

## **Walnut Creek/Dodd Trail Stream Restoration**

To ensure the health and biodiversity of the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, a portion of Walnut Creek was restored in 2007 as part of a 319(h) Watershed Restoration Grant. This project was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division.

Because of its vulnerable location situated directly below I-985, this section of Walnut Creek along the Dodd Trail receives stormwater runoff from the highway, as well as from the airport and industrial park upstream. Over the years, storm water runoff had eroded streambanks and altered the original stream pattern and habitats. Trees were undercut and falling into the creek adding to soil loss.

### **Stream Restoration Benefits**

Stream restoration included new structures installed in and around the creek force water to flow in the center of the channel, reduce stress on the banks, limit channel erosion and recreate the natural habitats that provide homes to a variety of animals.

Plantings along the stream edges now help with stabilization. Also created is a wetland shelf that will hold 6-inch of water after storms. Wetlands like this slow water allowing the waterway to drop sediment rather than carry it downstream.

### **Multi-Phased Project**

The grant project was completed in three phases. Phase I improved stormwater detention upstream. Phase II included stream restoration efforts. Phase III provided for monitoring and reporting on the project to measure the performance of construction methods.

A strong education component was part of this grant. Elements included:

- The creation of a series of unique watershed education programs for local 4th-8th graders,
- A volunteer training program for stream monitoring, and
- Holding public meetings to provide project progress updates to the local community.

### **What's Next?**

Additional projects within the Nature Preserve will take place as funds are available to restore downstream areas of Walnut Creek, as well as along sections of Vulture Rock Creek and Redwine Creek.