

Ioway Creek in Brookside Work Moves Forward After Rainy Summer

After several months of rain, the Ioway Creek Restoration Project is progressing. Despite starting in mid-June, Iowa Earth Works, the contractor for the City, was held back by consistent rain that caused high water levels in Ioway Creek until early September.

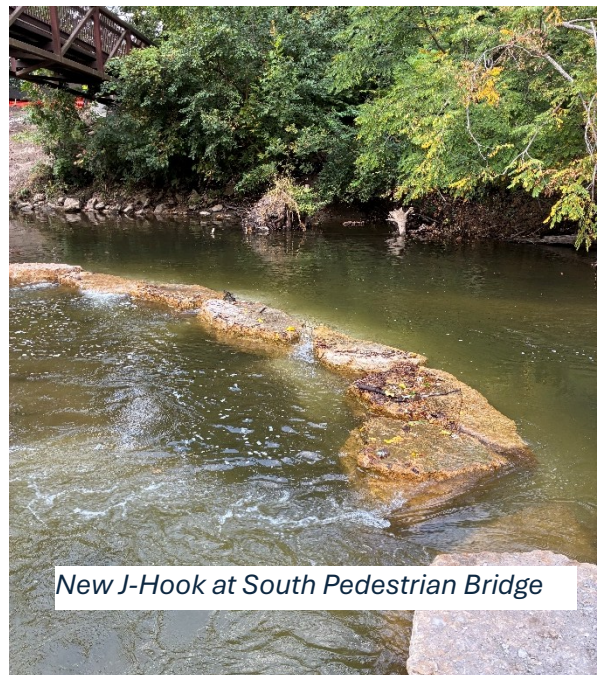
The project is 3,000 feet long and is located between 6th Street and 13th Street and uses natural materials in the form of toe wood, rock boulders and rock wads as stream stabilization methods. Clearing is substantially complete and bank grading, new channel excavation and in-stream features installation are underway.

The project will:

- Stabilize a failing 40' high slope on the east side of the creek. This will be accomplished by relocating approximately 500' of the creek away from east slope so that the slope to be flattened and revegetated.
- Stabilize the Ioway Creek stream banks and channel. Rock boulder features called J-Hooks and W-Weirs will draw the flow away from the banks and into the channel. Ten J-Hooks and three W-weirs will be constructed.
- Increase fish habitat, especially during low flows. New scour holes below the J-Hooks and W-Weirs will provide this habitat.
- Replace invasive plants with native species. The streambanks and newly constructed east slope will be planted in a site specific specially designed native landscape that will have year round interest and provide desirable wildlife habitat.
- Increase public viewing of and engagement with the waterway. Selectively opening views to the creek provides awareness, and recreational and educational opportunities.



Existing East Steep Slope



New J-Hook at South Pedestrian Bridge

- Increase water quality. A newly constructed oxbow in the existing creekbed will improve water quality from the adjoining watershed. Flattening and revegetating the stream banks will also reduce erosion and improve water quality.
- Repair storm sewer infrastructure that discharges to the creek.



Weather permitting the major construction items will be completed by winter and landscaping will be completed by spring. Native plants are slow growing and will take several years to establish.

The project can be viewed by the public from the north pedestrian bridge. The City thanks the public for your patience during construction.