

**FINAL
ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
TERRIBLE CREEK**

**BUFFER RESTORATION
WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
(EEP Project Number 134, Contract Number 004458)
NEUSE RIVER BASIN
CATALOGING UNIT 03020201
Monitoring Year 5 of 5 (2012)**



Prepared for:



**North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Ecosystem Enhancement Program
1652 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1652
EEP Project Manager: Jessica Kemp**

September 2012

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Prepared by:



**Axiom Environmental, Inc.
218 Snow Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
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September 2012

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/PROJECT ABSTRACT

This report describes annual monitoring at the **Terrible Creek Buffer Restoration Site** (Site), which was designed specifically to assist in fulfilling North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) restoration goals. This report (compiled based on EEP's *Procedural Guidance and Content Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports* Version 1.4 dated 11/7/11) summarizes data for year 5 (2012) monitoring.

The primary goals of this buffer restoration project focused on reforestation of the floodplain with native species to

- 1) improve water quality;
- 2) enhance flood attenuation;
- 3) reduce sedimentation/siltation;
- 4) increase channel bank stability;
- 5) filter and reduce pollutants prior to entering Terrible Creek;
- 6) serve as a wildlife corridor by providing connectivity to forested areas adjacent to the Site;
- 7) provide increased habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife;
- 8) increase organic matter, carbon export, and woody debris in the stream corridor;
- 9) restore shade to Site open waters; and
- 10) enhance characteristic macroinvertebrate species populations in the channel.

The Site is located approximately 1 mile northeast of Willow Spring and 4 miles northeast of Fuquay-Varina, in Wake County. This portion of Wake County is located within Neuse River Basin Cataloging Unit 03020201120010 (Figure 1, Appendix A). This document details annual monitoring results for riparian buffer restoration on the 47.84-acre Site, which resulted in a total of 45.6 acres of riparian buffer restoration. The Site is protected by a permanent conservation easement held by the State of North Carolina. This project was instituted prior to October 11, 2007 and therefore is eligible for riparian buffer restoration credit up to 200 feet from the top of bank of all perennial and intermittent waterways within the Site.

Sixteen vegetation plots (10 meters by 10 meters) were installed within the Site after planting was completed. An average density of 320 stems per acre of Character Tree Species must be surviving after five monitoring years in accordance with North Carolina Division of Water Quality Administrative Code 15A NCAC 02B.0242 (*Neuse River Basin, Mitigation Program for Protection and Maintenance of Existing Riparian Buffers*) (NCDWQ 2007). Based on the number of stems counted, average densities were measured at 496 planted stems per acre surviving in year 5 (2012). When considering hardwood tree species only and no shrub species average densities were measured at 455 planted tree stems per acre surviving in year 5 (2012). The dominant species identified at the Site were planted stems of cherrybark oak (*Quercus pagoda*), swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). In summary, the Site achieved success criteria for vegetation in the Fifth Monitoring Year (2012).

Woody vegetation immediately adjacent to Terrible Creek and planted willow livestakes declined drastically throughout the monitoring years; therefore, EEP replanted portions of the easement on February 9, 2012 and April 29, 2012. Areas planted on February 9, 2012 included Zone 1 adjacent to Terrible Creek (top of bank to 30 feet, shown in dark pink and yellow on Figure 3, Appendix A), which was planted with approximately 1596 containerized tree stems and 350 livestakes. Additionally, areas between vegetation plots 2-3 and vegetation

plots 9-10 were planted with approximately 654 tree stems (shown in lime green on Figure 3, Appendix A). Newly planted containerized trees appear to be thriving. Livestakes have sprouted on four outerbends (depicted in yellow on Figure 3, Appendix A); the remainder of livestockes have not yet sprouted. All replanted trees and livestockes will be reevaluated after completion of the 2012 growing season. Planted species and quantities of each are as follows.

Livestakes (planted on February 9, 2012)

175 black willow, *Salix nigra*
175 silky dogwood, *Cornus amomum*
TOTAL 350 Livestakes

Containerized Trees (planted on February 9, 2012)

361 green ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
235 overcup oak, *Quercus lyrata*
623 river birch, *Betula nigra*
100 shumard oak, *Quercus shumardii*
820 willow oak, *Quercus phellos*
111 yellow poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*
TOTAL 2250 Containerized Trees

On April 29, 2012 Bruton Natural Services performed an additional replant on the far eastern braid of Terrible Creek that flows north. Areas were planted with 150 five-gallon containerized trees (4-6 feet in height) in Zone 1 adjacent to Terrible Creek (top of bank to 30 feet, shown in orange on Figure 3, Appendix A) and 250 lives stakes on both banks of Terrible Creek. Planted species and quantities of each are as follows.

Livestakes (planted on April 29, 2012)

250 black willow, *Salix nigra*
TOTAL 250 Livestakes

Containerized Trees (planted on April 29, 2012)

30 green ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
30 river birch, *Betula nigra*
30 swamp chestnut oak, *Quercus michauxii*
30 willow oak, *Quercus phellos*
30 sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*
TOTAL 150 Containerized Trees

Approximately 430 linear feet of outerbend within the Site shows some sign of bank sloughing/erosion or reduced integrity. However, when compared to preconstruction conditions the issue areas have not worsened and in general, the stream channel as a whole is trending toward more stable conditions. Cut banks tend to be relatively low (3-4 feet in height) and are associated with point/side bars that suggest the cross-sectional area is not increasing. Bank pins were installed on two outerbends ([outerbend 13 and outerbend 24] depicted as green stars on Figure 3, Appendix A) in January 2011 and were subsequently monitored in February 2012 and August 2012. Measurements indicated approximately 12 inches of sloughing from January 2011 to February 2012. Only one bank pin was found in August 2012 due to heavy herbaceous vegetation; this pin indicated minimal changes going from 4 inches of exposure in February 2012 to approximately 5 inches of exposure in August 2012. Bank pins will need to be reevaluated during the winter when herbaceous vegetation has died back and pins are easier to identify.

Visual observation of the entire reach of Terrible Creek reveals very good in-stream habitat diversity including the following.

1. Large woody debris
2. Log sills
3. Undercut banks with root masses
4. Fine organic material (leaf packs and sticks)
5. Deep pools in bends
6. Coarse gravel (often associated with large wood or old dams)
7. Cobble inputs from channel bounded by a steep valley wall

Several small beaver dams located in the northern portion of the Site were removed in August 2009 (Appendix D); the larger dam located just off-site was not removed because it is not located on the State's easement and remains in place to date. Beaver dams located within the Site were mapped on January 28, 2011 and subsequently removed (Appendix D).

Summary information and data related to the occurrence of items such as beaver or encroachment and statistics related to performance of various project and monitoring elements can be found in table and figures within this report's appendices. Narrative background and supporting information formerly found in these reports can be found in the mitigation and restoration plan documents available on EEP's website. All raw data supporting the tables and figures in the appendices is available from EEP upon request.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Sixteen vegetation plots (10 meters by 10 meters) were installed within the Site after planting was completed as depicted on Figure 2 (Current Conditions Plan View) in Appendix A. These plots were surveyed in August 2012 for the 2012 (year 5) monitoring season using the *CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation, Version 4.2 CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation, Version 4.0, Levels 1 and 2 Plot Sampling Only* (Lee et al. 2008) (<http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/methods.htm>); results are included in Appendix C. The taxonomic standard for vegetation used for this document was *Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Surrounding Areas* (Weakley 2007).

3.0 REFERENCES

Lee, M.T., R.K. Peet, S.D. Roberts, and T.R. Wentworth. 2008. *CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation, Version 4.2*. North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Raleigh, North Carolina.

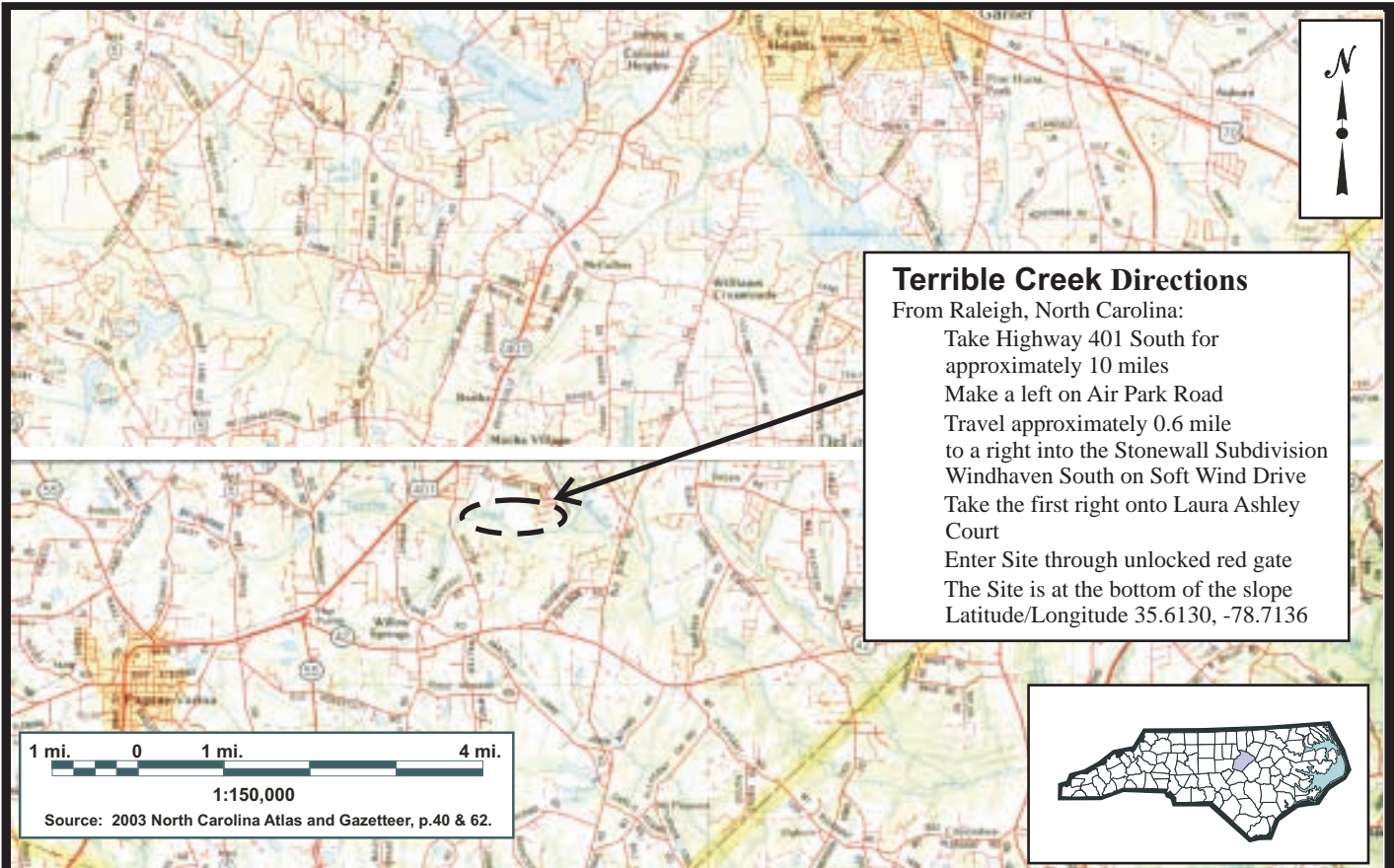
North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ). 2007. *Redbook, Surface Waters and Wetlands Standards*. North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality. Raleigh, North Carolina.

United States Geological Survey (USGS). 1974. *Hydrologic Unit Map - 1974*. State of North Carolina.

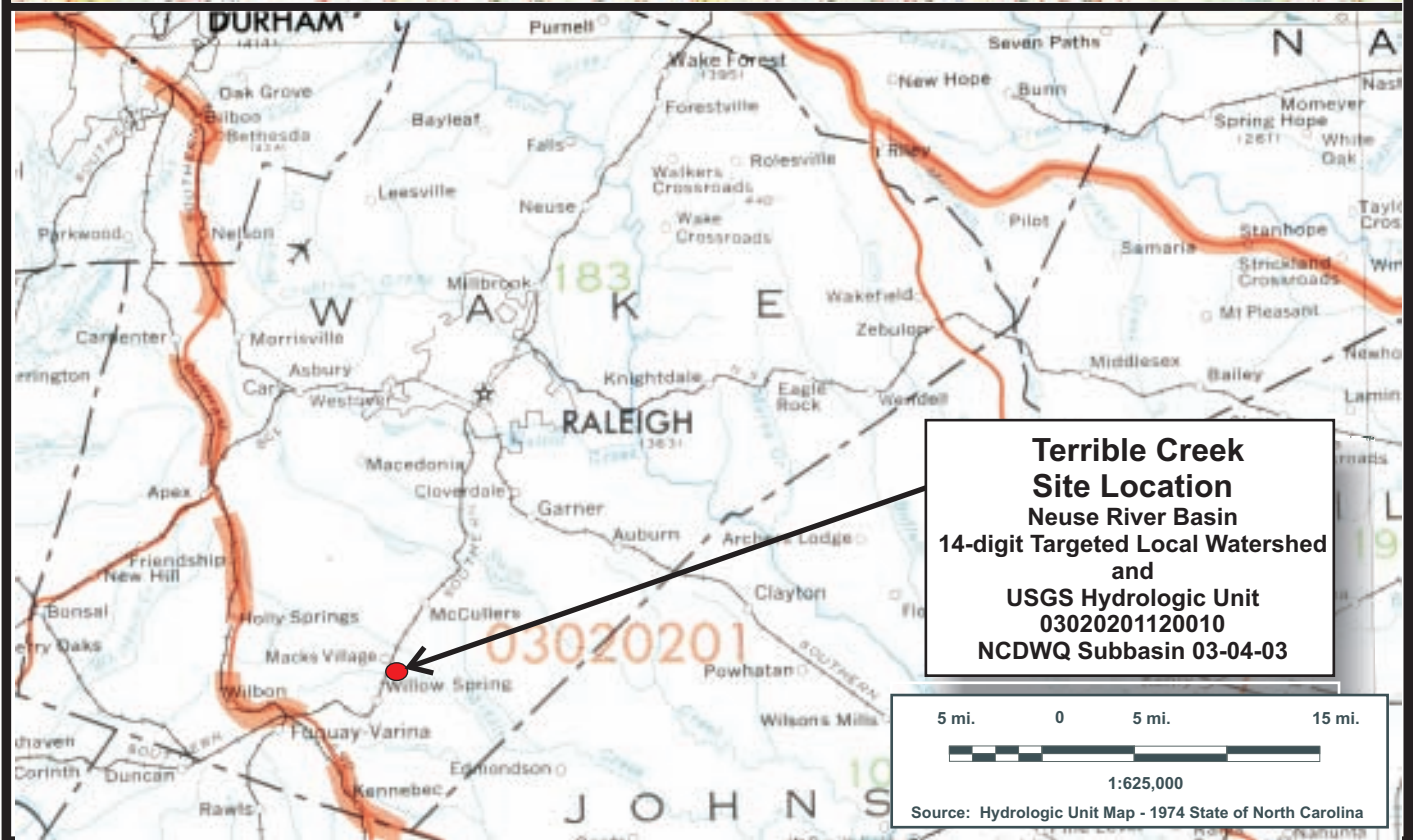
Weakley, Alan S. 2007. *Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Surrounding Areas* (online). Available: <http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/WeakleysFlora.pdf> [February 1, 2008]. University of North Carolina Herbarium, North Carolina Botanical Garden, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

APPENDIX A
FIGURES AND PLAN VIEWS

- Figure 1. Site Location
- Figure 2. Monitoring Plan View
- Figure 3. Current Conditions Plan View



Terrible Creek Directions
 From Raleigh, North Carolina:
 Take Highway 401 South for approximately 10 miles
 Make a left on Air Park Road
 Travel approximately 0.6 mile to a right into the Stonewall Subdivision
 Windhaven South on Soft Wind Drive
 Take the first right onto Laura Ashley Court
 Enter Site through unlocked red gate
 The Site is at the bottom of the slope
 Latitude/Longitude 35.6130, -78.7136



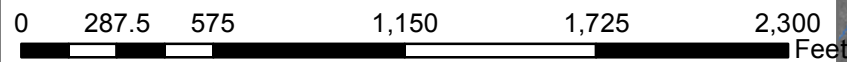
Terrible Creek Site Location
 Neuse River Basin
 14-digit Targeted Local Watershed and
 USGS Hydrologic Unit
 03020201120010
 NCDWQ Subbasin 03-04-03



SITE LOCATION
TERRIBLE CREEK
ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
Wake County, North Carolina

Dwn. by: CLF
 Date: Aug 2010
 Project: 09-010

FIGURE
1



Rain Gauge and Vegetation Plot Coordinates

Comment	Latitude	Longitude	Comment	Latitude	Longitude
rain gauge	35.611835343	-78.706499824	vp9	35.614901110	-78.714801211
vp1	35.611037309	-78.706982091	vp9	35.614987494	-78.714854742
vp1	35.611118134	-78.706931677	vp9	35.614946225	-78.714941960
vp1	35.611078305	-78.706833948	vp9	35.614873253	-78.714901191
vp1	35.610999208	-78.706869700	vp10	35.614706693	-78.715584339
vp2	35.611425956	-78.707771832	vp10	35.614620412	-78.715618025
vp2	35.611351415	-78.707837752	vp10	35.614646705	-78.715270656
vp2	35.611297548	-78.707746351	vp10	35.614731680	-78.715693666
vp2	35.611368816	-78.707682472	vp11	35.615439235	-78.716661853
vp3	35.611205419	-78.709023175	vp11	35.615527292	-78.716627826
vp3	35.611129807	-78.709087216	vp11	35.615556563	-78.716731218
vp3	35.611181071	-78.709174541	vp11	35.615473117	-78.716770446
vp3	35.611254084	-78.709107985	vp12	35.615035715	-78.717156397
vp4	35.611909636	-78.709204274	vp12	35.614944737	-78.717166051
vp4	35.611995969	-78.709175603	vp12	35.614955334	-78.717275567
vp4	35.611972411	-78.709069960	vp12	35.615041668	-78.717263577
vp4	35.611887369	-78.709094240	vp13	35.615644467	-78.718573578
vp5	35.612480808	-78.709991587	vp13	35.615734787	-78.718589658
vp5	35.612488126	-78.710101254	vp13	35.615729745	-78.718693592
vp5	35.612575084	-78.710089836	vp13	35.615628910	-78.718682623
vp5	35.612563248	-78.709984286	vp14	35.615136291	-78.719296328
vp6	35.613289903	-78.712335094	vp14	35.615050701	-78.719316392
vp6	35.613256259	-78.712440305	vp14	35.615061747	-78.719419028
vp6	35.613343010	-78.712480328	vp14	35.615150369	-78.719404581
vp6	35.613368378	-78.712376477	vp15	35.615691214	-78.720690742
vp7	35.614362527	-78.712538964	vp15	35.615780131	-78.720681655
vp7	35.614450236	-78.712504826	vp15	35.615771486	-78.720574415
vp7	35.614419164	-78.712407242	vp15	35.615685995	-78.720589494
vp7	35.614327650	-78.712447669	vp16	35.615038432	-78.721250561
vp8	35.614115994	-78.713681913	vp16	35.615026888	-78.721357582
vp8	35.614056838	-78.713763561	vp16	35.615121629	-78.721366407
vp8	35.614119580	-78.713836472	vp16	35.615126063	-78.721257544
vp8	35.614182408	-78.713747253			

Legend

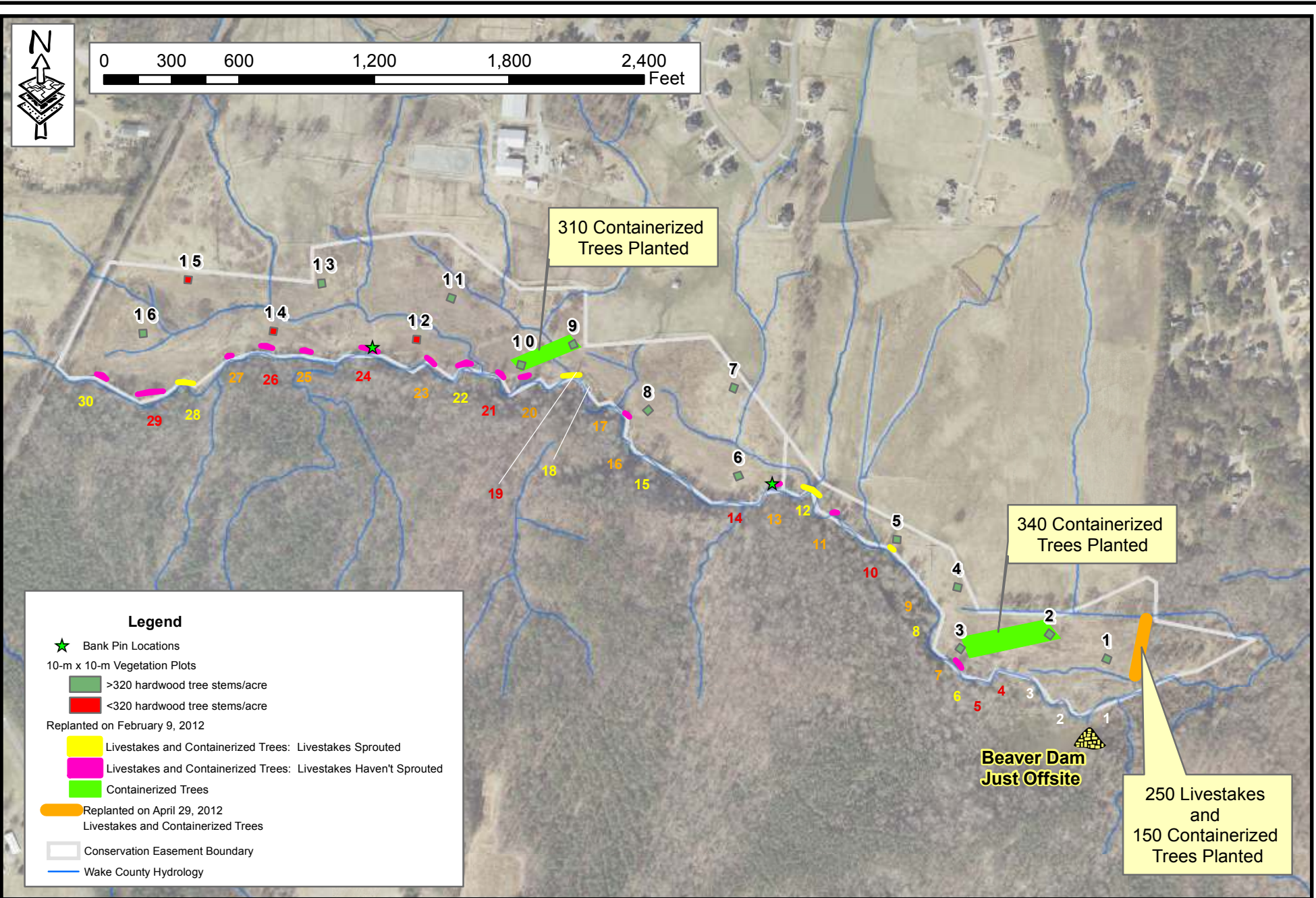
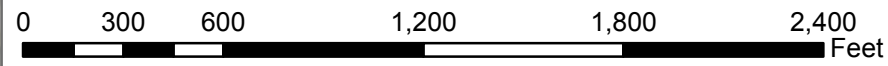
- 10-m x 10-m Vegetation Plots
- Outer Bend Treatment**
 - Live stake with erosion control matting
 - Brush matress
 - Leave as is
 - Outside of Site, No Treatment
- Planting Zones**
 - Bottomland Forest = ~ 35.5 acres
 - Levee Forest = ~ 8.1 acres
 - Stream-side Assemblage = ~ 2.0 acres
- Conservation Easement Boundary
- Wake County Hydrology
- Easements**
 - 30-foot permanent access
 - === 30-foot temporary utility and access
 - 20-foot temporary utility

