

Elements of an EEP Restoration Project

Wetland and stream restoration is a multi-stage process that includes planning, implementation, monitoring, and management.

Planning

Local Watershed Planning

EEP examines the local watershed and recommends, with local input, a comprehensive strategy for improving water quality, wildlife habitat and related conditions. The goal is to identify and implement mitigation projects that will provide the greatest long-term benefit to water quality and the environment. (A mitigation project diminishes or lessens harmful effects caused by other activities.)

Property Acquisition

Site Identification

EEP personnel and private consultants conduct an on-the-ground assessment of potential project sites identified by private landowners and other governmental agencies, as well as the EEP Local Watershed Planning process – a collaboration of local governments, environmental-resource professionals, and local residents.

Site Acquisition

Landowners who volunteer to participate in the process have a variety of options to retain ownership of the property, if desired. EEP and landowners work together to find the best options for landowners.

Design

Site Assessment

Detailed measuring and documenting of existing conditions of a potential project site and the surrounding watershed, establishing project goals, targeted improvements, and a conceptual design.

Project Design

Specifications of biological and construction engineering that will be performed on the site, similar to architectural drawings and specifications for a house.

Construction

Building the project design to improve the hydrological (water quality), geomorphological (physical structure), and biological (plant and animal) components of the site. Construction may include heavy earth-moving equipment if the channel is being redesigned. When construction is complete, the project is planted with native vegetation that will help maintain the banks of the restored stream.

Monitoring

Annual collection and evaluation of data to determine if the restored site is meeting success criteria for the project. Additional work may be needed on a site based on the monitoring results. EEP monitors a site for a minimum of five years.

Maintenance & Management

Periodic inspection after the post-monitoring phase to ensure success and protect against unauthorized activities.

For more information on the N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program, visit our Web site at www.nceep.net or call (919) 715-0476.

