Monday, June 18th - Project oversight personnel, including project manager Tom Herder, Non-point Source Pollution Specialist Christian Miller, project engineer Jessica Roberts participated in a conference call to discuss the construction plan and timeline. Jess indicated that the final design plan would be complete by July 9th, and the group decided to schedule a webex/conference call once the plan was in place to discuss logistics and set a timeline for the in-stream construction.
- Tuesday, July 31st - Project oversight personnel, including project manager Tom Herder, Non-point Source Pollution Specialist Christian Miller, project engineer Jessica Roberts, landscape architect Charlene LeBleu, extension specialist Dr. Eve Brantley, and City of Prichard Parks Superintendent Greneta Ward participated in a conference call to discuss project strategy. Jessica Roberts updated the team on the final design for the stream bank restoration, including likely timelines for completing construction. The project team determined that the week of October 29th would be the best time to begin stream bank work with anticipated completion of all stream bank work by Friday, November 2nd. The final design calls for the excavation of floodplain benches, lowering the floodplain where possible, adding in-stream structures to maintain stream bank integrity, habitat, and grade control, and introduce meander where possible.
- Friday, September 7th – Project engineer Jessica Roberts provided the team a list of supplies to acquire in advance of commencement of stream bank construction. Tom Herder coordinated with City of Prichard Department of Public Works on logistical support and staging supplies.
- Monday September 10th - As part of routine control of invasive plants, Tom Herder and Christian Miller applied glyphosate (3% active) to the cleared South side of the project area. Predominant species, including privet and popcorn trees, were adequately controlled upon inspection at three weeks post-treatment.
- Friday, October 12th – City of Prichard Councilwoman Ossia Edwards completed a work order for a water meter and plumbing to be installed at Reading Park to allow volunteers to water vegetation planted at the restoration project site.
- Saturday, October 27th – Mobile Baykeeper will coordinate a Community Clean-up at the Reading Park stream restoration site with support from the Mobile Bay NEP and the City of Prichard. The clean-up will focus on removing trash and debris from the stream bank and channel itself in advance of beginning stream bank construction the following week.
- Monday, October 29th – Stream bank construction on the Reading Park stream restoration will commence. Stream banks will be graded, flood plain will be established, in-channel features will be placed, and temporary erosion control BMPs will be installed.
- Streambank grading and reconstruction began on Monday, October 29th and was finished on Thursday, November 1st. The City of Prichard provided a work crew, heavy equipment, and rip rap needed to complete this portion of the project. In addition to the work on the channel and streambank, invasive species were removed from adjacent riparian zones and erosion control was placed. Technical assistance was provided by Dr. Eve Brantley and Jess Roberts with Dept. of Soils & Agronomy at Auburn University. The City of Prichard provided a crew and water truck to irrigate the project site as needed.

- On Saturday, March 2nd, 2013, thirty volunteers, under guidance of Dr, Charlene LeBleu (Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Auburn U.) installed approximately 3,000 native plants on the project site.
- Friday, April 26th, 2013, Ten volunteers, under the direction of Christian Miller, planted 500 native aquatic plants along the streambank of the project site.
- An article on the restoration project titled, “Willie Jackson’s Legacy: A Restored Urban Stream in Prichard”, appeared in the Spring 2013 edition of the Alabama Current Connections magazine, a biannual newsletter of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, Coastal Section and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.
http://www.mobilebaynep.com/images/uploads/library/AL-CC-V7-Issue_1_Spring-2013_FINAL.pdf
- Monday, May 6, 2013 – Native plants installed in the riparian zone of Jackson-Reading Park were identified and marked so that the City of Prichard’s mowing crews would avoid those areas. Spot treatment of privet and other invasive species with glyphosate (3% active) was conducted in riparian areas adjacent to the project site.
- Development of educational signage is currently underway. Signs will describe the watershed, local flora and fauna, the project scope, and acknowledge project partners. Signage should be completed and installed by the end of 2013. Once installation is completed, a final community clean-up and dedication ceremony will be planned.
- An abstract "**Jackson-Reading Park Stream Bank Restoration**" was accepted for an oral presentation at the 2013 Alabama Water Resources Conference, Sept. 5-6, Orange Beach, Alabama. The presentation will highlight the project, partners, and acknowledge the funding organizations.
- September 24th, 2013 - Riparian areas in the restored segment were spot treated with glyphosate to control invasive plants (privet, Chinese tallow, taro, etc).
- October 28th, 2013 - Educational signage was completed for the Park. The signs give background about the restoration project, give an overview of the location within the Eight Mile Creek and greater Mobile Bay Watersheds, and detail the ecology (including species of flora and fauna) that can be found in the park and restored stream and riparian areas. Signs recognize NFWF and Southern Co as well as all other project partners.
- Alabama Water Watch training has been scheduled for January 17th -18th, 2014, which will train volunteer water monitors from Mobile and Baldwin Counties (including residents in Prichard who have been actively participating in this restoration project). This training will certify citizen volunteer water monitors to test and report water chemistry and pathogen results in coastal waterways. After completing this training Prichard residents will monitor water quality at the restored stream site.