

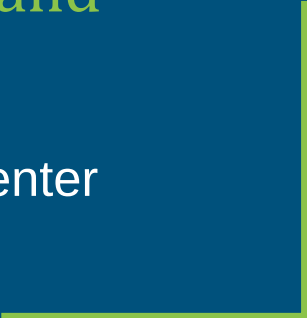


Spout Spring Branch Restoration at Walker Park



Connecting Community to Urban Streams and Forests
through Restoration, Conservation Corps, and
Stewardship Events

Jordan Forbis, Watershed Conservation Resource Center
Emily Finley, Beaver Watershed Alliance



Project Overview

In 2024 WCRC was awarded \$2.76M through the Inflation Reduction Act and USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program to undertake environmental restoration within Fayetteville's 2nd oldest public park areas

- 3,300 ft of stream restoration
- 7.5 acres of riparian areas
- 22 acres of improved native forest
- Improving green infrastructure and providing community access
- Community engagement through training and education opportunities

Project Partners

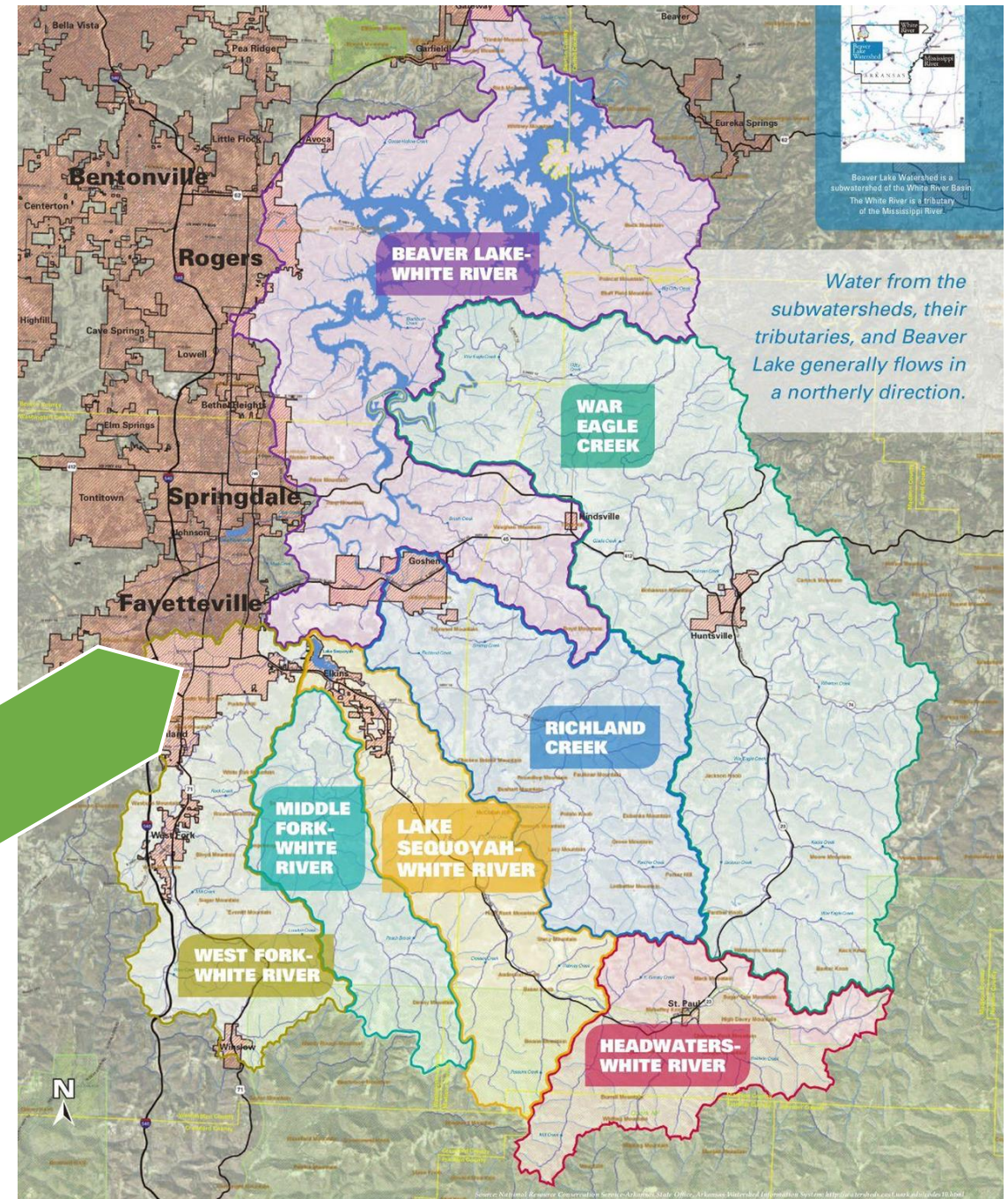
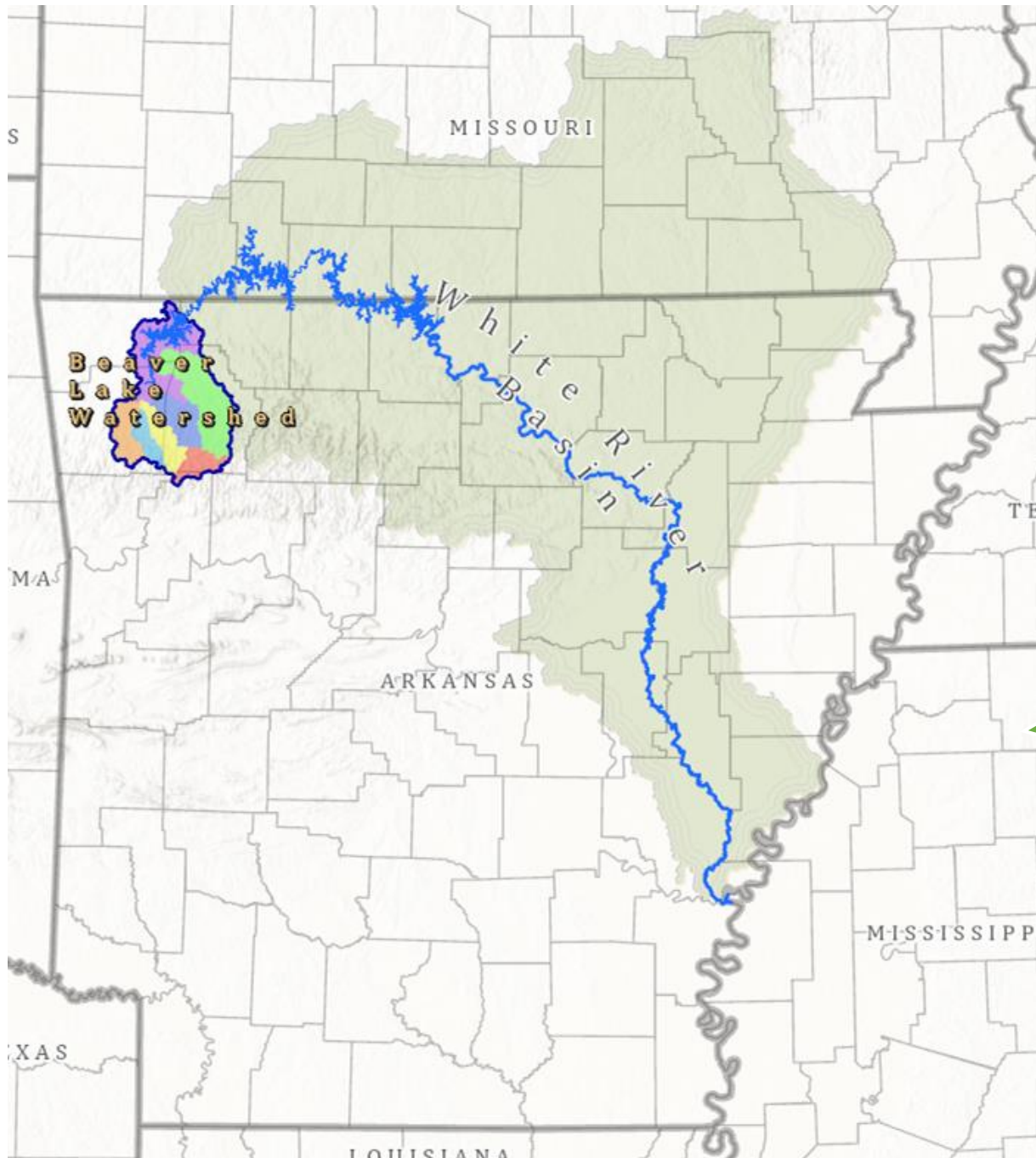


PROJECT LEAD

Accomplishing individual goals to form a team

Project Funding
Stream and Forest Restoration Design & Implementation
Education & Outreach
Volunteer Stewardship Events
Community Outreach & Engagement
Workforce Development
Water Quality Testing

These institutions are equal opportunity providers. Funding for this project is provided by the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program with the Watershed Conservation Resource Center. Funding provided by the US Forest Service. Grant#24-DG-11062765-564.





University of
Arkansas

Downtown Square

Public Library

Fayetteville
High School

Fayetteville
Senior Center

7hills - Unhoused
Resident Resources

Razorback
Greenway

Walker Park Invasive Plant Removal

Invasive Species removal

Before restoration efforts can begin, invasive plant species such as Bush Honeysuckle, Chinese Privet, and Tree of Heaven must be removed, so that surveying can take place throughout the riparian zone.

Removing invasive plant species will also help to:

- Reduce the spread of woody invasive species
- Promote biodiversity of native plant species
- Improve existing habitat for riparian and forest dwelling animals
- Reduce erosion
- Improve water quality
- Allow for further forest restoration

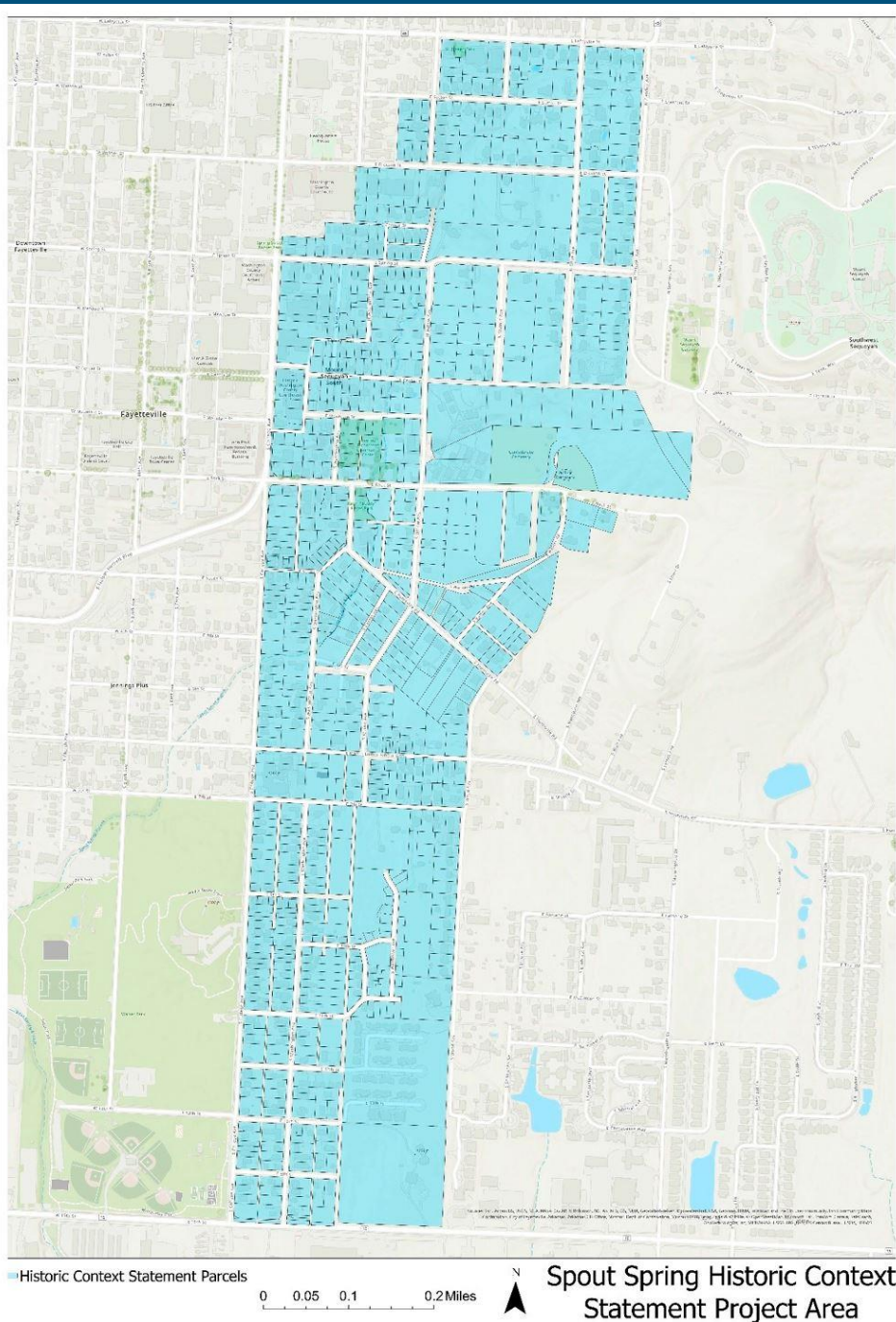
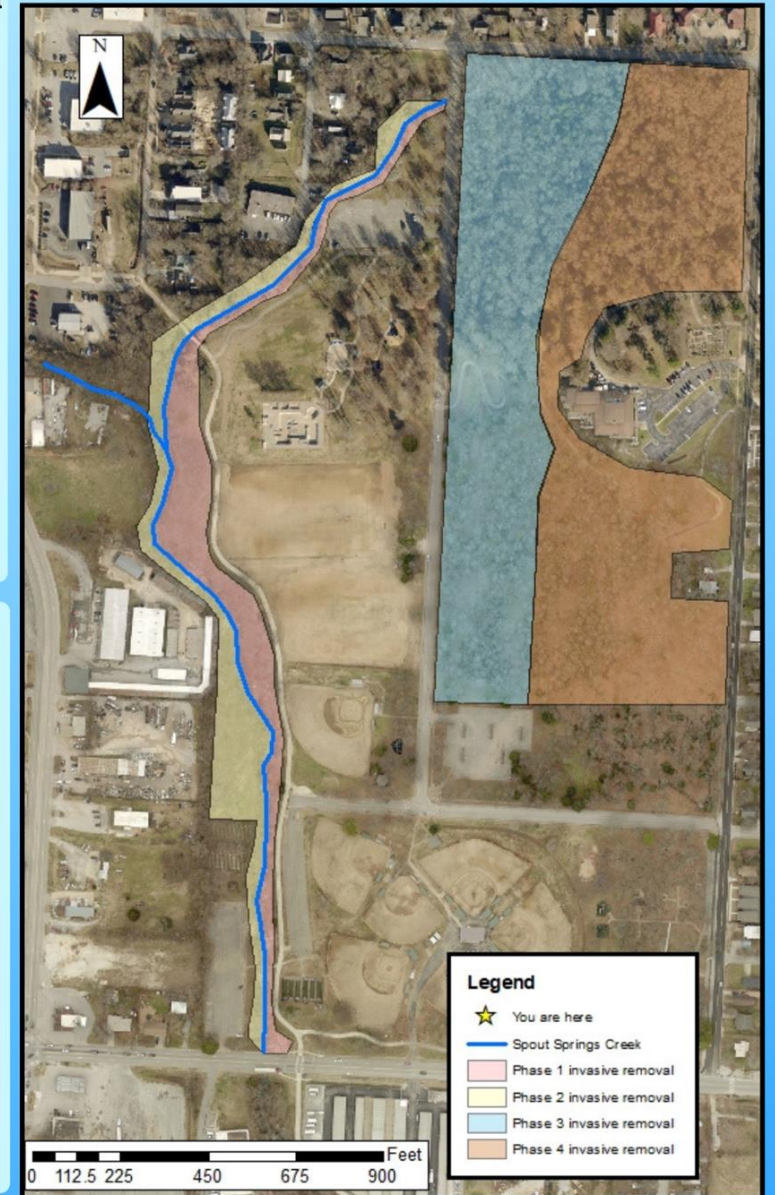
Invasive Species Removal Phases

Riparian removal (phase 1&2)

- Utilizing cut/paint application, crews will remove invasive species along Spout Spring Branch
- Invasive biomass will be composted or mulched to reduce further seed dispersion

Forest removal (phase 3&4)

- Utilizing cut/paint application and excavator removal crews will remove invasive species throughout the forest
- Biomass will be composted or mulched



Walker Park History

- Located in a historically disadvantaged and low-income area
- Disinvestment and deferred maintenance
- Created unhealthy river, riparian, and forest
- Lack of available outdoor recreation areas



2024

BEGIN FALL 2024

- Site Assessment, Survey, Develop restoration plans
- Invasive species removal
- Host 4 stewardship events
- Develop Forest Restoration Plan

2025

- Implement forest restoration plan
- Pre-restoration Streambank & Macroinvertebrates sampling
- Host 6 stewardship events
- Develop restoration construction drawings

2026

- Forest invasive removal
- Obtain construction permits
- Procure construction materials and heavy equipment contractor
- Host 6 stewardship events

2027

- Implement stream restoration construction
- Continue revegetation of forest and riparian
- Conduct post restoration monitoring (erosion & macroinvertebrate)

2028

- Conduct ongoing maintenance
- Implement forest restoration plan
- Conduct post restoration monitoring (erosion and macroinvertebrate)
- END FALL 2028**

Stream Restoration

Restoration Efforts

Forest Restoration

Invasive species

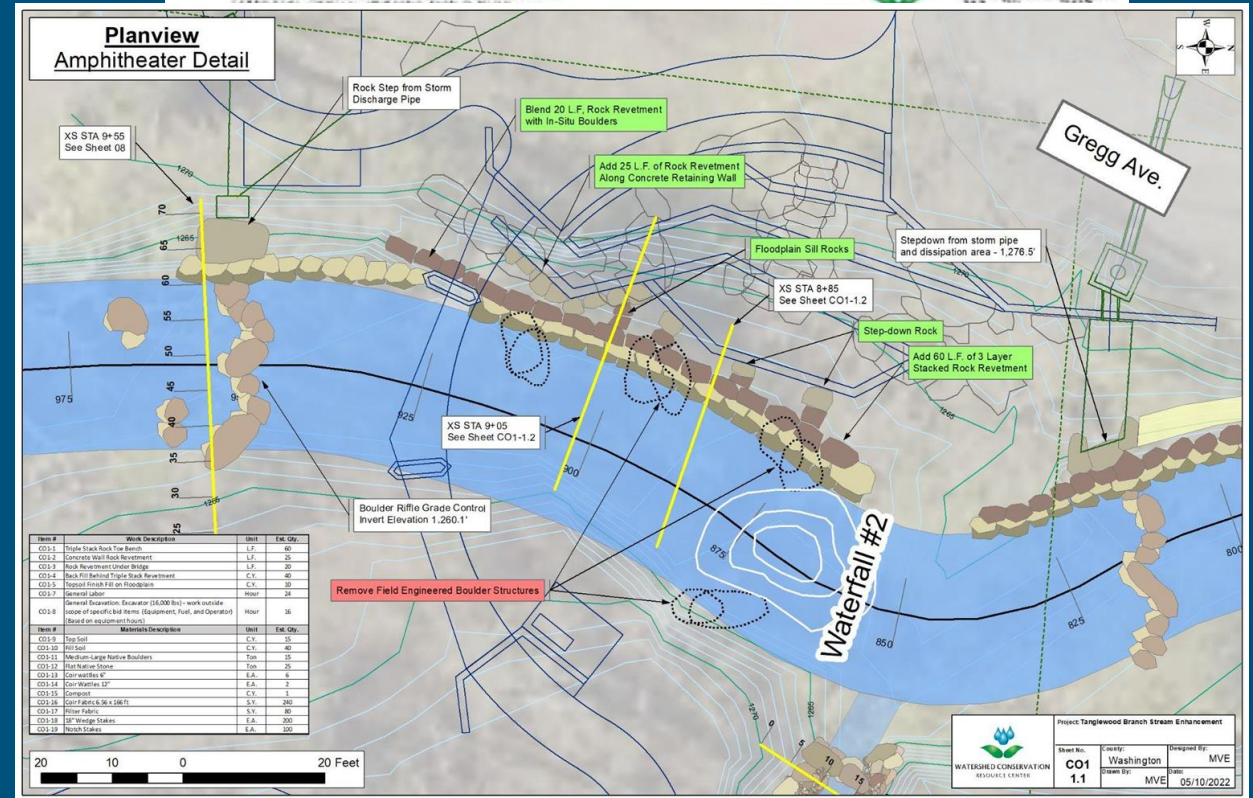
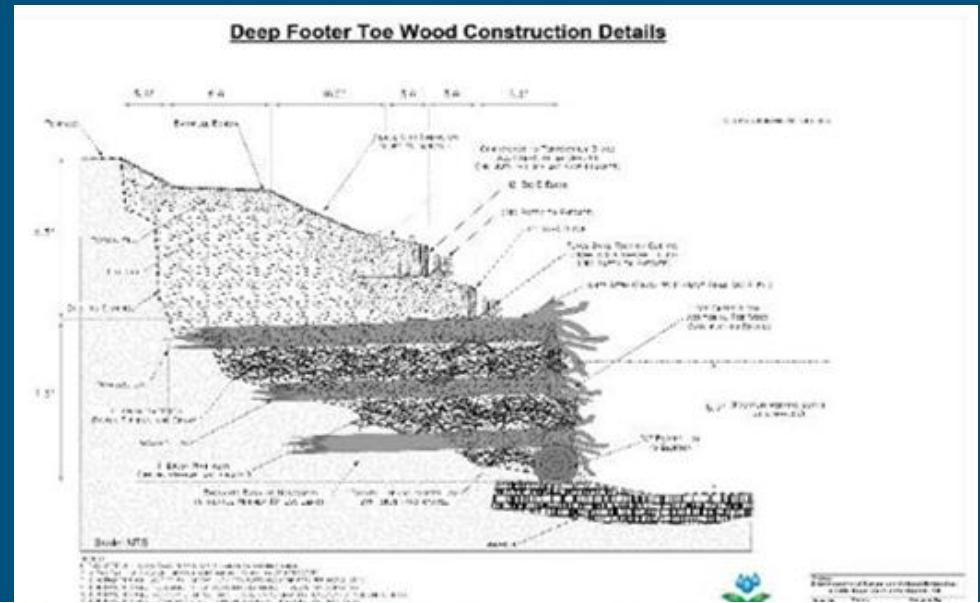
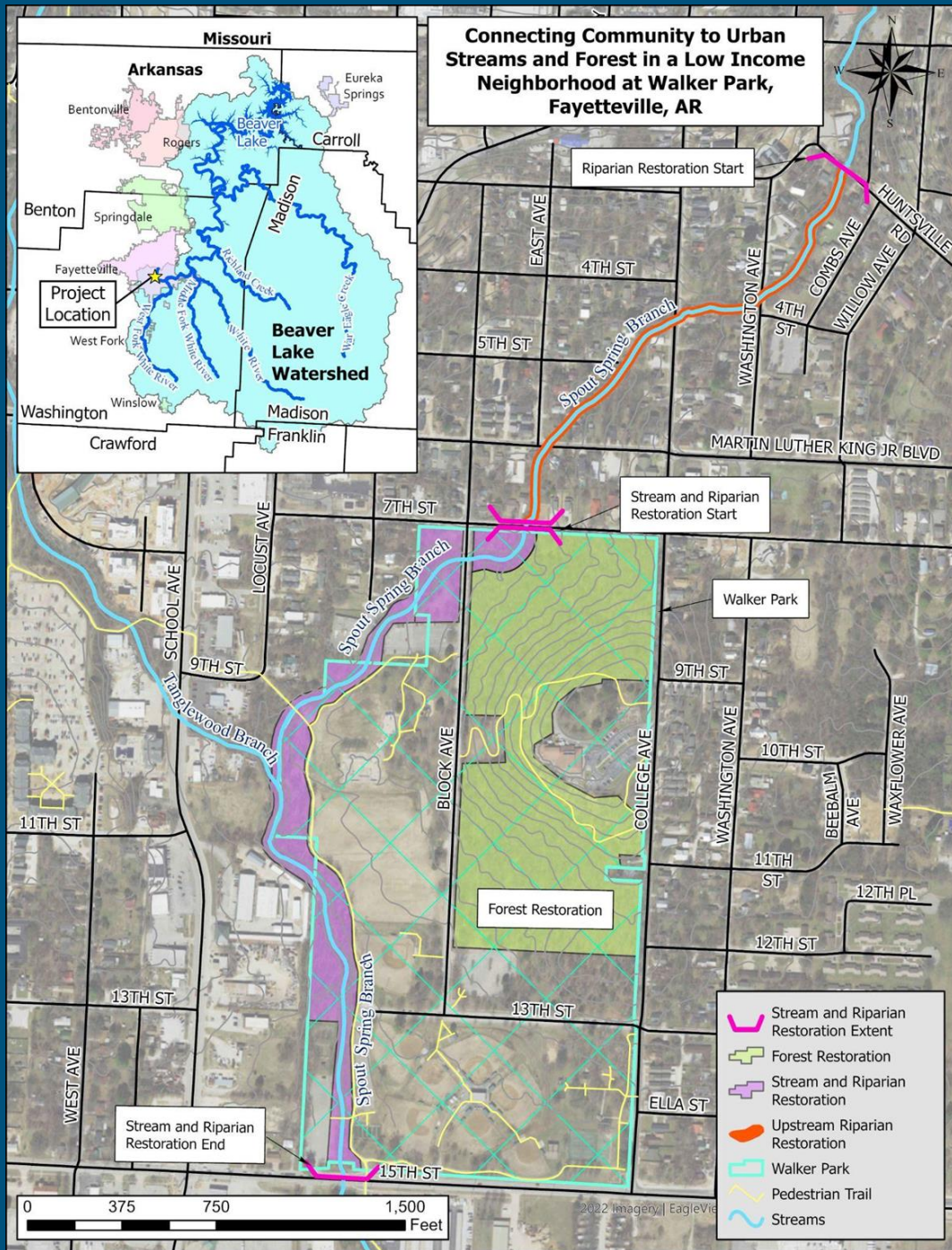


