

Strawberry Creek Ecological Stabilization Project, Phase II

Project Leads: Aysha Massell, Junice Uy

Sponsor: Environment, Health and Safety

TGIF Grant: \$25,600

Project Theme: Habitat Restoration

Project Location

2014 Application Submission

Status: In Progress

Project Description: The Strawberry Creek Ecological Stabilization Project is a student-initiated project to design and install ecologically-functional grade control structures for a degraded section of Strawberry Creek. In addition to increasing channel stability, this project is an ecological restoration effort to support local fish and riparian species by improving habitat conditions and planting native riparian vegetation.

Goals

1. Stabilize the Degraded Section of Strawberry Creek
 1. Remove the remnants of two failing check dams near the confluence of the North and South Forks (in the Grinnell Natural Area).
 2. Install two rock step-pool structures and one log drop structure in order to develop stable bed slope conditions.
 3. Lay back and plant bank slopes with native vegetation to improve stability and provide habitat.
 4. Design and install signage.
2. Create an outdoor classroom for hands-on learning for university students.
 1. Project staff will partner with university faculty to develop pre- and post-project monitoring protocols for use in classroom curricula and student-initiated research projects.
 2. The restored project site will serve as a publicly-accessible, on-campus example of urban creek restoration that will be visited by thousands of people annually.

Accomplishments:

- Obtained approved permits from the requisite regulatory authorities.
- Selected Bioengineering Associates, a contractor, for the project.
- Construction completed in early November, resulting in a total of three pools, and graded banks. The work included streambed stabilization, planting, and irrigation.
- Hosted opening ceremony on April 8, 2015 with over 75 people in attendance.
- EH&S submitted their As-Built Report to the regional Water Quality Control Board on February 6, 2015.
- As of October 1st, 2015, no new updates since June.

Challenges:

- Interpretive signage design and installation (the last phase of the grant) is at a halt right now. The reason is that EH&S is considering an overall design approach to install multiple signs in the future. This is also

dependent on a grant we submitted to a state agency for a restoration project just upstream of the project site. We are at a “wait and see” stage to see if deeper design development may be warranted first before these signs are designed and installed.

Education and Outreach:

- EH&S staff are working with a few ESPM students on environmental assessments of the project area. These projects are based on student thesis projects. EH&S is currently developing a new creeks website that will hopefully provide more information and venues for students to get involved in creek restoration work, including the SCESP project.

Photos:

