

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

# Fifth Annual Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation Monitoring Report





Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC

VHB Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. 8043 Cooper Creek Boulevard Suite 201 University Park, Florida 34201 941.351.8986

## **Table of Contents**

Table of Contents	i
List of Figures	ii
List of Tables	iii
Background	1
Site & Methods	6
North Mitigation Area	6
South Mitigation Area	9
Southwest Wedge Wetland	9
Relocated Archie Creek	9
Methods	11
Results	13
Hydrology	
Vegetation Monitoring Results	
North Mitigation Area Vegetation	
Herbaceous	
South Mitigation Vegetation	
Herbaceous	
Trees	22
Archie Creek Herbaceous Stream Vegetation	23
Archie Creek Forested Wetland	
Herbaceous	
Trees	27
Southwest Wedge Wetland	
Herbaceous	
Trees	
Wildlife	
Summary	43

\\FLSADATA\projects\65891.00 Archie Ck Mit Monitorng\reports\Annual 2011\Archie Creek Mitigation Monitoring Annual Report 2011.docx

## **List of Figures**

Figure 1	Archie Creek Project Site	7
Figure 2	East Archie Creek Transect and Photostation Locations	8
Figure 3	South and West Archie Creek Transect and Photostation Locations	10
Figure 4	Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation Water Levels	14

\\FLSADATA\projects\65891.00 Archie Ck Mit Monitorng\reports\Annual 2011\Archie Creek Mitigation Monitoring Annual Report 2011.docx

## **List of Tables**

Table 1	Summary of Herbaceous Vegetation Data Archie Creek - September 2011	16
Table 2	Herbaceous Vegetation Data by Species for North Mitigation Area - Herbaceous	19
Table 3	Herbaceous Vegetation Data by Species for South Mitigation Area - Forested	21
Table 4	Tree Data by Species for South Mitigation Area - Forested	24
Table 5	Herbaceous Vegetation Data by Species for Archie Creek Herbaceous Stream	25
Table 6	Herbaceous Vegetation Data by Species for Archie Creek - Forested	28
Table 7	Tree Data by Species for Archie Creek - Forested	30
Table 8	Herbaceous Vegetation Data by Species – Southwest Wedge - Forested	32
Table 9	Tree Data by Species for Southwest Wedge - Forested	34
Table 10	Additional Vegetation Species Observed	35
Table 11	Wildlife Observations	40

Appendix A: Photostation Photography

\\FLSADATA\projects\65891.00 Archie Ck Mit Monitorng\reports\Annual 2011\Archie Creek Mitigation Monitoring Annual Report 2011.docx

## 1

## Background

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County Executive Director's Authorization for Wetland Impacts, October 2000; Florida Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Resource Permit No. 29-01583313-001 and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit No. 199902004 IP-JB, the Archie Creek Relocation and Mitigation was authorized to offset wetland impacts associated with the Riverview Plant Phosphogypsum Stack Expansion for Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC.

Construction of the relocated Archie Creek system resulted in the creation of 20.9 acres of mixed wetland hardwoods, 2.0 acres of freshwater marsh, and 26.6 acres of creek/flow-way, for a total of 49.5 acres of created wetland habitat. Mitigation construction was completed in September 2006.

All areas were planted in accordance with applicable permit conditions, with Archie Creek plantings completed in June 2006. Both North and South mitigation areas were planted throughout July and August and into early September. All herbaceous species were two-inch pot or bare root material on three foot centers, with a few areas of higher planting densities. Shrub species were one-gallon pot material installed on five-foot centers, with occasional variations in spatial distribution to conform to localized field conditions. Tree species were planted as three-gallon pot material or equivalent root-ball averaging ten-foot centers. A planting completion report was submitted to all Restoration Reviewing Agency (RRA) members during the RRA meeting on October 12, 2006.

During the September 29, 2010 annual RRA meeting, it was acknowledged prolonged elevated water levels within the North Mitigation Area had resulted in mortality of a significant proportion of the tree species and this area was not meeting the above listed criteria. It was agreed Mosaic would investigate the mortality of the wetland trees in the North Mitigation Area and develop an alternative plan as part of the adaptive management approach to satisfy the intent of permit conditions. To this end, VHB developed an Alternative Mitigation Plan, (Plan) based on the adaptive management approach implemented for this mitigation project. The Plan utilizes existing areas suitable for the successful establishment of wetland trees to expand the forested component of the mitigation area and incorporates the suggestions and recommendations provided by representatives of the RRA during a January 6, 2011 work session at the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission. The Plan was reviewed and approved by the RRA members.

Installation of tree and herbaceous material was conducted between July 27, 2011 and August 12, 2011. All plants were installed according to the specifications provided in the Archie Creek Alternative Mitigation Plan and, prior to installation, all material was inspected for quality by a VHB biologist familiar with the site and the planting requirements. The following table provides the locations, species and numbers of all trees and herbaceous plants installed.

Tree Species	Common Name	Number	Size	Spacing
Acer rubrum	Red maple	59	3 Gallon	9 ft. center
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	29	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	29	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay	59	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Ulmus americana	America elm	59	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Total Trees		235		
Herbaceous Species	Common Name	Number	Size	Spacing
Juncus effusus	Softrush	400	Bare root	4 ft. center
Nuphar advena	Spadderdock	117	Bare root	6 ft. center
Nymphaea elegans	Blue waterlily	117	Bare root	6 ft. center
Nymphaea odorata	White waterlily	117	Bare root	6 ft. center
Panicum hemitomon	Maidencane	400	Bare root	4 ft. center
Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed	400	Bare root	4 ft. center
Sagittaria latifolia	Duck potato	400	Bare root	4 ft. center
Scirpus tabernaemontani	Bulrush	150	Bare root	4 ft. center
Thalia geniculata	Alligator flag	150	Bare root	4 ft. center
Total Herbaceous		2,251		

#### North Mitigation Area - Installed Tree and Herbaceous Species

Tree Species	Common Name	Number	Size	Spacing
Acer rubrum	Red maple	526	3 Gallon	9 ft. center
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	263	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Fraxinus caroliniana	Pop ash	1,117	3 Gallon	9 ft. center
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	263	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay	526	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Taxodium distichum	Bald cypress	1,117	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Ulmus americana	America elm	526	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Total Trees		4,338		

Archie Creek Forested Wetland - Installed Tree Species

South Mitigation Area - Installed Tree and Herbaceous Species

Tree Species	Common Name	Number	Size	Spacing
Acer rubrum	Red maple	21	3 Gallon	9 ft. center
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	11	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Fraxinus caroliniana	Pop ash	655	3 Gallon	9 ft. center
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	11	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay	21	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Taxodium distichum	Bald cypress	655	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Ulmus americana	America elm	21	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Total Trees		1,395		
		37 1	<b>~</b> !	<b>•</b> •

Herbaceous Species	Common Name	Number	Size	Spacing
Nuphar advena	Spadderdock	883	Bare root	6 ft. center
Nymphaea elegans	Blue waterlily	883	Bare root	6 ft. center
Nymphaea odorata	White waterlily	883	Bare root	6 ft. center
Total Herbaceous		2,649		

#### Southwest Wedge Wetland - Installed Tree Species

Species	Common Name	Number	Size	Spacing
Acer rubrum	Red maple	94	3 Gallon	9 ft. center
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	47	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Fraxinus caroliniana	Pop ash	128	3 Gallon	9 ft. center
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	47	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay	94	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Taxodium distichum	Bald cypress	128	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Ulmus americana	America elm	94	1 Gallon	9 ft. center
Total		632		

A planting completion report was submitted to all RRA members on September 8, 2011. Comments on the planting completion report were provided by RRA members during the Annual RRA meeting of October 6, 2011 and a final revised report was submitted to all RRA members at the meeting.

The restored Archie Creek and associated mitigation areas will be considered successful when the following criteria are met:

- A. Upland and wetland areas are dominated by native, desirable species.
- B. Upland areas have developed a pyrogenic vegetative community that can be managed primarily by prescribed burning.
- C. An ecologically significant increase in utilization by wildlife is reflected through scheduled monitoring and other recorded observations.
- D. Exotic or nuisance species are present at sufficiently low levels as to not inhibit the growth and propagation of native species.

In assessing the achievement of these goals, quantifiable criteria that reflect the flexible nature of the project will be considered. These criteria shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Density of trees and total vegetative cover (canopy and groundcover) in forested wetland creation areas equivalent to that of similar natural systems (approximately 400 trees per acre and 70% total vegetative cover) and an indication of active growth of planted trees.
- B. Total vegetative cover (shrub and groundcover) in herbaceous wetland creation and restoration area equivalent to that of similar natural systems (approximately 85% vegetative cover).
- C. At a minimum, vegetative cover by exotic/nuisance vegetation shall be maintained at a level of less than 10%. Species targeted for control are generally those found on the current Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council list, with greater emphasis on species identified in Categories I and II of that listing. Control will be applied in a manner appropriate for meeting the long-term management goals
- D. The wetland creation areas have been inspected by a member of the appropriate regulatory staff and determined to be within the landward extent of waters of the State pursuant to Chapter 62-340, F.A.C.

Required monitoring for mitigation success began with a time-zero report in September 2006, followed by quarterly qualitative monitoring each quarter thereafter, annual quantitative monitoring, and comprehensive annual reporting. Following implementation of the Alternative Mitigation Plan, a second time zero report was submitted to address the supplemental planting event conducted in July 2011. This document is the Fifth Annual Mitigation Monitoring Report and provides monitoring data for all areas included in the Alternative Mitigation Plan, as well as all areas originally included in previous monitoring reports.

### Site & Methods

The Archie Creek Relocation and Mitigation site is located just upstream of tidally influenced Archie Creek adjacent to Mosaic's phosphogypsum Stack Buffer parcels in Riverview, Hillsborough County, Florida. The site illustrated in **Figure 1** includes a portion of Archie Creek between U.S. Route 41 and Old U.S. Route 41 extending upstream to the original Archie Creek channel. Two created wetland areas adjacent to the relocated channel designated North and South Mitigation Areas, are separated from the channel at low flows but are connected at higher flows through control structures.

Qualitative monitoring consists of quarterly visual inspection of all mitigation areas for installed and naturally recruited plant health, survival, approximate cover, and degree of exotic/nuisance invasion. Annual quantitative monitoring is a more comprehensive assessment as described below for each of the mitigation areas.

#### North Mitigation Area

The North Mitigation Area, (formerly referred to as *Mitigation Area 2* in permit documents), was originally designed as a 5.5 acre mixed wetland hardwood creation area. Although this area developed into a stabilized healthy deep marsh system, sustained water levels have been too high for the development of a forested wetland community. In response, the North Mitigation Area was redesignated as an herbaceous wetland with a forested fringe. Monitoring in this area occurs along a permanent transect (Transect A). Wetland habitats and monitoring station locations are graphically depicted in **Figure 2**. Herbaceous monitoring includes assessment of species cover by percent aerial contribution in one-square-meter quadrats along this fixed transect. Water levels are recorded at two-hour intervals within the site by a piezometer-datalogger unit located near the northwest corner of the wetland.

Path: 'Ifsedata/projects/85891.00 Archie Ck. Mit Monitorrg/GIS/Project/Archie Creek Site Plan - Figure 1.mxd





September 2011



vitti vanasse Hangen Denslitn, Inc.

Archie Creek Hillsborough County, Florida

Figure 2 East Archie Creek **Transect and Photostation Locations**  September 2011

#### South Mitigation Area

The South Mitigation Area (formerly referred to as *Mitigation Area 5* in permit documents) includes 12.3 acres of created mixed forested wetland as well as a 2.7 acre freshwater marsh area within the center of the wetland designed for perennial flooding (**Figure 2**). Monitoring for this site utilizes two transects (Transects B and C) along which herbaceous cover, tree density and canopy cover are monitored. Water levels are recorded at 2-hour intervals within the site by a piezometer-datalogger unit located in the deepest zone of the wetland.

#### Southwest Wedge Wetland

The Southwest Wedge Wetland consists of 1.2 acres of created mixed forested wetland. It is located to the southwest of the South Mitigation Area and was previously not included in the monitoring (**Figure 2**). As part of the Alternative Mitigation Plan, this area was planted with wetland trees to provide forested wetland acreage towards the fulfillment of permit requirements. Monitoring for this site utilizes one transect (Transect J) along which herbaceous cover, tree density and canopy cover are monitored.