Restoration Approach- Design & Implementation

-Natural channel design stream restoration

- Protecting drinking water source by reducing streambank erosion
- Provide terrestrial and aquatic habitat for wildlife in an urban environment
- Transform aesthetics and provide access for the community to natural spaces





Restoration Approach- Revegetation & Maintenance

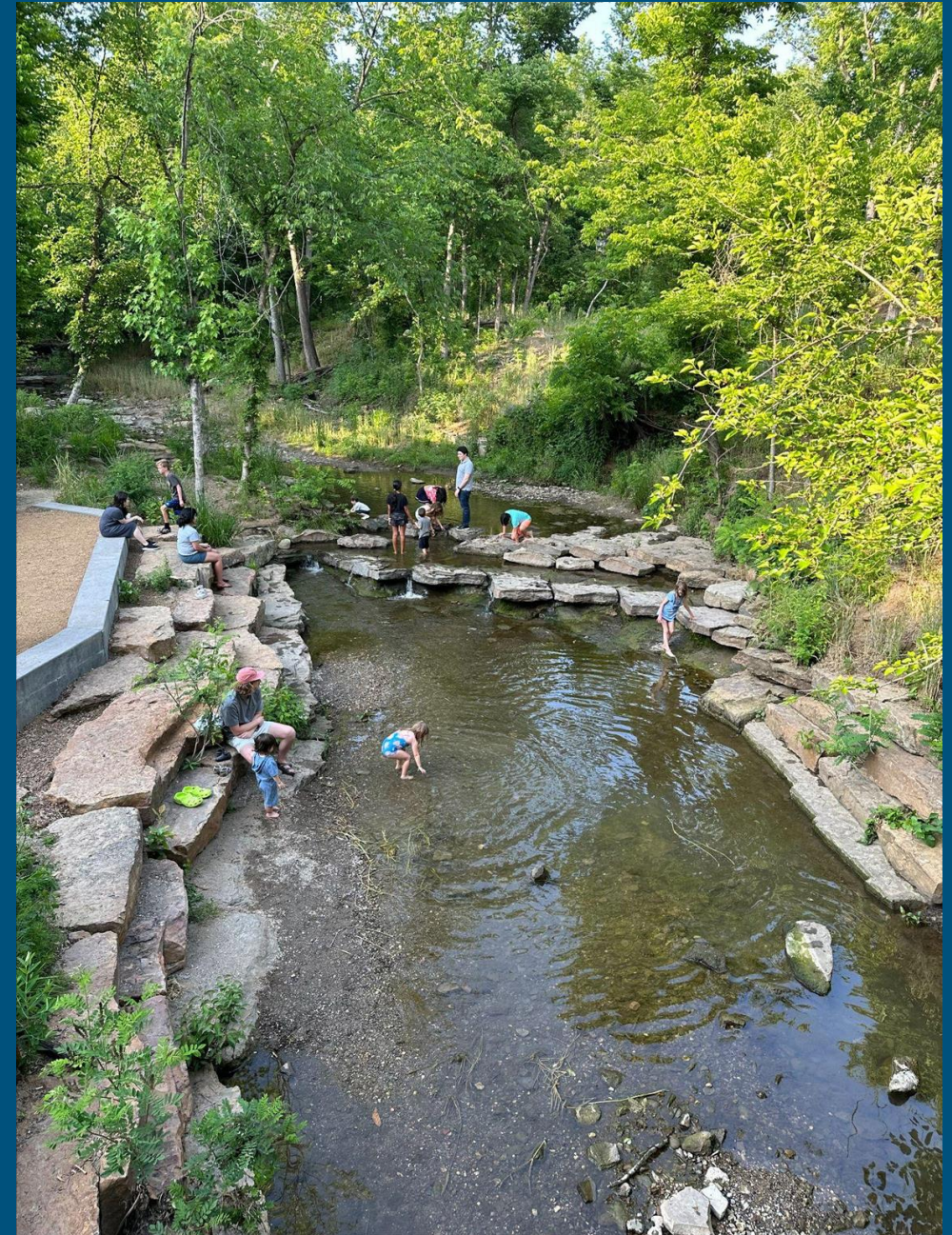
- Vegetation success is crucial for project success
 - Vegetation provides long term protection of restoration
- Erosion control using live plants
 - Reduces water velocity
 - Provides erosion protection through robust root system
 - Improves the local ecology and species diversity





