

ABSTRACT

MILL CREEK WATERWAY RESTORATION PROJECT, CITY OF VISALIA, TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This project was the first of its kind in the area to reduce urban flooding and bank erosion with ecologically-sensitive, habitat-enhancing restoration techniques. Funding came from the California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Division with in-kind contributions from California State University, Fresno (CSUF), and City of Visalia. Work crews included personnel from CSUF, City of Visalia, and Redwood High School, and community volunteers. The project site was cleared and excavated, the stream channel was reconfigured and graded, and the banks stabilized. The subsequent revegetation effort involved almost 180 community volunteers, and CSUF and Redwood High School personnel.

The objectives were to: 1) reduce local flooding and bank erosion, 2) enhance riparian habitat, 3) shift public perception toward the value of open space, and 4) use the project as an educational “demonstration site” both during and after construction. All objectives were met to the delight of the funding agencies.

Linda Gomez Young
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