

Mason Creek Remeandering Project – August 2022 Update

Tall Pines Conservancy (TPC) is partnering with North Lake Management District and the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program on a stream restoration project for Mason Creek.

This project involves converting a historically-channelized section of the creek to a natural, meandering course to handle periods of high water flow and reduces the movement of phosphorous-laden sediment to downstream properties and North Lake.

The newly-designed 1600-foot stream course follows the topography of the land, features riffles and pools for improved fish and aquatic life habitat, and allows for better establishment of native vegetation to filter nutrients and stabilize soil.

Construction officially began on Wednesday, August 23rd with a ribbon cutting that included members of the construction team from Stantec and Wondra.

Tall Pines Conservancy has been working 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. These efforts include working directly with farmers and landowners to incorporate best management practices that improve soil health and address runoff.

This project is 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.

Please note that entrance to this property is restricted.

Contact us at info@tallpinesconservancy.org with any questions or to arrange a visit of the project site. Visit tallpinesconservancy.org for construction updates.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Groundbreaking – August 23rd



Site Photos – August 31st



Mason Creek Frequently Asked Questions:

Who owns the property? Tall Pines Conservancy, a local non-profit based in Nashotah owns the property.

Why is Mason Creek important? Mason Creek is a Class 1 Trout Stream and is valued by many residents who have lived in the vicinity for decades. The creek was straightened following European settlement and has been found to be a significant contributor of sediment and nutrients to North Lake and the lower Oconomowoc River watershed.

Who is the construction company and who is directing the project? Wondra Construction, Inc is constructing the new stream course on the Tall Pines Property, following the design and guidance of Stantec Engineering, Inc.

How will the Mason Creek Re-meander Project affect my property? The Mason Creek re-meander is designed to improve water quality without affecting the flood plain of neighboring properties. The project will improve water quality for downstream properties, as nutrients and sediments are stabilized on site. It will also restore habitat for fish and aquatic life. It will be a valuable asset for the local ecosystem.

How long will the project take? Construction will take approximately 6-8 weeks. The natural revegetation and growth of plantings will take place over a multi-year period.

Will there be a lot of vehicle traffic during construction? Construction will be completed in one phase. Most of the construction materials are natural materials found on site. There will be an initial mobilization of equipment to the site, occasional deliveries of stone and vegetation materials, and regular small vehicle traffic of the Wondra crew. Traffic should not be a major issue during construction.

Will the Mason Creek Project site be open to the public, now or in the future? Only limited public access will be allowed, with prior permission from Tall Pines Conservancy. There may be volunteer groups or small work crews helping to remove invasive vegetation and install native plantings in the future. There will not be public parking constructed on site. If you are interested in visiting the site, please e-mail Tall Pines at info@tallpinesconservancy.org.