

Restoration of a Quarter-Mile of Chester Creek in Anchorage, Alaska

Tamas Deak¹, Bob O'Neill², William Rice³

Chester Creek in Anchorage is a small, anadromous stream that has been dredged and straightened through historic urban development of the Anchorage Bowl. On one section of the creek, the Anchorage 2020 planning document suggested formation of a town center. Venture Development, LLC bought land within the town center area and decided to restore a quarter-mile section of the creek on their land that had been straightened prior to 1965 for a trailer park, prior to their re-development of the area.

Over a four year period, partners were identified, funding secured and construction performed to re-channel the stream to more natural meanders, increase in-channel habitat diversity through pool/riffle features and increased riparian and floodplain area. The project ultimately ended up being the largest restoration project to date in Anchorage, and involved over seven partners and funding agencies.

This presentation will discuss the challenges of planning, design and partnering in the urban environment, the hydrologic, geomorphic and habitat issues addressed, what happened during actual construction, and the cost and results of this multi-year effort.

¹Landscape Architect, Koonce, Pfeffer and Bettis, tdeak@kpb-alaska.com

²Owner, Venture Development, LLC boneill@vdg-alaska.com

³Hydrologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, william_rice@fws.gov