



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

UT to Barnes Creek Restoration

A stream and wetland restoration project was recently constructed on an Unnamed Tributary to Barnes Creek (UT to Barnes Creek) in rural Montgomery County, North Carolina. The stream and surrounding wetlands formerly served as a pasture, and had experienced degradation due to cows being allowed to roam freely. Stream banks were eroded and wetlands were heavily trampled, in addition to rampant invasive vegetation. North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program funded a restoration project which restored dimension, pattern and profile to 3,916 linear feet of stream and enhanced, restored or created 4.95 acres of wetlands within a conservation easement. The new, elevated stream bed will raise the water table and improve floodplain functionality; providing wetland hydrology to soils with hydric tendencies. Invasive vegetation was removed and native stream bank and floodplain vegetation was planted. Through coordination with the property owner, the easement area was fenced and the cattle and feeding barn were relocated, which will allow the stream bank and wetland vegetation to stabilize and thrive. Reduced stream bank erosion and functioning wetlands will improve the water quality on the site by reducing the amounts of total suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorous.

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