



South Branch of the Suamico River Stream Restoration

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Restoration Categories: Aquatic, Nearshore, and Riparian Habitat Quality Improvement

Actions: Restore natural stream bends and enhance in-stream and upland habitats

Benefits: Improved hydrological and ecological processes and improved northern pike spawning habitat

Funding: \$206,601 in natural resource damage assessment settlement funding

Timing: Project was approved in August 2009 and complete in 2015

Land Ownership: Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, private landowners

MAIN BODY

Goal: To restore hydrological and ecological processes in a degraded section of the Suamico River, with an overall goal of improving northern pike (*Esox lucius*) spawning habitat.

Project Description:

Agricultural runoff, river channelization, and residential development have degraded the habitats within and surrounding the South Branch of the Suamico River by altering hydrologic and morphological conditions of the river and surrounding habitats. This project aims to improve in-stream habitat and the adjacent floodplains for spawning northern pike. It restored the natural stream channel by converting the ditched and straightened stream channel to a more natural, meandering morphology; invasive plant species were removed; and native vegetation was reestablished along the stream corridor. The restored stretches of river improve the ability of northern pike to travel within the river and access upstream spawning habitat.

Benefits:

The project restored critical hydrologic and ecological processes in a degraded stretch of the South Branch of the Suamico River and improved the accessibility of spawning habitat for fish, including northern pike. The restored wetland upstream is also providing high quality habitat for migratory waterfowl, and it provides nesting and stopover habitat for many wetland dependent species such as amphibians and mink. The restoration actions were aimed at reducing peak flows, increasing base flows, and reestablishing the ecological and hydrological connections between the in-stream and riparian habitats. In 2008, the Oneida Tribe completed the restoration of 160 acres of headwater wetlands of this river (project 2.2). This project continues restoration within this

watershed using the “top down approach” by starting at the headwaters and working downstream. In addition, the restoration of streams to a clean, healthy state is essential to restore the cultural practices, traditional diet, and lifestyles of Oneida Tribal Members.

Spatial Extent of Project:

This project restored .8 miles of stream and subsequently restored approximately 8.2 acres of nearshore habitat.

Status and Funding:

The Trustees directed \$206,601 of natural resource damage assessment funding to the project which was complete in 2015. Monitoring for this project will be ongoing, including: Northern pike young of year trapping, water quality monitoring, water level monitoring, benthos (benthic macro invertebrate) surveys, and routine fisheries surveys.

Project Accomplishments:

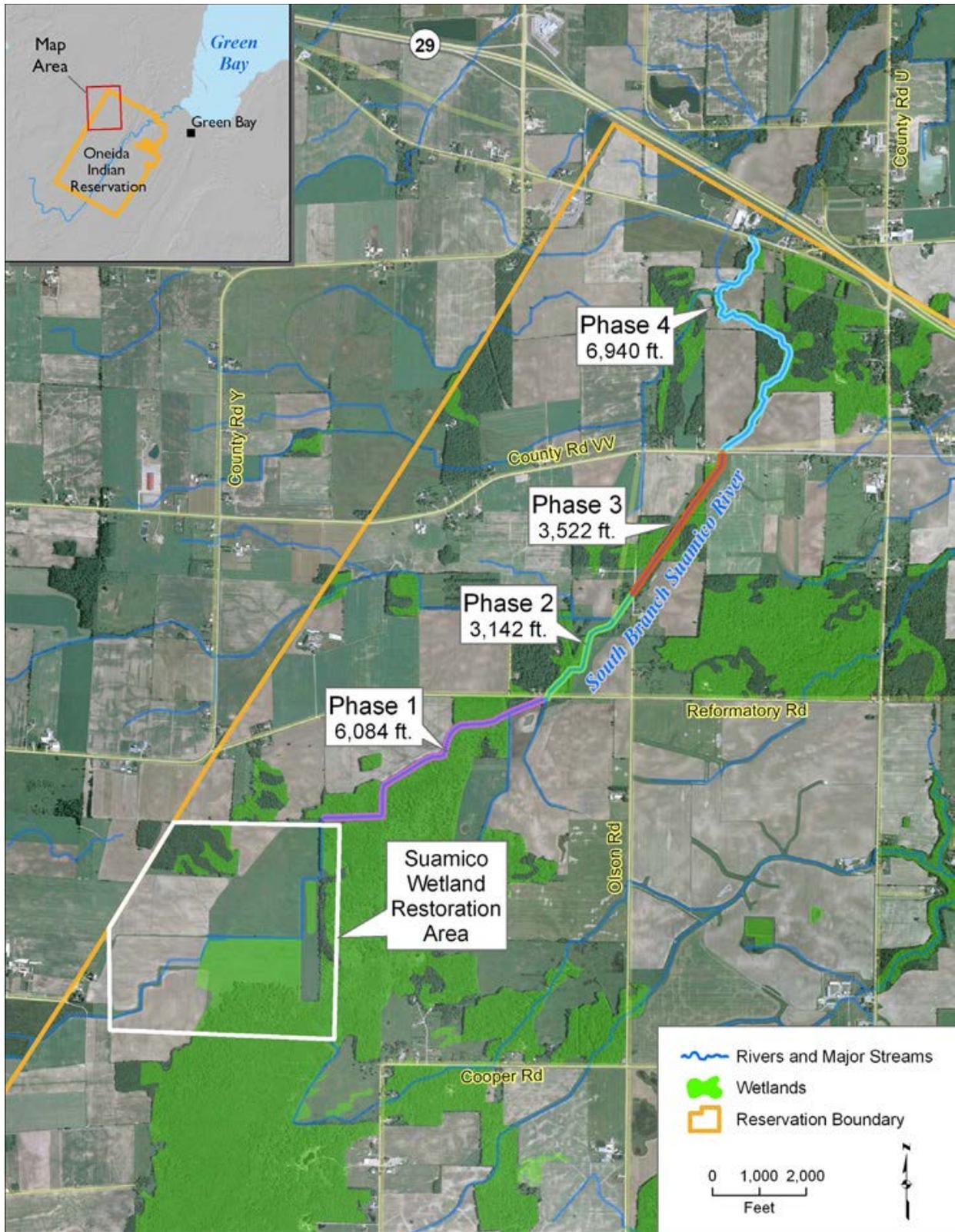
By providing restored quality spawning habitat for northern pike as well as enhanced stream habitat and improved water quality for other aquatic organisms, this project will enhance the Suamico River system and in turn its ecological connection to the Green Bay and the Fox River.

Contact Information: Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin Environmental, Health & Safety Division (920) 869-4591

PHOTOS/MAPS



Aerial view of straight, channelized stream channel prior to restoration (Photo courtesy of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin)



Restoration site locations along the South Branch of the Suamico River.



Aerial view of meandered, enhanced stream channel with native riparian corridor following restoration
(Photo courtesy of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin)