

Restoration of Wildhorse Creek

City of Wildwood, Missouri



For many years, Wildhorse Creek has been a reference stream demonstrating stable form and the varied and rich population of aquatic life typical of a healthy Ozark stream. Recently, Wildhorse Creek has begun to exhibit instability characteristic of urbanization. The instability along Wildhorse Creek is representative of the changes in the stream as it adjusts its channel geometry in planform, profile and cross-section to accommodate the changes in the flow of water and sediment delivered to it.

At the Hardt Road and Ossenford Road sites, we used a series of rock grade controls to guide the flow through the center of the reach and to dissipate the considerable stream energy. Banks were restored using composite revetment planted with native riparian plants. Both Hardt and Ossenford Road

were under imminent threat and required immediate repair. This restoration design eliminated the threat without harming the Wildhorse ecology or fluvial process.