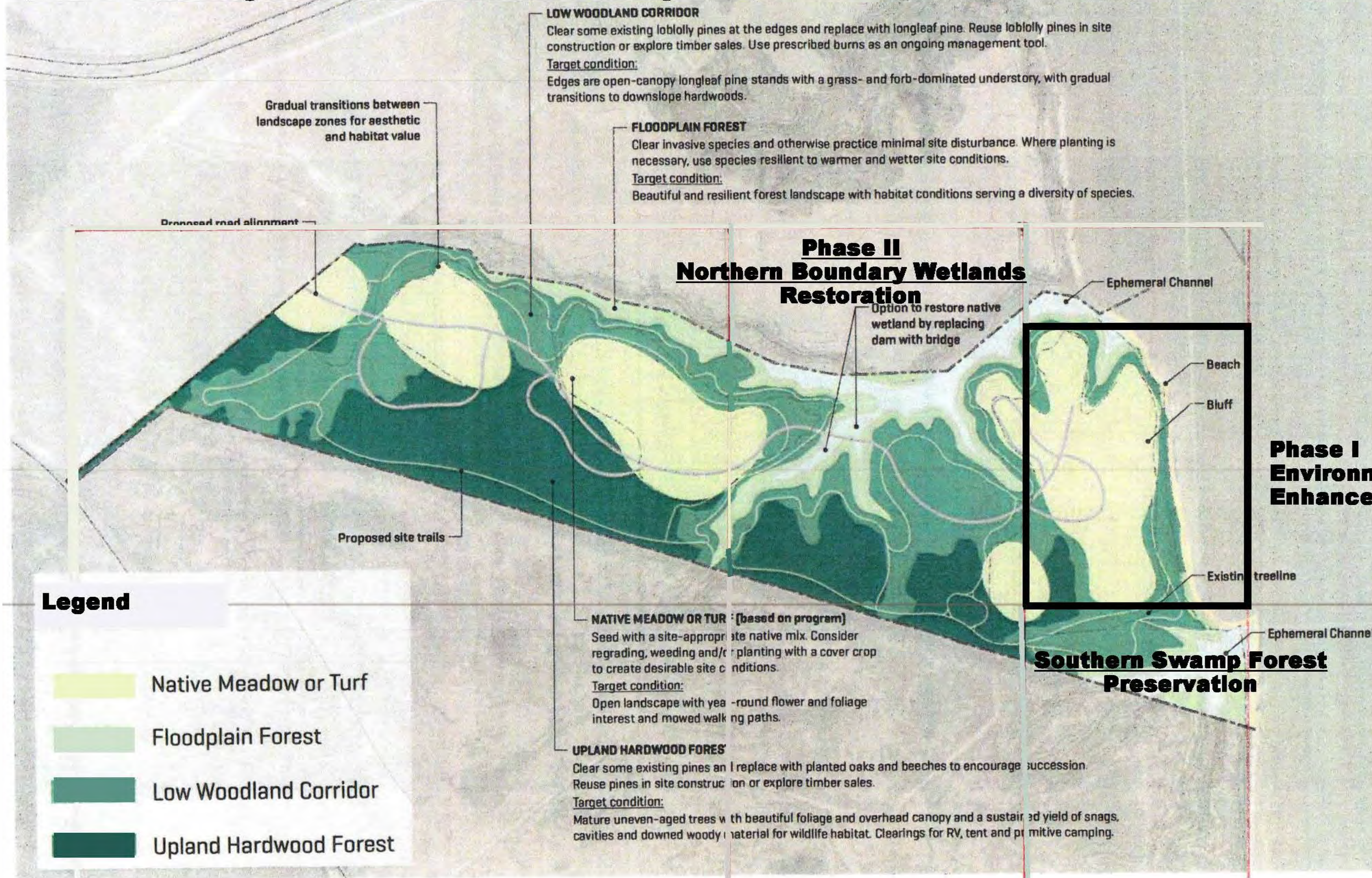


Bertie County TGOW Restoration Snapshot



Chowan University Biology majors, Nay Jordan, Ty Sharpe, and Timothy Moore measuring fish as a part of the TGOW ecological monitoring.

Phase I Environmental Enhancement



(Left) Chowan University Biology major Skadi Kylander and Dr. Dame installing Prothonotary Warbler houses at TGOW winter 2021. (Above) Late March 2022.

Chowan will continue visual bird surveys and initiate acoustic surveys (including for bats) during the upcoming 2022 field season.

Photos By Bo Dame Chowan University



(Left) General Observations of North Boundary Creek—Dr. Bo Dame Chowan University

- The valley in most places is relatively broad and bounded by steep sides. Along its length the valley contains intermittent stretches of herbaceous marsh with scattered trees. The dominant marsh plants are native with the most common being what appears to be smartweed (*Polygonum sp.*) with lesser numbers of rushes (e.g. *Juncus sp.*), sedges (e.g. *Eleocharis sp.*), and cattails (*Typha sp.*). A few examples of sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*) are also present. The trees are also mostly native and consist of black willow (*Salix nigra*) and a few black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) in wetter areas, and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) in less wet areas. Where present the marsh mostly spans the entire width of the valley and appears to be underlain by clay.
- In several areas the marsh gives way to forest. One significant forested area is roughly half way between the roadside ponds and the creek's headwaters, and another is at the lower end of the creek at its outlet to the Sound.
- Invasive species noted include privet (*Ligustrum sp.*) and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Surprisingly, alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) has not been observed but could be present.
- A well-established, incised channel exists along approximately 1/3 of the valley's length.
- We observed aquatic rodents, possibly muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), but have not found evidence of beaver activity. However we did find what appears to be a small earthen berm extending across the valley floor, and an old culvert in a separate area. Apparently, there have been previous attempts to manage water levels in the drainage.
- A diverse bird community utilizes the drainage including prothonotary warblers, common yellowthroat, and white-eyed vireos. Anurans observed or heard include: green frog (*Lithobates clamitans*), cricket frog (*Acris sp.*), and southern leopard frog (*Lithobates sphenocphala*). Fish taxa observed or trapped to date include: mosquitofish (*Gambusia sp.*), redbfin pickerel (*Esox americanus americanus*), and juvenile yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*).

(Right) Proposed style of wetlands boardwalk along the 7 miles of hiking trail.



Wetland Boardwalk at Merchant's Millpond

