

Pop Ash Creek Preserve Natural Resources Project Update 6-15-2011

The following pictures show some of the changes that have taken place out at Pop Ash creek Preserve from the Natural Resources Hydrologic Restoration Project. Keep visiting the website and we will update with more photos as the work progresses.



Photo #1 taken at the top of a HUGE dirt pile that was covered in Brazilian pepper. The contractors have been able to burn much of the vegetation that needed to be cleared. The ashes will be saved, along with the top soil for plantings.



Currently, the contractors are storing extra dirt from the project in this area.



Photo #2, top soil returned to the flow way for the plantings. At this point it hasn't been spread out yet.



Photo #2, the top soil has been spread out to its final elevation. They have also installed several "fish traps" (red arrow). They are slightly lower areas that will hold water for longer periods, trapping fish for birds to eat.



Photo #3 if you look closely on the left side, the shallow flowway has been excavated.



Photo #3. The flowway is complete and they have installed an equestrian crossing that will give the horses firm footing while crossing the wetland.



Photo #4. The contractors have placed concrete type bags as a reinforcement wall.



Photo #4. The connection between the "nose" of dolphin pond and the rest of the ponds is complete.



Photo #5 taken from the rectangle pond which has had a shallow flow ways leading from Pop Ash creek and into the pond system. There is a double-trunked pine for reference (although it is hard to see)



Photo #5 after like photo #2, top soil is waiting to be spread out.



Photo #6 the weir is complete and tons of rip-rap (rocks) have been installed on the banks to stabilize the soil. The rocks also work to slow down the water flow so that the water doesn't carve a hole into any of the banks.



Photo #6. Although it is hard to see in this picture, sod has been planted around the weir. There is also a fence and protective boxes to prevent vandalism.



Photo #7 is the southern berm at grade, smoothed out and rocks removed.



Photo #7. Now the berms are complete. They have put a shell rock on the tops and planted sod on the sides. Hopefully we will get rain soon so that the sod can get established, but for now the contractors are watering it with a truck.



Here is a better view of the equestrian crossing before it was complete. The Geo-webbing will allow for water to flow while providing a stable surface for horseback riders and hikers. Then it is covered with a thick layer of gravel that also allows for water flow and stable footing.



The contractor generously added some additional gates to the project where a fence divides the preserve in half. Now horseback riders and hikers will have several options of where to cross from one half of the preserve to the other. It also should be a little bit drier than the current ditch crossing.

