

FY2023 Buncombe County Tipping Point Mid-Year Grant Report

Organization Name:	Swannanoa Community Council
Project Name:	Fox Creek Environmental Restoration and Educaiton Project

Activities Accomplished	Annual Goal	Amount Completed
Number of baseline reports complete and posted online	2	
Number of wetland delineation maps filed with the Army Corps of Engineers and posted online	1	
Number of volunteers trained in Invasive Species removal, Vegetation Plot and Breeding Bird Survey and Restorations Actions	6	

Expenses (please list <u>all</u> grant related expenses)	Amount Spent
Initial site review / mtg w/ Allen-Belle-Glen	\$ 120.00
Data collection & review; GIS project setup and data review; field map preparation; GPS data	\$ 120.00
Wetland delineation w/ Bob Gale	\$ 120.00
GIS mapping for wetlands and preliminary report	\$ 120.00
Wetland report	\$ 480.00
Comprehensive Inventory & Planning Report; initial setup; comprehensive species listing	\$ 240.00
Mileage: office to site (1 of 6); initial meeting	\$ 43.75
Mileage: office to site (2 of 6); wetland delineation	\$ 43.75
TOTAL:	\$ 1,288

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Since receiving funds from Buncombe County through the Tipping Point Grant, we have continued to organize our volunteers to work in the park, focusing primarily on kudzu crown removal and clearing access trails. As planned in our grant proposal, we contracted with Kevin Caldwell, Conservation Biologist of Mountains-To-Sea Ecological to create and register a Wetlands Delineation Survey and conduct an ecological assessment as the foundation for a long term project plan that will guide us through the coming years of restoration. To prepare these reports Mr. Caldwell met with some of the Fox Creek Park project organizers and made several site visits with the assistance of Mr. Bob Gale, Ecologist and Public Lands Director for Mountain True.

The Wetland Delineation Survey is completed and has been filed with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) to insure that any future development in the designated wetlands in the park is in compliance with USACOE regulations. The Wetlands Delineation Survey is now published on the Fox Creek Park website along with the Draft Ecological Assessment report created by Mr. Caldwell.

<https://foxcreekpark.org/announcements>

Spring plans for our project include involving and educating more community volunteers to participate in the species identification survey when the ecosystem begins to re-awaken and the migration season increases the local bird population.

In addition, as the invasive plants enter their growth phase in the warmer months we will continue with training volunteers in invasive species removal, purchasing necessary equipment, and holding regular community work days with support and guidance from Mr. Caldwell.

Finally, our plans for future restoration and development of the park as a community resource for education and enjoyment will continue to be guided by conversations with Mr. Caldwell, and as these plans evolve, we will work together to create a final draft of the long term plan for the Fox Creek Restoration Project. The final draft of this plan, due at the completion of Mr. Caldwell's contract, will mark the completion of our Tipping Point Grant activities.