

Mason Creek Re-meandering Project – Final Update

The Mason Creek re-meander finished up the week of November 21st with final tie in of the new stream course with the upper and lower reaches, and last seeding of native plants on areas adjacent to the new stream.

Tall Pines and our project partners are celebrating a successful completion of the project despite very challenging site conditions for the project crew. As we chronicled in prior updates, two large fall rain events created significant water seepage into the new channel as it was being dug offline from the original straight-line course. Normally this process is called constructing “in the dry,” but in this case, it was anything but! One artesian spring near a lower bend generated 100,000 gallons of water per day, based on the pump capacity that was needed to remove it! This spring water is one of the reasons the creek supports a year-round population of native brook trout, keeping the creek flowing even during the coldest months. Wondra Construction created a masterful plan for diversions that directed water away from the most vulnerable areas during construction and we very much appreciate their diligent efforts to bring the project to completion.

Tall Pines Conservancy works closely with the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program and 30 other partners to reduce phosphorous loading to North Lake and other bodies of water located in Lake Country. This project was funded by public and private sources, including grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the City of Oconomowoc, local non-profits and private donors, with the support of the town of Merton.

Entrance to this property is restricted. Contact us at info@tallpinesconservancy.org with any questions or to arrange a visit of the site. Visit tallpinesconservancy.org for construction updates. Thank you for your cooperation.



A view of Upper Mason Creek completed 11-22-22



Before “tie in” of new channel with original channel: road plates divert water away from sensitive areas through a diversion channel.



After “tie in”, the completed stream course flows through the area right to left.



Native seeding by Field and Stream Restoration