#### **Relocated Archie Creek**

The relocated Archie Creek includes 26.6 acres of constructed flow-way maintained as three stepped pools by a series of low weirs and a broad-bottomed box culvert under Old U.S. 41. Initially the creek was designed as an herbaceous system with a few areas in which trees were planted on the banks to maintain continuity with adjacent forested wetland restoration areas. As part of the Alternative Mitigation Plan, wetland trees were installed within approximately 8.1 acres along the banks of the creek including the berm which separates the North Mitigation Area from the relocated creek bed (**Figures 2 and 3**). Herbaceous portions of the creek have historically been monitored along four transects within the creek (Transects D, E, F and G). Forested portions of the creek are also monitored utilizing four transects (Transects H, I, K and L) along which herbaceous cover, tree density and canopy cover are monitored. Water levels are recorded at 2-hour intervals within the creek channel at the downstream end of the upper pool by a piezometer-datalogger unit located in the channel. Archie Creek monitoring locations are depicted in **Figures 2 and 3**.



Figure 3 South & West Archie Creek Transect and Photostation Locations

#### Methods

A total of twelve transects were established within the restored wetlands of the Archie Creek Relocation and Mitigation Areas for the purpose of vegetation data collection. Transect locations are graphically depicted in **Figures 2 and 3**.

Wetland	Transect	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)
North Mitigation Area	А	Herbaceous	107	N/A
South Mitigation Area	В	Forested	97	10
	В	Herbaceous	39	N/A
	С	Forested	108	10
Southwest Wedge Wetland	J	Forested	50	10
Archie Creek	D	Herbaceous	25	N/A
	Е	Herbaceous	25	N/A
	F	Herbaceous	40	N/A
	G	Herbaceous	20	N/A
	Н	Forested	25	5
	Ι	Forested	25	5
	Κ	Forested	25	5
	L	Forested	25	5

Transect details are as follows:

Herbaceous monitoring transects were permanently marked in the field with PVC poles ten feet in length and anchored on rebar. Transect markers were placed at the beginning, at the end and at intermediate quadrat locations, as appropriate.

Forested wetland areas within the South Mitigation Area and the Southwest Wedge Wetland were monitored with belt transects ten meters (32.8 feet) in width. Forested areas along Archie Creek were monitored utilizing belt transects five meters (16.4 feet) in width. One side of the forested monitoring transects were permanently marked in the field with PVC poles ten feet in length and anchored on rebar. Transect markers were placed at the beginning, at the end and at intermediate locations, as appropriate.

Groundcover, defined as herbaceous and/or woody species less than eighteen inches in height, was monitored utilizing the square-meter sampling methodology (Bonham 1989). Square-meter quadrats were spaced at intervals along the length of each transect. Cover of each groundcover species rooted within each quadrat was recorded. Creeping and matting species were included if the shoots were rooted within the quadrat. Cover of open water and bare ground / dead vegetation in each quadrat was also recorded. Data for all quadrats in each wetland were combined to determine the dominant (most abundant) species within each monitored area. Total and relative cover of groundcover species were calculated using the following formulas:

```
Total Cover (%) = 

<u>Combined Cover of a Particular Species for the Wetland</u>

Total # of Quadrats in Sample Area
```

```
Relative Cover (%) = 

<u>Total Cover of a Particular Species</u>

Total Cover of All Vegetation
```

Trees located within the belt transects were identified by species and counted to calculate density (trees per acre). Tree density within the belt transects was determined using the following formula:

Tree Density (tpa) =  $\frac{\# of Trees in Belt Transects}{Area of Belt Transects (ac.)}$ 

Height and canopy diameter were measured and recorded for each tree within the transect. Canopy cover for forested species was calculated using the following formulas:

Canopy Area  $(m^2) = \Pi (D/2)^2$ 

Percent Canopy Cover =  $\frac{Total Canopy Area (m^2)}{Area of Belt Transect (m^2)} \times 100$ 

D = Diameter of Canopy (m)

Depth of water or soil moisture conditions at each quadrat location was also recorded. Additional vegetation species observed within each wetland area and not identified within the quadrats were noted. Photographs were taken from fixed photostations located throughout the project area. Photostation locations are depicted in **Figures 2 and 3**. All observed vertebrate wildlife species and aquatic invertebrate species were documented.

Taxonomy and nomenclature for all plant species identified during this survey follow Wunderlin and Hansen (2008).

## 3

### Results

The results of monitoring events presented herein include quantitative vegetation data from the September 2011 monitoring event, hydrology data from September 2010 through September 2011 and relevant observations made during qualitative monitoring events in December 2010, March 2011, and June 2011. Photography from fixed photostations is provided in **Appendix A**.

#### Hydrology

Surface hydrology within the creek and mitigation wetlands was recorded onsite by three water level recorders as previously described. In response to a request during the 2010 RRA site meeting, the water level recorders were surveyed by professional surveyors to establish reference elevations for comparison of creek and mitigation area water levels. **Figure 4** summarizes the water levels relative to ground at piezometer location in inches for the period September 1, 2010 through September 1, 2011. Surface water level trends were similar throughout the mitigation areas with comparable drawdown and rainevent responses.

Calculated hydroperiods as percent of time inundated at each data logger location based on 2-hour intervals from September 2010 to September 2011 are as follows: North Mitigation Area – 100%, South Mitigation Area – 87.0%, Archie Creek – 97.4%. These hydroperiods fall within the range of hydroperiods for a variety of natural wetland systems within Hillsborough County. Although calculated hydroperiods at two data logger locations were less than 100%, lower areas within each wetland area remained inundated throughout the year.

These results indicate the Relocated Archie Creek and associated mitigation areas function hydrologically as wetlands.





#### Figure 4. Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation Water Levels

14



Figure 4. Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation Waters Levels (continued)

#### **Vegetation Monitoring Results**

Quantitative monitoring of the restored wetlands within the Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation was conducted on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Weather conditions at the time of monitoring consisted of temperatures in the low 90s with clear skies. A summary of the groundcover and water level data collected for all wetlands during this quantitative monitoring event is included as **Table 1**.

Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC - Archie Creek F	Relocation Mitigation	on
Table 1 Summary of Herbaceous Vegetation Data Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event,	September 2011	
Species Classification	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
North Mitigation Area - Herbaceous		
Total Groundcover	93.5	100.0
Wetland Species (FAC or wetter)	93.5	100.0
Upland Species	0.0	0.0
Nuisance and Invasive Exotic Species	0.0	0.0
Open Water	8.2	N/A
Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation	0.0	N/A
Average Water Depth (Range) (cm)	51.3 (30 - 80)	
South Mitigation Area - Herbaceous		
Total Groundcover	0.0	0.0
Wetland Species (FAC or wetter)	0.0	0.0
Upland Species	0.0	0.0
Nuisance and Invasive Exotic Species	0.0	0.0
Open Water	100.0	N/A
Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation	0.0	N/A
Average Water Depth (Range) (cm)	76.7 (68 - 90)	
South Mitigation Area - Forested		
Total Groundcover	99.9	100.0
Wetland Species (FAC or wetter)	90.1	90.2
Upland Species	9.8	9.8
Nuisance and Invasive Exotic Species	22.5	22.5
Open Water	11.9	N/A
Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation	0.0	N/A
Average Water Depth (Range) (cm)	19.9 (	2 - 45)

## Table 1 (continued)Summary of Herbaceous Vegetation DataFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

Species Classification	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
Archie Creek - Herbaceous Stream		
Total Groundcover	93.3	100.0
Wetland Species (FAC or wetter)	93.3	100.0
Upland Species	0.0	0.0
Nuisance and Invasive Exotic Species	32.5	34.9
Open Water	10.7	N/A
Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation	1.7	N/A
Average Water Depth (Range) (cm)	33.1 (2	2 - 80)
Archie Creek - Forested		
Total Groundcover	102.9	100.0
Wetland Species (FAC or wetter)	80.5	78.2
Upland Species	22.4	21.8
Nuisance and Invasive Exotic Species	0.9	0.9
Open Water	0.0	N/A
Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation	2.2	N/A
Average Water Depth (Range) (cm)	0.8 (0	9 - 10)
Southwest Wedge - Forested		
Total Groundcover	97.6	100.0
Wetland Species (FAC or wetter)	74.6	76.4
Upland Species	23.0	23.6
Nuisance and Invasive Exotic Species	8.6	8.8
Open Water	1.2	N/A
Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation	2.4	N/A
Average Water Depth (Range) (cm)	4.6 (0 - 10)	

#### North Mitigation Area Vegetation

#### Herbaceous

The herbaceous plant community within the North Mitigation Area may be described as typical marsh vegetation with transitional zones dominated by wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*), grading into Carolina willow (*Salix caroliniana*) and smartweeds (*Polygonum* spp.) and progressing into deep marsh dominated by bulltongue arrowhead (*Sagittaria lancifolia*) and other emergent species. Visual estimates of overall herbaceous cover for the entire wetland have increased from approximately 70% following planting, to approximately 90% during September 2011.

Quantitative monitoring data collected within the North Mitigation Area in September 2011 is summarized in **Table 2**. Five vegetation species were identified within the sampling quadrats providing a total cover of 93.5%. The relative contribution by wetland species, National Wetland Inventory (NWI) status of facultative wetland (FAC) through obligate wetland (OBL) totaled 100%. No nuisance or invasive exotic species were sampled within the North Mitigation Area during this monitoring event.

This wetland has stabilized to a healthy deep marsh community dominated by bulltongue arrowhead, smartweed and Carolina willow with minimal cover provided by nuisance or invasive exotic species. Several stands of other species typical to deep marshes were observed within the wetland including sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*), alligatorflag (*Thalia geniculata*) and softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*). Recently planted spadderdock (*Nuphar advena*) and American white waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*) appeared healthy and were observed in flower during this monitoring event. Additional community structure is provided by common buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), pop ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*).

Nuisance or invasive exotic species observed on-site and scheduled for targeted removal included alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), cattail (*Typha* sp.) and torpedograss (*Panicum repens*), all of which were present in trace amounts within the wetland. Potential nuisance species present within the wetland but not currently targeted for removal include Carolina willow. This species currently provides important structure and wildlife habitat functions within the mitigation area and will be targeted only if growth and aerial cover inhibit growth and spread of other desirable species.

Water levels recorded at quadrat locations within the North Mitigation Area ranged from thirty to eighty centimeters and averaged 51.3 centimeters in depth. At the time of this monitoring event, the entire wetland was inundated. The existing hydrology appeared to be sufficient to support a typical deep marsh system.

#### Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC - Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation

#### Table 2

Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - North Mitigation Area - Herbaceous Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

-	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
-	Cladium jamaicense	Sawgrass	OBL	1.7	1.8
*	Polygonum hydropiperoides	Mild waterpepper	OBL	11.0	11.8
*	Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed	OBL	6.7	7.1
*	Sagittaria lancifolia	Bulltongue arrowhead	OBL	59.2	63.3
	Salix caroliniana	Carolina willow	OBL	15.0	16.0
_	Total Ground Cover			93.5	100.0
	Total Wetland Species			93.5	100.0
	Total Upland Species			0.0	0.0
	Total of Nuisance / Exotic Species			0.0	0.0
	Open Water			8.2	N/A
-	Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation			0.0	N/A

\*Species observed in fruit or flower: 3

#### **South Mitigation Vegetation**

#### Herbaceous

The herbaceous plant community within the South Mitigation Area may be described as typical wetland vegetation, with transitional zones dominated by sand cordgrass and other wetland grasses. Deeper zones grade into a well-developed interior dominated by bulltongue arrowhead, pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) and knotted spikerush (*Eleocharis interstincta*). The central herbaceous area, once dominated by various species of waterlily, has transitioned to open water. As part of the planting event associated with the Alternative Mitigation Plan, 2,649 waterlilies were planted within this open water area. Planted species consisted of spadderdock, American white waterlily and tropical royalblue

waterlily (*Nymphaea elegans*). A visual estimate of herbaceous cover for the entire wetland was 80% at the time of this monitoring event.

Quantitative monitoring data collected within the forested portion of the South Mitigation Area in September 2011 is summarized in **Table 3**. Twenty-nine vegetation species were identified within the sampling quadrats providing a total cover of 99.9%. The relative contribution by wetland species, NWI status of FAC through OBL totaled 90.2%. Nuisance and invasive exotic species provided a total cover of 22.5% and consisted primarily of torpedograss.

