

MECHUMPS CREEK STREAM RESTORATION TOWN OF ASHLAND, VIRGINIA

CLIENT CONTACT:

Randolph-Macon College
Dr. Charles Gowan
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COMPLETION DATE: On-going

SIZE: 1,200 linear feet

KEY PERSONNEL:

W. Douglas Beisch, Jr., P.E.
Project Manager
Joshua W. Running
Stream Assessment and Design
Sarah J. Look
Stream Data Collection
John A. LeReche, CPSS
Stream Data Collection

WEG'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Stream Assessment
Stream Restoration Design /
Construction Plans
Stream Restoration Construction
Oversight
Hydraulic/Hydrologic Analysis

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS:

Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc.
Town of Ashland
Randolph-Macon College



Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. (WEG) is providing environmental consulting and support to Randolph-Macon College (R-MC) students in an effort to restore Mechumps Creek, a stream in the Town of Ashland, Virginia that has been greatly affected by nearby urban development. Initiating with classroom presentations and coursework, WEG partnered with R-MC to study the

headwater portion of Mechumps Creek in 2007, which originates within the urbanized corridor of the Town of Ashland. Following the initial period of study, which included geomorphic, biological and chemical surveys, this tributary to the Pamunkey River was sited as having many forms of impairment, including e. coli bacteria, channel enlargement and sedimentation, unstable geomorphology, poor ecological habitat and disconnection from its original floodplain and the idea to restore the degraded stream channel emerged.

Funding was sought to repair the disrupted ecological corridor and R-MC students presented their plans for restoring Mechumps Creek to the Ashland Town Council. The students' proposal was approved and the Town Council provided the initial \$100,000 to support the project. In 2008, with WEG's support, R-MC students successfully wrote a grant to obtain the funding needed to start the design phase of the project, and in 2009, another grant was obtained for the construction funds. The two grants total \$145,000 and both are from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). WEG provided restoration design, which included 1,200 linear feet of channel restoration. Construction to improve channel stability, repair habitat for fish and other aquatic life began in September 2010 and is expected to last about six weeks. Students in R-MC environmental studies classes and potential volunteers from the Town will plant native vegetation along the creek bed this winter and will monitor the biological and physical effects of the project over the next 10 years.



As a result of the students' hard work to restore the natural setting and improve the water quality of the Mechumps Creek watershed, R-MC received the 2009 Urban Forestry Award from the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