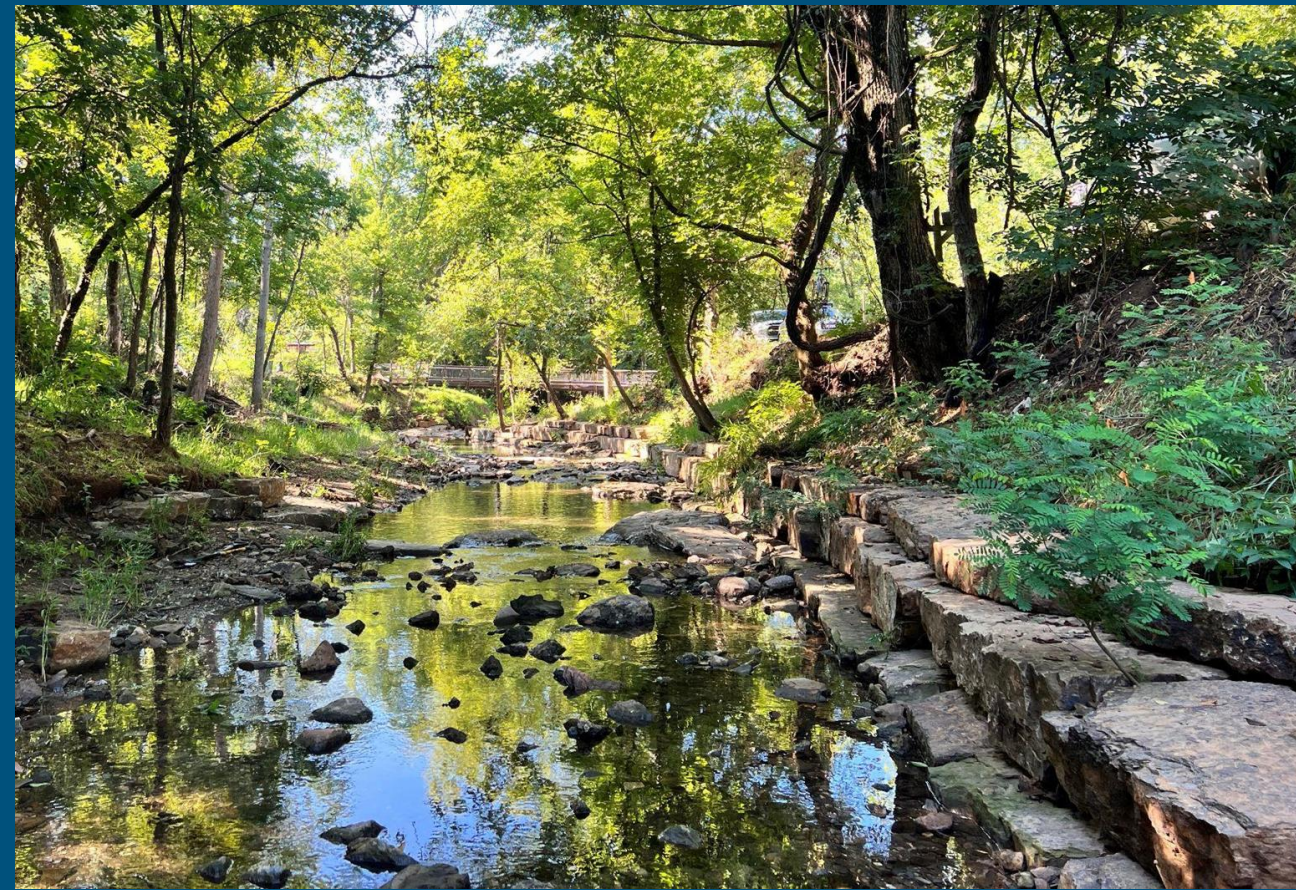
Community access

- Improving community access through
 - Invasive species removal
 - Creating recreation minded design
 - Engaging the community in project





Tanglewood Branch Before



Tanglewood Branch after Invasive removal
and stream restoration

Conduct 12 stewardship events to:



Engage the
community



Educate
volunteers about
conservation



Highlight
project
partners



Reconnect
residents
with nature



Assist with
restoration
implementation



Workforce
Development

Community Kick-Off Event



Protecting and restoring
Beaver Lake, our regional
drinking water source!



You're Invited! Community Kick-off Event

Efforts are underway for the
restoration of Spout Spring Branch
and the urban forests around Walker
Park in Fayetteville.

