



## Chicopee Woods Mitigation Bank

The Chicopee Woods Stream Mitigation Bank, managed by Elachee, will restore over 21,000 linear feet of stream in the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. The work of restoring will be performed in five phases over a period of many decades.

### **What is a Stream Mitigation Bank?**

A funding mechanism for stream restoration projects, a Stream Mitigation Bank allows the owner of degraded streams to sell credits after restoring, stabilizing and preserving those streams. The purchaser of credits is typically a developer with a project in the same watershed.

If the developer's project will cause any stream disturbance or impact on a stream, credits must be purchased in order to receive construction permits. Examples of such projects include piped road crossings or bridges. The number of required credits depends on the scope of impact on the given streams within the project area. The Army Corps of Engineer is the official body that determines scope of impact and has responsibility for the permitting process.

### **Phase 1 Overview**

Phase 1 construction of the Chicopee Woods Mitigation Bank was completed in 2008, implementing exceptional improvements to the stream. Over 3,500 linear feet of restoration was constructed in an area below Palmour Drive, near Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport, in the city of Gainesville.

This phase allowed for exceptional improvements to the stream. Using natural channel design methods, the stream was stabilized, the banks protected, and macroinvertebrate and fish habitat was created. Some sections of the eroding stream flowed under a power line and had no tree canopy to shade the water. These sections were relocated to the wooded area adjacent to the power line, providing shade and stabilizing the streambed. Native plantings were installed to provide additional stabilization, shade, and habitat in the construction area.

### **Phase 2 Status**

Phase 2 of the Mitigation Bank, which will restore a portion of Walnut Creek, is currently in the design phase.