

Grassy Creek Restoration



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Location:	Spruce Pine, NC
Date Completed:	2016
Scope of Work:	3,000 linear feet of stream restoration for habitat enhancement
Engineer:	Jennings Environmental PLLC, Greg Jennings, PhD, PE, greg@jenningsenv.com
Contractor:	North State Environmental, Inc., Darrell Westmoreland, darrell@nsenv.com
Partners:	US Fish & Wildlife Service, Blue Ridge RC&D, NC WRC, Zink Environmental, Penrose Environmental, Stantec, Equinox
Fees:	\$400,000 Design/Build contract with North State Environmental as prime
Funding Source:	NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund, USFWS, NC DWR
Project Owner:	Toe River Watershed Partnership, Starli McDowell, starsledge@aol.com

The Grassy Creek Restoration Project was implemented in 2015-2016 to improve water quality, aquatic habitats for trout and hellbender salamanders, and community education and access to a healthy riparian ecosystem in the Toe River Basin. Before the project, streambanks were eroding due to excessive near-bank stress and poor riparian vegetation. Aquatic habitats were poor due to the channelized, over-wide, plane-bed morphology lacking distinct pools and natural grade controls.



The natural channel design restoration project includes channel realignment and floodplain connection, wood toe revetments, streambank bioengineering, native riparian forest buffer, in-stream boulder and log structures for hydraulic energy management and habitat enhancement, constructed stormwater wetlands, and a nature trail. Post-implementation monitoring has documented the presence of hellbender salamanders now inhabiting the restoration reach.



Jennings Environmental PLLC is licensed with the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and is authorized to practice engineering under the provisions of Chapter 89C and 55B of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

License Number P-1932