FREE TO ATTEND! | MEET PROJECT PARTNERS FOR Q&A

Join us to:

- Review project plans for the restoration of Spout Spring Branch
- Meet American Youth Works Conservation crew members
- Learn about the deep-rooted history of Spout Spring Branch
- Learn about urban forestry & the planned conservation efforts
- Meet project partners for Q&A
- **BE A PART OF THIS SPECIAL PROJECT IN SOUTH FAYETTEVILLE!**

**Tuesday,
September 17th**

**Time:
6:00 - 7:00 pm**

**Location:
Walker Park
Splash Pad Pavilion
1087 S. Block Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72701**

Drop in anytime between 6:00 - 7:00 pm!

Questions?

EMAIL info@beaverwatershedalliance.org TEXT/CALL 479-750-8007

Project Partners:



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All **6** local partners
participating.

36 attendees met
project partners
and learned about
upcoming work.

Mailer invitation
reached **~1,800**
local residents in
the Town Branch
subwatershed.

Invasive Plant Removal Volunteer Stewardship



15 volunteers learned how to identify and remove invasive plant species.



350 linear feet of riparian area covered.

Additional Outreach



Spout Spring Branch Restoration Fact Sheet



Example of natural channel design at Tanglewood Branch

Overview:

- The Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC) was awarded \$2.67 million in Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry funding by the USDA to restore Spout Spring Branch at Walker Park
- Plans include restoration of 3,300 feet of Spout Spring Branch, 7.5 acres of riparian area, and 22 acres of forest.
- The project fosters environmental justice by creating opportunities for a historically disadvantaged community to connect to and recreate in restored natural areas
- The community will be engaged in restoration through volunteer opportunities and community stewardship events

For more information contact:

forbis@watershedconservation.org or 479-444-1916

Projected Schedule*:

*subject to change

- **Invasive Removal** - Sep 2024-Dec 2027
 - Invasive plant species will be removed and native vegetation will be reestablished
 - Pending landowner permission, invasive plants will be removed and native vegetation established along upper Spout Spring Branch
- **Spout Spring Stream Restoration**
 - Nov 2024-Dec 2026 - develop restoration design plan
 - 2027-2028 - Construction + Maintenance
- **Walker Park Forest Restoration** - Nov 2025-Dec 2028
 - Restore 22 acres of forest in Walker Park
- **Conduct Monitoring** - Jan 2024-Nov 2028
 - WCRC will monitor sediment and phosphorus load reductions
 - Beaver Water District will collect macroinvertebrate and fish data before and after restoration
- **Community Engagement** - Sep 2024-Dec 2028
 - Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) will hold community stewardship events
 - Northwest Arkansas Black Heritage Association will develop info on cultural history of the Walker Park neighborhood for interpretive signage
 - BWA and WCRC will offer courses on invasive removal and native plant establishment



A map of planned invasive removal and restoration at Walker Park

Project Partners:



Spout Spring Branch Project Kicks Off

Over the last ten weeks, nearly 3 acres of invasive species have been removed by Arkansas Conservation Corps field crews. The Spout Spring Branch project is underway, with several partners working together for restoration, community engagement, workforce development, and more.

[Read More](#)



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Workforce Development



Arkansas Conservation Corps, founded 2024
10 crew members & 1 Field Operations Manager
First crew graduation, November 2024

