

USFWS-NRDA Dry Creek Stream Bank Stabilization Project The Nature Conservancy, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

The objective of the project was to return Dry Creek to a stable stream geometry, with specific objectives to reduce sedimentation by 50% and achieve stream bank vegetative cover of 80% by the end of the three-year project. Project construction was March 16-20, 2010 and final spreading of native prairie hay on April 8-10, 2010. Construction guidelines were:

- All construction impact was confined to the stream channel area, with no impacts to adjacent native prairie (no “borrowing” or disposal of soil, and no importation of soil from off-site). Topsoil from within the channel was re-distributed.
- Native prairie round and square bales were imbedded in the stream channel to provide periodic grade control.
- All hay used on the project was native tallgrass prairie hay harvested from the Preserve.
- The project area was not fenced out from the free-ranging bison herd.



March 11, 2010. Low-level aerial photo of Dry Creek Restoration Project Area. View is looking southeast. Photo taken prior to restoration activities.



Dry Creek stream channel, before (left) and after restoration construction. View is looking southwest down project area.



Dry Creek North Headcut, before (left) and after restoration construction.



Dry Creek South Headcut, before (left) and after restoration construction.