The majority of desirable coverage within the forested portion of the South Mitigation Area was contributed by planted species but a contribution of cover from naturally recruited species was also noted, including species such as winged loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum* var. *lanceolatum*) and fall panicgrass (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*).

No plant species were sampled within the quadrats located in the herbaceous portion of the South Mitigation Area and observed herbaceous cover was approximately 10%. Dominant species included pickerelweed, knotted spikerush and American white waterlily. Planted waterlily species appeared healthy, and American white waterlily and spadderdock were observed in flower at the time of this monitoring event.

Invasive exotic species observed on-site and scheduled for targeted removal included torpedograss, alligatorweed and water-lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*). Potential nuisance species not currently targeted for removal include climbing hempvine (*Mikania scandens*) and Carolina willow. These species currently provide important structure and wildlife habitat functions within the mitigation area and will be targeted only if cover becomes high enough to inhibit growth and spread of desirable species.

#### Table 3

Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - South Mitigation Area - Forested Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
*	Aeschynomene indica	Indian jointvetch	FACW+	0.2	0.2
*	Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligatorweed	OBL (2)	0.4	0.4
*	Ammannia coccinea	Scarlet ammannia	FACW+	0.1	0.1
	Bidens laevis	Burrmarigold	OBL	0.4	0.4
*	Cephalanthus occidentalis	Common buttonbush	OBL	11.0	11.0
*	Cynodon dactylon	Bermudagrass	FACU	9.8	9.8
*	Cyperus distinctus	Swamp flatsedge	FACW	0.1	0.1
*	Cyperus lecontei	Leconte's flatsedge	FACW	0.4	0.4
*	Echinochloa walteri	Coast cockspur	OBL	0.5	0.5
	Eleocharis interstincta	Knotted spikerush	OBL	0.1	0.1
	Hydrocotyle umbellata	Manyflower marshpennywort	OBL	0.4	0.4
	Lemna obscura	Little duckweed	OBL	0.1	0.1
*	Ludwigia leptocarpa	Anglestem primrosewillow	OBL	0.2	0.2
*	Ludwigia octovalvis	Mexican primrosewillow	OBL	1.0	1.0
	Ludwigia repens	Creeping primrosewillow	OBL	0.3	0.3
*	Lythrum alatum var. lanceolatum	Winged loosestrife	FACW+	0.1	0.1
*	Mikania scandens	Climbing hempvine	FACW+ (3)	0.1	0.1
*	Panicum dichotomiflorum	Fall panicgrass	FACW	0.9	0.9
	Panicum hemitomon	Maidencane	OBL	0.4	0.4
*	Panicum repens	Torpedograss	FACW- (1)	20.1	20.1
*	Phyla nodiflora	Turkey tangle fogfruit	FACW	0.1	0.1
	Pistia stratiotes	Water-lettuce	OBL (1)	1.9	1.9
*	Pluchea odorata	Sweetscent	FACW	0.2	0.2
*	Polygonum hydropiperoides	Mild waterpepper	OBL	3.2	3.2
*	Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed	OBL	0.4	0.4
*	Sagittaria lancifolia	Bulltongue arrowhead	OBL	33.4	33.5
*	Setaria parviflora	Knotroot foxtail	FAC	0.1	0.1

## Table 3 (continued)Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - South Mitigation Area - ForestedFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
	Spartina bakeri	Sand cordgrass	FACW+	12.9	12.9
ł	Thalia geniculata	Alligatorflag	OBL	1.4	1.4
	Total Ground Cover			99.9	100.0
	Total Wetland Species			90.1	90.2
	Total Upland Species			9.8	9.8
Total of Nuisance / Exotic Species Open Water				22.5	22.5
				11.9	N/A
	Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation			0.0	N/A

\*Species observed in fruit or flower: 21

(1) - FLEPCC Category I Invasive Exotic

(2) - FLEPCC Category II Invasive Exotic

(3) - Commonly Identified Nuisance Species

Water levels recorded at quadrat locations within the forested portion of the South Mitigation Area ranged from two to forty-five centimeters and averaged 19.9 centimeters in depth. At the time of this monitoring event, the entire wetland was inundated. The existing hydrology appeared to be appropriate to support a mixed wetland hardwood forest. Water levels recorded at quadrat locations within the herbaceous portion of the South Mitigation Area ranged from sixty-eight to ninety centimeters and averaged 76.7 centimeters in depth. The existing hydrology appeared to be sufficient to support an emergent deep marsh system.

#### Trees

Tree data collected within the South Mitigation Area during the current quantitative monitoring event is presented in **Table 4**. Four (4) wetland tree species were identified within the forested portion of the South Mitigation Area. A total of 147 wetland trees were counted providing a density of 291 trees per

acre. Average height of all trees was 2.7 meters (8.9 feet), and canopy cover was measured at 7.9%. Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) was the dominant tree species providing a density of 166 trees per acre. All trees appeared healthy at the time of this monitoring event.

#### Archie Creek Herbaceous Stream Vegetation

The plant community within the Archie Creek Herbaceous Stream progresses from transitional wetland vegetation such as sand cordgrass and manyflower marshpennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*) at the upper edges to species typical of a deep marsh such as pickerelweed and bulltongue arrowhead in the lower areas of the channel. The center of the channel is primarily open water with floating and submerged aquatic plant species providing some cover. Although many areas exhibit vegetation cover exceeding 90%, herbaceous cover of the entire creek area was estimated at 70%.

Quantitative monitoring data collected within the herbaceous portions of the relocated Archie Creek in September 2011 is summarized in **Table 5**. Twentynine vegetation species were identified within the sampling quadrats providing a total cover of 93.3%. The relative contribution by wetland species, NWI status of FAC through OBL was 100%. Nuisance and invasive exotic species provided a total cover of 32.5%, consisting primarily of hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*).

The dominant non-nuisance species within the Archie Creek Herbaceous Stream were knotted spikerush, mild waterpepper (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*) and bulltongue arrowhead. Although not necessarily represented in the monitoring data, significant colonization by recruited coast cockspur (*Echinochloa walteri*), bearded sprangletop (*Leptochloa fusca* subsp. *fascicularis*) and denseflower knotweed (*Polygonum glabrum*) was observed throughout the stream system.

Exotic species present on-site and scheduled for targeted removal include torpedograss, alligatorweed and hydrilla. Potential nuisance species observed but not currently targeted for removal included climbing hempvine. These species will be targeted only if the aerial cover inhibits growth and spread of desirable species.

Water levels recorded at quadrat locations within the Archie Creek Herbaceous Stream ranged from two to eighty centimeters and averaged 33.1 centimeters in depth. At the time of this monitoring event, the entire stream channel was inundated. Although flow rates were very slow within the deep pools of the stream, water flow was observed throughout the entire system. The existing hydrology appeared to be appropriate to support an herbaceous stream system.

#### Table 4

Tree Data By Species - South Mitigation Area - Forested Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Number	Density (Trees/Acre)	Average Height (m)	Total Canopy (m <sup>2</sup> )	Canopy Cover (%)	Percent Composition
Acer rubrum	Red maple	OBL	13	26	1.9	13.8	0.7	8.8%
Fraxinus caroliniana	Pop ash	OBL	47	93	3.1	95.3	4.7	32.0%
Taxodium distichum	Bald-cypress	OBL	84	166	2.6	48.0	2.3	57.1%
Ulmus americana	American elm	FACW	3	6	2.7	5.6	0.3	2.0%
	TOTALS		147	291	2.7	162.7	7.9	100.0%

#### Table 5

Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - Archie Creek Herbaceous Stream Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
*	Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligatorweed	OBL (2)	5.4	5.8
*	Ammannia coccinea	Scarlet ammannia	FACW+	3.5	3.8
	Azolla filiculoides	American waterfern	OBL	3.4	3.7
*	Cyperus distinctus	Swamp flatsedge	FACW	0.3	0.4
*	Cyperus surinamensis	Tropical flatsedge	FACW	0.1	0.1
*	Echinochloa walteri	Coast cockspur	OBL	0.1	0.1
*	Eclipta prostrata	False daisy	FACW-	0.1	0.1
	Eleocharis interstincta	Knotted spikerush	OBL	6.1	6.5
	Hydrilla verticillata	Hydrilla	OBL (1)	15.7	16.8
	Hydrocotyle umbellata	Manyflower marshpennywort	OBL	0.2	0.2
	Lemna obscura	Little duckweed	OBL	3.4	3.7
*	Ludwigia leptocarpa	Anglestem primrosewillow	OBL	2.5	2.7
*	Ludwigia octovalvis	Mexican primrosewillow	OBL	0.3	0.3
	Ludwigia repens	Creeping primrosewillow	OBL	6.3	6.7
*	Mikania scandens	Climbing hempvine	FACW+ (3)	0.2	0.2
	Myriophyllum aquaticum	Parrot feather watermilfoil	OBL	0.1	0.1
*	Panicum dichotomiflorum	Fall panicgrass	FACW	0.8	0.9
*	Panicum repens	Torpedograss	FACW- (1)	9.6	10.3
*	Paspalum acuminatum	Brook crowngrass	OBL	0.1	0.1
*	Pluchea odorata	Sweetscent	FACW	0.2	0.2
*	Polygonum glabrum	Denseflower knotweed	OBL	5.8	6.3
*	Polygonum hydropiperoides	Mild waterpepper	OBL	13.3	14.3
*	Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed	OBL	1.5	1.6
*	Sagittaria lancifolia	Bulltongue arrowhead	OBL	12.0	12.9
	Salvinia minima	Water spangles	OBL (1)	0.8	0.9
*	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Softstem bulrush	OBL	0.3	0.3

## Table 5 (continued)Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - Archie Creek Herbaceous StreamFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
*	Symphyotrichum bahamense	Bahaman aster	OBL	0.3	0.4
	Taxodium distichum	Bald-cypress	OBL	0.2	0.2
*	<i>Typha</i> sp.	Cattail	OBL (3)	0.8	0.9
	Total Ground Cover			93.3	100.0
	Total Wetland Species			93.3	100.0
	Total Upland Species			0.0	0.0
	Total of Nuisance / Exotic Speci	es		32.5	34.9
	Open Water			10.7	N/A
-	Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation			1.7	N/A

\*Species observed in fruit or flower: 20

(1) - FLEPCC Category I Invasive Exotic

(2) - FLEPCC Category II Invasive Exotic

(3) - Commonly Identified Nuisance Species

#### Archie Creek Forested Wetland

#### Herbaceous

The herbaceous plant community within the Archie Creek Forested Wetland may be described as transitional wetland vegetation dominated by sand cordgrass and bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*). Some of the lower portions progress to deeper wetland species such as soft rush (*Juncus effusus* subsp. *solutus*) and American cupscale (*Sacciolepis striata*). Due to this area exhibiting hydrology sufficient to support wetland trees, it was planted as part of the Alternative Mitigation Plan to partially satisfy the permit requirements for forested wetland acreage. A visual estimate of herbaceous cover for the entire wetland was 100% at the time of this monitoring event.

Quantitative monitoring data collected within the Archie Creek Forested Wetland in September 2011 is summarized in **Table 6**. Fifty-five vegetation

species were identified within the sampling quadrats providing a total cover of 102.9%. Herbaceous cover is greater than 100% due to the overlap of multiple vegetation strata. The relative contribution by wetland species, NWI status of FAC through OBL, totaled 78.2%. Nuisance and invasive exotic species provided a total cover of 0.9%, consisting primarily of climbing hempvine.

Sand cordgrass was the dominant species within the Archie Creek Forested Wetland. However, the majority of desirable cover was provided by naturally recruited species, including bushy bluestem, forked rush (*Juncus dichotomus*) and turkey tangle fogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*). Nuisance and invasive exotic species observed on-site and scheduled for targeted removal included torpedograss and climbing hempvine.

Water levels recorded at quadrat locations within the Archie Creek Forested Wetland ranged from zero to ten centimeters and averaged 0.8 centimeters in depth. Soils at the wetland/upland interface were moist to saturated. Observed soil and hydrology conditions indicated seepage flow from the adjacent uplands into the creek. This seepage is sufficient to support the wetland trees species recently installed within this area.

