Bloomington National NPS Monitoring Project on Kickapoo Creek in Central Illinois

Trent Thomas, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Fisheries

A stream restoration project on Kickapoo Creek, east of Bloomington-Normal in Central, Illinois was originally conceived in 2005. The proposal from a group of developers followed strong opposition to an original plan for a 67-acre lake that would impound the headwaters of Kickapoo Creek. The project evolved into a final design that was approved in 2008. The first phase of the project was implemented during the summer of 2008 with a diverse source of funding from the developers, City of Bloomington, USEPA, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Upon completion, the project will remeander nearly two miles of stream channel and create several acres of wetlands. The naturalized stream corridor will be encompassed in an 80-acre park that will be owned and managed by the Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department. Kickapoo Creek is a high quality stream of the Sangamon River basin, attaining “Biologically Significant Stream” (BSS) status in reaches a short distance downstream of the project site, as well as supporting populations of several “Species in Greatest Need of Conservation” for the state of Illinois.

Several agencies recognized the magnitude and significance of this project and the opportunities it provided early in its development and are currently providing various forms of support for the project. After obtaining section 319 funding, a monitoring program was developed and implemented under the National NPS Monitoring Program. A cooperative among several agencies is monitoring multiple aspects of the project through its development and post-implementation stages. Details of this cooperative effort and preliminary data through Phase 1 of the project will be presented.

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