Outer Bend	Extent of Erosion Preconstruction	Treatment to be Installed
1	Low	Outside of easement, no treatment recommended
2	Low	Outside of easement, no treatment recommended
3	Low	Outside of easement, no treatment recommended
4	Moderate	Leave as is
5	Low	Leave as is
6	Moderate	Live stake with erosion control matting
7	Moderate	Brush matress
8	Severe	Live stake with erosion control matting
9	Moderate	Brush matress
10	Moderate	Leave as is
11	Severe	Brush matress
12	Severe	Live stake with erosion control matting
13	Severe	Brush matress
14	Severe	Leave as is
15	Moderate	Live stake with erosion control matting
16	Moderate	Brush matress
17	Severe	Brush matress
18	Extreme	Live stake with erosion control matting
19	Severe	Leave as is
20	Extreme	Brush matress
21	Extreme	Leave as is
22	Severe	Live stake with erosion control matting
23	Severe	Brush matress
24	Severe	Leave as is
25	Extreme	Brush matress
26	Extreme	Leave as is
27	Severe	Brush matress
28	Severe	Live stake with erosion control matting
29	Severe	Leave as is
30	Extreme	Live stake with erosion control matting

MONITORING PLAN VIEW TERRIBLE CREEK BUFFER RESTORATION SITE Wake County, North Carolina



Dwn. by:	CLF	FIGURE 2
Date:	Aug 2012	
Project:	12-004.01	



Legend

- ★ Bank Pin Locations
- 10-m x 10-m Vegetation Plots
 - >320 hardwood tree stems/acre
 - <320 hardwood tree stems/acre
- Replanted on February 9, 2012
 - Livestakes and Containerized Trees: Livestakes Sprouted
 - Livestakes and Containerized Trees: Livestakes Haven't Sprouted
 - Containerized Trees
- Replanted on April 29, 2012
 - Livestakes and Containerized Trees
- Conservation Easement Boundary
- Wake County Hydrology

**CURRENT CONDITIONS PLAN VIEW
TERRIBLE CREEK BUFFER RESTORATION SITE
Wake County, North Carolina**



Dwn. by:	CLF
Date:	Aug 2012
Project:	12-004.01

**FIGURE
3**

APPENDIX B
GENERAL PROJECT TABLES

Table 1. Site Restoration Structures and Objectives

Table 2. Project Activity and Reporting History

Table 3. Project Contacts Table

Table 4. Project Attributes Table

Table 1. Project Restoration Components								
Project Segment or Reach ID	Existing Acreage	Mitigation Type	Approach	Acreage	Mitigation Ratio	Mitigation Units	Stationing	Comment
Riparian Buffer	45.6	Restoration	--	45.6	1	45.6	--	--
Mitigation Unit Summations								
Stream	Riparian Wetland	Nonriparian Wetland	Total Wetland	Buffer		Comment		
0	0	0	0	45.6		--		

Table 2. Project Activity and Reporting History		
Activity or Report	Data Collection Completion	Actual Completion or Delivery
Restoration Plan	---	July 2007
Construction	---	February 2008
Planting/Permanent Seed Mix Applied	---	February 2008
Mitigation Plan/As-built Report (Year 0 Monitoring – baseline)	---	June 2008
Year 1 Monitoring (2008)	September 2008	July 2009
Year 2 Monitoring (2009)	July 2009	August 2009
Conservation Easement Boundary Marked	---	March 2010
Year 3 Monitoring (2010)	July 2010	July 2010
Year 4 Monitoring (2011)	June 2011	August 2011
Year 5 Monitoring (2012)	August 2012	August 2012

Table 3. Project Contacts Table	
Designer and Year 1-5 (2008-2012) Monitoring Performers	Axiom Environmental, Inc. 218 Snow Avenue Raleigh, NC 27603 Grant Lewis (919) 215-1693
Construction, Planting, and Seeding Contractor	Backwater Environmental PO Box 1654 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 Wes Newell (919) 523-4375

Table 4. Project Background Table	
Project County	Wake County, North Carolina
Drainage Area	13-square miles
Drainage impervious cover estimate (%)	< 10 percent
Stream Order	Terrible Creek-fourth order, UTs-first order
Physiographic Region	Piedmont
Ecoregion	Outer Piedmont
Rosgen Classification of As-built	Not Applicable
Cowardin Classification	Palustrine
Dominant Soil Types	Appling, Augusta, Chewacla, Wehadkee
Reference Site ID	Terrible Creek
USGS HUC for Project and Reference	03020201
NCDWQ Subbasin for Project and Reference	03-04-03
NCDWQ Classification for Project and Reference	C NSW
Any portion of any project segment 303d listed?	No
Any portion of any project segment upstream of a 303d listed segment?	No
Reasons for 303d listing or stressor	Not Applicable
% of project easement fenced	None

APPENDIX C
VEGETATION ASSESSMENT DATA

Table 5. Vegetation Plot Mitigation Success Summary
Vegetation Monitoring Plot Photos
Site Replanting Photographs
CVS Summary Data Tables

Table 6. Vegetation Metadata Table
Table 7. Total and Planted Stems by Plot and Species

Table 5. Vegetation Plot Mitigation Success Summary

Vegetation Plot ID	Vegetation Survival Threshold Met?	Tract Mean
1	Yes	81.3%
2	Yes	
3	Yes	
4	Yes	
5	Yes	
6	Yes	
7	Yes	
8	Yes	
9	Yes	
10	Yes	
11	Yes	
12	No	
13	Yes	
14	No	
15	No	
16	Yes	

**Terrible Creek Buffer Restoration
Year 5 (2012) Vegetation Plot Photographs
Taken August 2012**



**Terrible Creek Buffer Restoration
Year 5 (2012) Vegetation Plot Photographs (continued)
Taken August 2012**



**Terrible Creek Buffer Restoration
Site Replanting Photographs
Taken February 8 and 9, 2012**



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

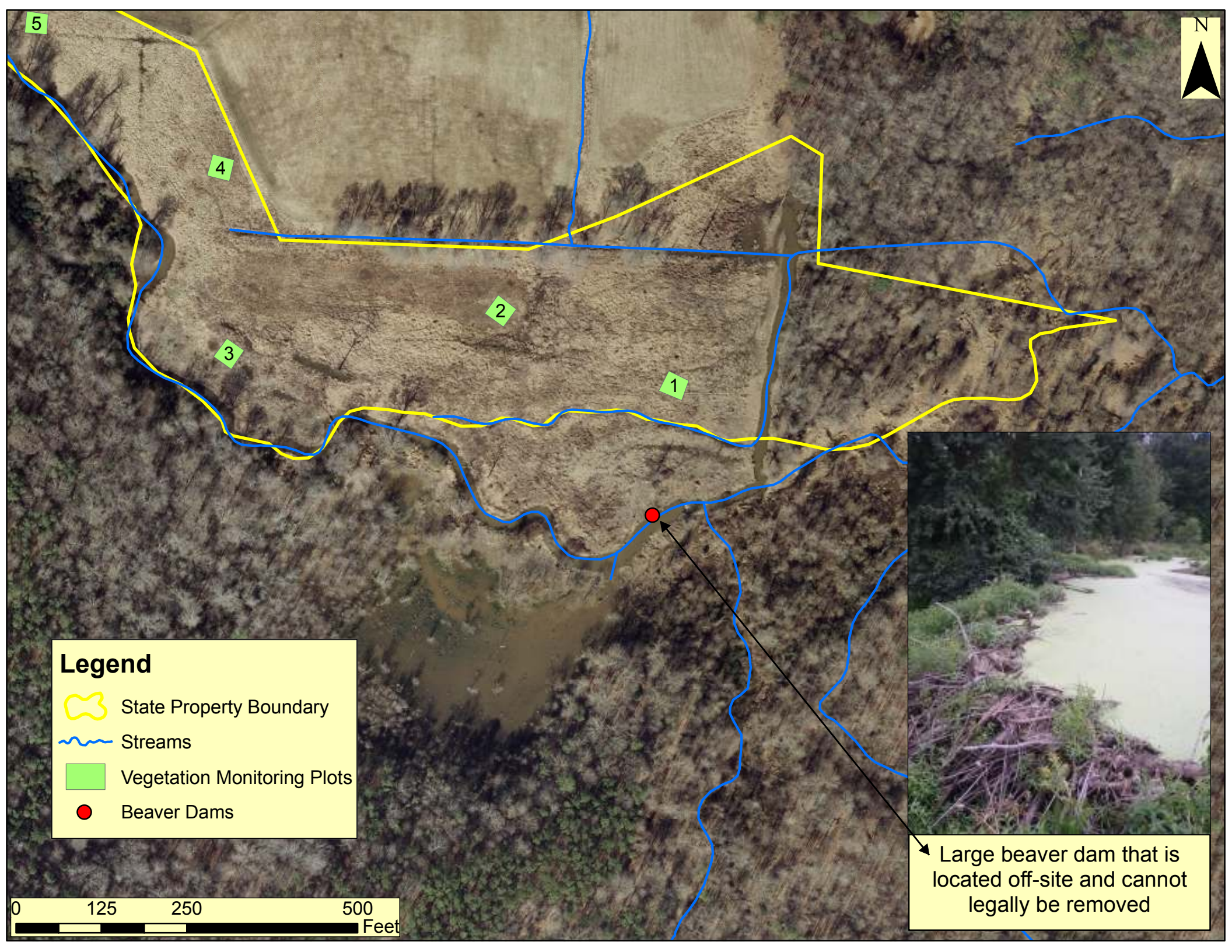


Photo 4


Table 6. Vegetation Metadata Table

Report Prepared By	Corri Faquin
Date Prepared	8/9/2012 8:54
database name	Axiom-EEP-2012-A.mdb
database location	C:\Axiom\Business\CVS
computer name	CORRI-PC
file size	51548160
DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHEETS IN THIS DOCUMENT-----	
Metadata	Description of database file, the report worksheets, and a summary of project(s) and project data.
Proj, planted	Each project is listed with its PLANTED stems per acre, for each year. This excludes live stakes.
Proj, total stems	Each project is listed with its TOTAL stems per acre, for each year. This includes live stakes, all planted stems, and all natural/volunteer stems.
Plots	List of plots surveyed with location and summary data (live stems, dead stems, missing, etc.).
Vigor	Frequency distribution of vigor classes for stems for all plots.
Vigor by Spp	Frequency distribution of vigor classes listed by species.
Damage	List of most frequent damage classes with number of occurrences and percent of total stems impacted by each.
Damage by Spp	Damage values tallied by type for each species.
Damage by Plot	Damage values tallied by type for each plot.
Planted Stems by Plot and Spp	A matrix of the count of PLANTED living stems of each species for each plot; dead and missing stems are excluded.
PROJECT SUMMARY-----	
Project Code	134
project Name	Terrible Creek Buffer (Fish Property) (G)
Description	Buffer Restoration Site
River Basin	Neuse
length(ft)	
stream-to-edge width (ft)	
area (sq m)	
Required Plots (calculated)	
Sampled Plots	16

APPENDIX D
BEAVER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
Map of Located and/or Removed Beaver Dams



Legend

-  State Property Boundary
-  Streams
-  Vegetation Monitoring Plots
-  Beaver Dams



Large beaver dam that is located off-site and cannot legally be removed

