

BANNISTER CREEK MITIGATION BANK: THE INTERACTION OF LARGE-SCALE STREAM MITIGATION WITH WATERSHED AND FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING

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Abstract The Bannister Creek Mitigation Bank is located within the Etowah River Watershed in northwest Georgia. The Bank comprises approximately 15,000 linear feet of stream restoration and preservation and over 200 acres of riparian buffers to restore systems impaired by intense agricultural practices, which included dredging and straightening of the stream channels and removal of riparian buffer vegetation. One of the specific pollutants addressed during the planning and design process was sedimentation. Based off of initial estimates the site has the potential to reduce approximately 2,000 tons of sediment per year. The Bannister Creek Bank is unique in that it has been master planned with surrounding residential and retail development in a rapidly urbanizing area of Forsyth County. The Bank also has the potential to restore threatened and endangered darter habitats and has been proposed as a site for reintroduction of Cherokee darters. The Bank has been permitted through the US Army corps of Engineers Savannah IRT and will service the Etowah River watershed for impacts to all stream types. Construction on the stream channels was completed in November 2008, and planting of the riparian buffer followed stream construction.