#### Trees

Tree data collected within the Archie Creek Forested Wetland during the current quantitative monitoring event is presented in **Table 7**. Eight wetland tree species were identified within the forested portion of the relocated Archie Creek. A total of 128 wetland trees were counted providing a density of 1,035 trees per acre. Average height of all trees was 1.0 meters (3.3 feet), and canopy cover was measured at 2.9%. Pop ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) was the dominant tree species providing a density of 405 trees per acre. All trees appeared healthy at the time of this monitoring event. In addition, numerous cabbage palm recruits, which were not counted due to small size, were observed within the transects.

#### Table 6

Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - Archie Creek Forested Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
*	Acalypha gracilens	Slender threeseed mercury	UPL	1.0	1.0
*	Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligatorweed	OBL (2)	0.3	0.3
*	Ammannia coccinea	Scarlet ammannia	FACW+	0.3	0.2
*	Andropogon glomeratus	Bushy bluestem	FACW+	9.2	8.9
*	Andropogon virginicus	Broomsedge bluestem	FAC-	4.2	4.0
*	Axonopus compressus	Tropical carpetgrass	FACW-	0.4	0.4
	Baccharis halimifolia	Groundsel tree	FAC	0.1	0.1
*	Bacopa monnieri	Herb-of-grace	OBL	3.0	2.9
*	Bidens alba	Beggarticks	FACW-	0.1	0.1
*	Chamaecrista nictitans	Sensitive pea	FACU	0.1	0.1
*	Conyza canadensis	Canadian horseweed	FACU	0.5	0.5
*	Coreopsis leavenworthii	Leavenworth's tickseed	FACW	0.4	0.4
*	Crotalaria rotundifolia	Rabbitbells	FACU	0.2	0.2
*	Cynodon dactylon	Cynodon dactylon Bermudagrass		12.1	11.7
*	Cyperus croceus	Baldwin's flatsedge	FAC	0.3	0.2
*	Cyperus distinctus	Swamp flatsedge	FACW	0.2	0.2
*	Cyperus ovatus	Pinebarren flatsedge	FACU+	0.8	0.7
*	Cyperus polystachyos	Manyspike flatsedge	FACW	5.9	5.7
*	Cyperus surinamensis	Tropical flatsedge	FACW	0.7	0.6
*	Digitaria serotina	Dwarf crabgrass	FAC	1.3	1.2
*	Eustachys petraea	Pinewoods fingergrass	FACU-	1.8	1.8
*	Fimbristylis autumnalis	Slender fimbry	OBL	0.4	0.4
*	Fuirena pumila	Dwarf umbrellasedge	OBL	1.7	1.6
*	Heterotheca subaxillaris	Camphorweed	FACU-	0.1	0.1
	Hydrocotyle bonariensis	Largeleaf marshpennywort	FACW	0.3	0.2
	Hydrocotyle umbellata	Manyflower marshpennywort	OBL	5.6	5.4
*	Juncus dichotomus	Forked rush	FACW	7.5	7.3
*	Juncus marginatus	Grassleaf rush	FACW	0.4	0.4
*	Juncus scirpoides	Needlepod rush	FACW+	0.2	0.2
*	Kyllinga pumila	Low spikesedge	FACW	0.1	0.1
*	Ludwigia decurrens	Wingleaf primrosewillow	OBL	0.3	0.2
*	Ludwigia maritima	Seaside primrosewillow	FACW	1.0	1.0

## Table 6 (continued)Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - Archie Creek ForestedFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	cies Common Name		Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
*	Ludwigia octovalvis	Mexican primrosewillow	OBL	0.5	0.5
*	Ludwigia repens	Creeping primrosewillow	OBL	0.4	0.4
*	Lythrum alatum var. lanceolatum	Winged loosestrife	FACW+	0.3	0.2
*	Mikania scandens	Climbing hempvine	FACW+ (3)	0.5	0.5
	Myrica cerifera	Wax myrtle	FAC+	0.1	0.1
*	Oldenlandia uniflora	Clustered mille graines	FACW-	3.1	3.0
*	Panicum dichotomiflorum	Fall panicgrass	FACW	0.5	0.5
*	Phyla nodiflora	Turkey tangle fogfruit	FACW	8.0	7.8
*	Pluchea odorata	Sweetscent	FACW	0.3	0.3
*	Polygonum hydropiperoides	Mild waterpepper	OBL	0.3	0.2
	Rubus pensilvanicus	Sawtooth blackberry	FACU+	1.7	1.6
	Sabal palmetto	Cabbage palm	FAC	0.9	0.9
*	Sacciolepis striata	American cupscale	OBL	0.5	0.5
	Salix caroliniana	Carolina willow	OBL	0.1	0.1
	Salvinia minima	Water spangles	OBL (1)	0.1	0.1
*	Scleria ciliata	Fringed nutrush	FAC	0.4	0.4
*	Scoparia dulcis	Licoriceweed	FAC	0.4	0.4
*	Setaria parviflora	Knotroot foxtail	FAC	2.3	2.2
	Solidago sempervirens	Seaside goldenrod	FACW	0.8	0.7
	Spartina bakeri	Sand cordgrass	FACW+	20.0	19.4
*	Sporobolus indicus	Smutgrass	FACU+	0.1	0.1
*	Symphyotrichum bahamense	Bahaman aster	OBL	1.0	1.0
*	Vigna luteola	Hairypod cowpea	FACW	0.8	0.8
	Total Ground Cover			102.9	100.0
	<b>Total Wetland Species</b>			80.5	78.2
	Total Upland Species			22.4	21.8
	Total of Nuisance / Exotic Species			0.9	0.9
	Open Water			0.0	N/A
	Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation			2.2	N/A

\* Species observed in fruit or flower: 45

(1) - FLEPCC Category I Invasive Exotic

(2) - FLEPCC Category II Invasive Exotic

(3) - Commonly Identified Nuisance Species

#### Table 7

#### Tree Data By Species - Archie Creek - Forested

#### Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Number	Density (Trees/Acre)	Average Height (m)	Total Canopy (m <sup>2</sup> )	Canopy Cover (%)	Percent Composition
Acer rubrum	Red maple	OBL	25	202	1.2	3.3	0.7	19.5%
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	FACW	12	97	0.6	0.4	0.1	9.4%
Diospyros virginiana	Common persimmon	FAC	3	24	0.6	0.4	0.1	2.3%
Fraxinus caroliniana	Pop ash	OBL	50	405	1.3	8.5	1.7	39.1%
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	FAC+	16	129	0.7	0.3	0.1	12.5%
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay	FACW+	10	81	0.7	0.8	0.2	7.8%
Taxodium distichum	Bald-cypress	OBL	8	65	0.9	0.6	0.1	6.3%
Ulmus americana	American elm	FACW	4	32	1.0	0.5	0.1	3.1%
	TOTALS		128	1035	1.0	14.6	2.9	100.0%

