

The City of Columbia Wastewater Consent Decree specifies that several Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) must be completed. The SEP requires a Phase I and Phase II be completed for Gills Creek, Rocky Branch and Smith Branch watersheds. After completion of Phase I of the SEP, the Consent Decree requires the following:

... Columbia will submit to EPA the preliminary report on the condition of [Rocky Branch, Smith Branch, Gills Creek] and a plan for Phase II of the [Rocky Branch, Smith Branch, Gills Creek] Project...

Phase I having been completed, this report provides a Preliminary Report and Plan for Phase II for each of the SEP watersheds.

Rocky Branch

Phase I of the Rocky Branch SEP required completion of a Watershed Management Plan. This plan was finalized, and details the condition of Rocky Branch. The Plan is included in Attachment 1.

To meet the requirements for Phase II of the Rocky Branch SEP, the City will implement a detention project at MLK Park, which is primarily aimed at reducing downstream flooding. The project also includes water quality features similar to those in suggested projects SR-8 and LID-17 in the Rocky Branch Watershed Assessment. The detention project will provide storage for high flows in Rocky Branch through the use of engineered wetlands along the banks of Rocky Branch. In low flows the wetlands will provide water quality improvement and stabilization of the banks as suggested in SR-8. The project also includes a water quality pond upstream of the wetlands, which will provide additional storage in high flows, as well as treat low flows from Greene Street similar to that suggested in LID-17.

Smith Branch

Phase I of the Smith Branch SEP required completion of a Watershed Management Plan. This plan was finalized, and details the condition of Smith Branch. The Plan is included in Attachment 1.

To meet the requirements for Phase II of the Smith Branch SEP, the City will conduct a one-time stream cleanup project in accordance with the Consent Decree SEP requirements.

Gills Creek

Phase I of the Gills Creek SEP required completion of specified projects. A Completion Report was finalized, which provided details on Phase I of the Gills Creek SEP. The Completion Report is included in Attachment 1.

*Preliminary Report and Plan for Phase II
City of Columbia - Wastewater Consent Decree SEP
Gills Creek, Rocky Branch and Smith Branch*

To meet the requirements for Phase II of the Gills Creek SEP, the City will conduct a one-time stream cleanup project in accordance with the Consent Decree SEP requirements