Arkansas Conservation Corps: Fall 2024



September - December 2024: 13 weeks

Acres of riparian area improved: **4.7**

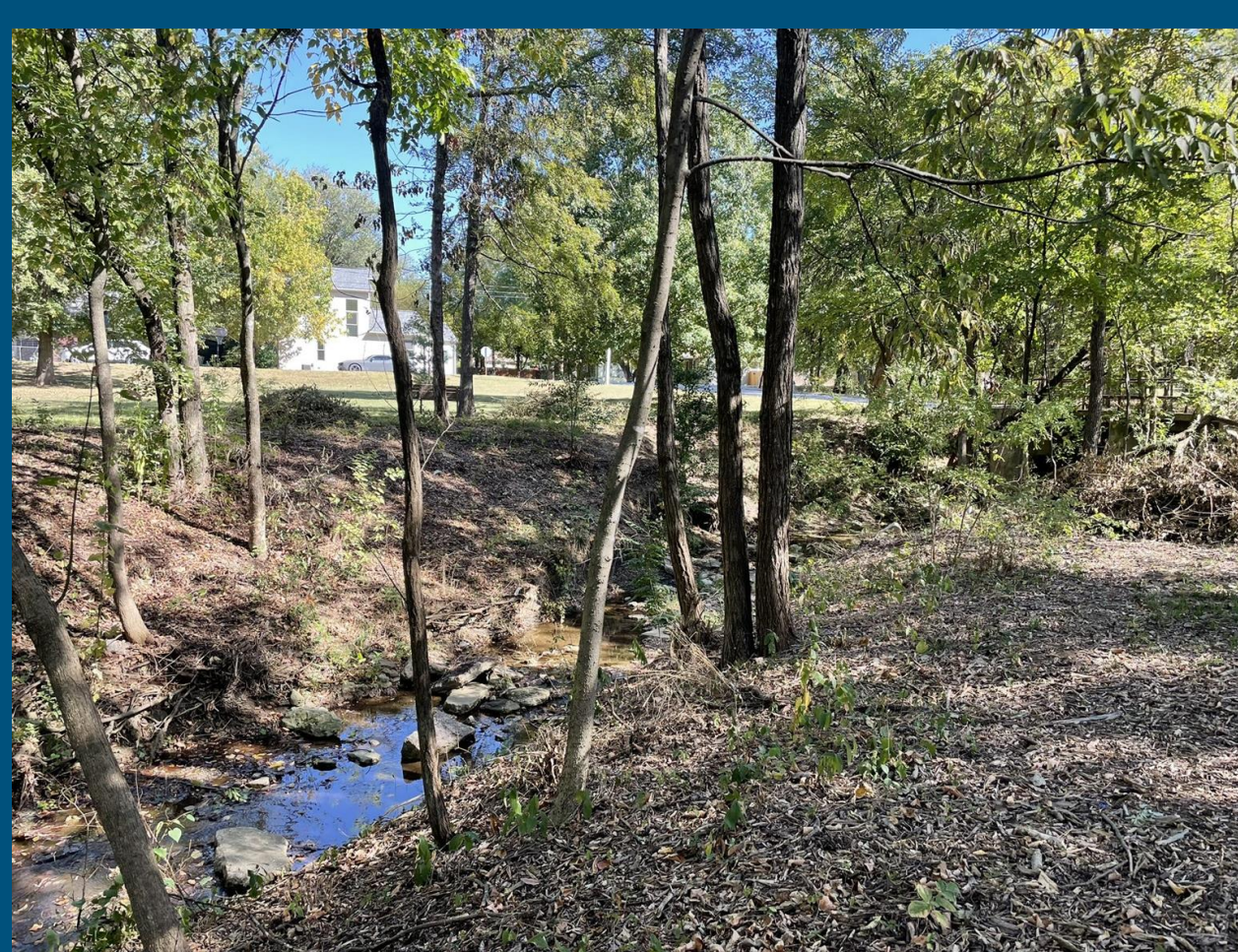
Cubic yards of brush removed: **192.5**

Lbs. of trash collected: **475**



Before

Bush honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*
Chinese privet, *Ligustrum sinense*
Wintercreeper, *Euonymus fortunei*



After

Spout Spring Branch is visible!



Before

Mimosa/Silktree, *Albizia julibrissin*
Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*
Bush honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*
Johnson grass, *Sorghum halepense*



After

Connection to nearby sites is restored

Year 1

Form collaborative partnerships

6 local partner organizations

Begin engaging local community

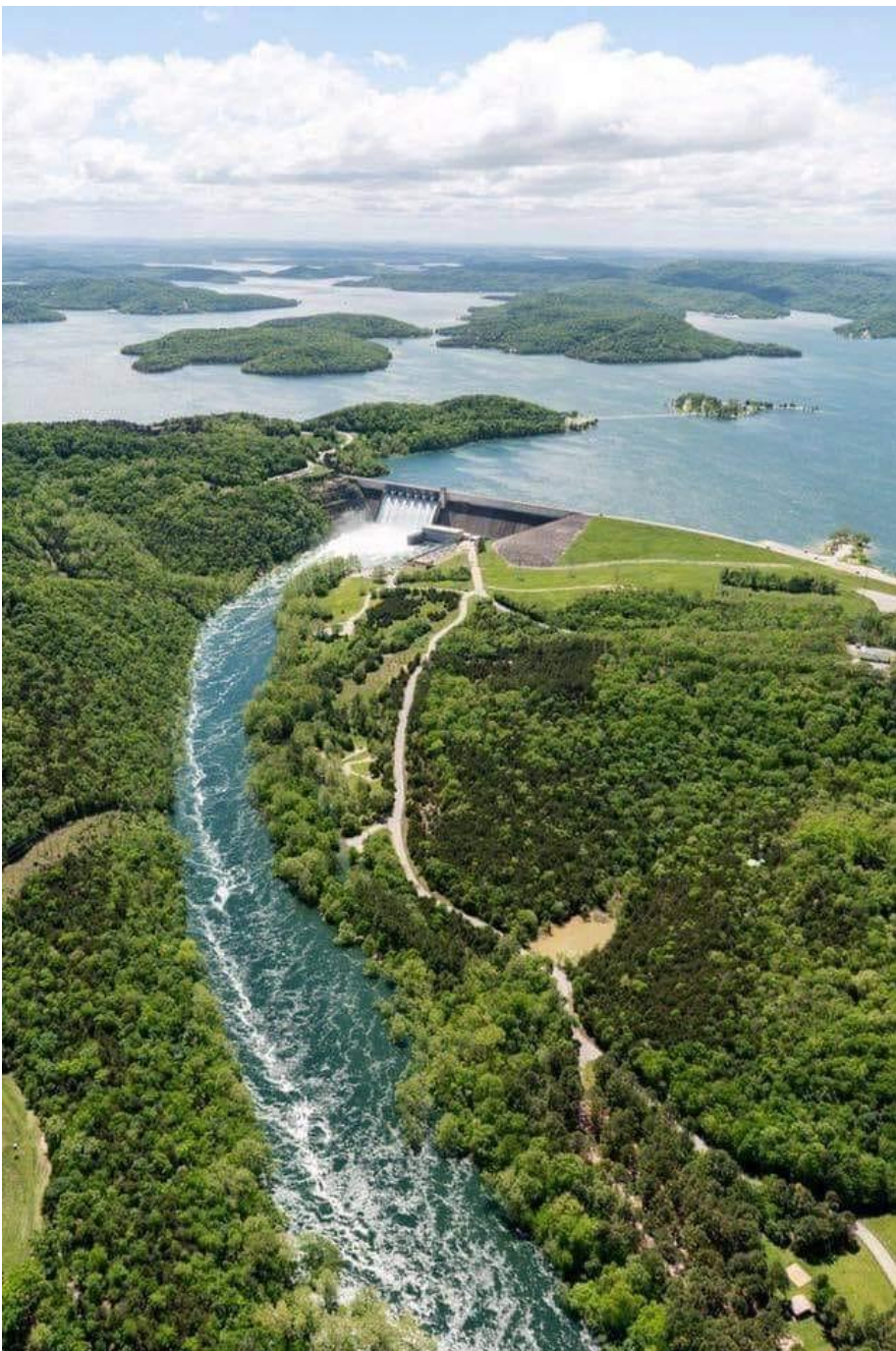
51 community members attended events

Develop conservation workforce

11 crew members dedicated 13 weeks to improve riparian area



Connecting Community to
Urban Streams and Forests
through Restoration,
Conservation Corps, and
Stewardship Events



Thank you!

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