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Community Involvement and Education - Town Creek Park Stream Restoration

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Abstract:

Several groups worked together to implement a stream restoration demonstration project in Town Creek Park, Auburn, Alabama. Approximately 1,000 linear feet of stream and 2 acres of floodplain in Town Creek Park, Auburn, Alabama was restored in January 2008. The restored stream and floodplain system was used as the focal point for a series of professional trainings and community tours that followed the project through morphological assessment, restoration design, construction, and vegetation installation. Future trainings are planned to evaluate stream stability, assess recruitment of macroinvertebrates, and evaluate floodplain vegetation survival. The myriad of partners supporting the Town Creek Project were critical in its being approved and “owned” by the local municipality and watershed groups. The City of Auburn Water Resource Management Department and Parks and Recreation Department provided an ideal location for the project, integration with City initiatives such as the Green Space Advisory Committee, in-kind services, and guidance on permitting. Landscape architecture students from Auburn University provided suggestions for native planting palettes. Student volunteers from Auburn University, watershed groups, private industry representatives, and local service organizations assisted with invasive species management, native vegetation plantings, and litter removal. The success of the Town Creek Park stream restoration project has led to additional projects implemented in partnership with local developers, Auburn University, and private industry representatives. Funding for the project was provided by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, US EPA Region 4, and Rotary International. Project partners include City of Auburn, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, North Carolina State University, Auburn University, Stantec, Inc., North State Environmental, and USDA Southern Regional Water Program.

Impact Statement:

Outputs - 5 workshops, 3 tours on stream and floodplain restoration

Outcome - 1,000 linear feet of restored stream, 2 acres of floodplain restored

Partnerships - Alabama Department of Environmental Management, US EPA Region 4, Rotary International, City of Auburn, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, North Carolina State University, Auburn University, Stantec, Inc., North State Environmental, and USDA Southern Regional Water Program.

Leveraged resources - Approximately \$300,000 from EPA, AL Department of Environmental Management, Rotary International, and City of Auburn.

Lessons learned - local partners and landowners are critical to a restoration project's long term success. Open communication and clear project needs should be a priority among all project partners.

Category: Human Dimensions

Type of Presentation: Oral Presentation