#### Southwest Wedge Wetland

#### Herbaceous

The herbaceous plant community within the Southwest Wedge Wetland may be described as wet prairie vegetation dominated by bluestems (*Andropogon* spp.) and nutrushes (*Scleria* spp.), which progressively transitions to deeper wetland species such as American cupscale and marshpennyworts (*Hydrocotyle* spp.). Due to this area exhibiting hydrology sufficient to support wetland tree species, it was planted as part of the Alternative Mitigation Plan to partially satisfy the permit requirements for forested wetland acreage. A visual estimate of herbaceous cover for the entire wetland was 100% at the time of this monitoring event.

Quantitative monitoring data collected within the Southwest Wedge Wetland in September 2011 is summarized in **Table 8**. Forty vegetation species were identified within the sampling quadrats providing a total cover of 97.6%. The relative contribution by wetland species, NWI status of FAC through OBL, totaled 76.4%. Nuisance and invasive exotic species provided a total cover of 8.6%, consisting primarily of torpedograss.

American cupscale and broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*) were the dominant species within the Southwest Wedge Wetland. Much of the desirable cover was provided by naturally recruited species, including manyflower marshpennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*), shade mudflower (*Micranthemum umbrosum*), netted nutrush (*Scleria reticularis*) and turkey tangle fogfruit. Nuisance and invasive exotic species observed on-site and scheduled for targeted removal included cattail, torpedograss and alligatorweed.

Water levels recorded at quadrat locations within the Southwest Wedge Wetland ranged from zero to ten centimeters and averaged 4.6 centimeters in depth. Soils at the wetland/upland interface were moist to saturated. Observed soil and hydrology conditions indicated seepage flow from the adjacent uplands into the creek. This seepage is sufficient to support the wetland trees species recently installed within this area.

#### Trees

Tree data collected within the Southwest Wedge Wetland during the current quantitative monitoring event is presented in **Table 9**. Seven wetland tree species were identified within the transect. A total of 92 wetland trees were counted providing a density of 745 trees per acre. Average height of all trees was 1.1 meters (3.6 feet), and canopy cover was measured at 3.1%. Pop ash was the dominant tree species providing a density of 267 trees per acre. All trees appeared healthy at the time of this monitoring

event. Numerous cabbage palm recruits, which were not counted due to small size, were observed within the wetland.

#### Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC - Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation

#### Table 8

#### Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - Southwest Wedge - Forested Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species Common Name		ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
*	Acalypha gracilens	Slender threeseed mercury	UPL	0.4	0.4
*	Aeschynomene indica	Indian jointvetch	FACW+	0.2	0.2
*	Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligatorweed	OBL (2)	0.2	0.2
*	Andropogon glomeratus	Bushy bluestem	FACW+	2.0	2.0
*	Andropogon virginicus	Broomsedge bluestem	FAC-	20.4	20.9
*	Axonopus compressus	Tropical carpetgrass	FACW-	0.6	0.6
*	Carex longii	Long's sedge	OBL	0.2	0.2
	Centrosema virginianum	Spurred butterfly pea	UPL	0.2	0.2
*	Chamaecrista nictitans	Sensitive pea	FACU	0.6	0.6
*	Coreopsis leavenworthii	Leavenworth's tickseed	FACW	0.6	0.6
*	Cyperus croceus	Baldwin's flatsedge	FAC	0.4	0.4
*	Cyperus ovatus	Pinebarren flatsedge	FACU+	1.0	1.0
*	Cyperus polystachyos	Manyspike flatsedge	FACW	4.4	4.5
*	Diodia virginiana	Virginia buttonweed	FACW	0.2	0.2
	Eupatorium capillifolium	Dogfennel	FACU	0.4	0.4
*	Fimbristylis autumnalis	Slender fimbry	OBL	0.2	0.2
	Hydrocotyle umbellata	Manyflower marshpennywort	OBL	4.8	4.9
*	Juncus dichotomus	Forked rush	FACW	1.0	1.0
*	Juncus megacephalus	Bighead rush	OBL	0.2	0.2
*	Ludwigia microcarpa	Smallfruit primrosewillow	OBL	0.6	0.6
*	Ludwigia octovalvis	Mexican primrosewillow	OBL	1.0	1.0
	Ludwigia repens	Creeping primrosewillow	OBL	0.8	0.8
*	Ludwigia suffruticosa	Shrubby primrosewillow	OBL	0.2	0.2
*	Lythrum alatum var. lanceolatum	Winged loosestrife	FACW+	1.2	1.2
	Micranthemum umbrosum	Shade mudflower	OBL	7.6	7.8
*	Myrica cerifera	Wax myrtle	FAC+	0.2	0.2
*	Oldenlandia uniflora	Clustered mille graines	FACW-	0.4	0.4
*	Panicum dichotomiflorum	Fall panicgrass	FACW	0.2	0.2
*	Panicum hemitomon	Maidencane	OBL	2.0	2.0
*	Panicum repens	Torpedograss	FACW- (1)	8.4	8.6

#### Table 8 (continued)

Herbaceous Vegetation Data By Species - Southwest Wedge - Forested Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Cover (%)	Relative Cover (%)
*	Paspalum laeve	Field paspalum	FACW-	2.0	2.0
*	Phyla nodiflora	Turkey tangle fogfruit	FACW	4.4	4.5
*	Pluchea odorata	Sweetscent	FACW	0.6	0.6
*	Polygonum hydropiperoides	Mild waterpepper	OBL	0.2	0.2
*	Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed	OBL	1.0	1.0
*	Sacciolepis striata	American cupscale	OBL	23.0	23.6
*	Sagittaria lancifolia	Bulltongue arrowhead	OBL	1.0	1.0
*	Scleria reticularis	Netted nutrush	OBL	4.0	4.1
*	Setaria parviflora	Knotroot foxtail	FAC	0.2	0.2
*	Symphyotrichum bahamense	Bahaman aster	OBL	0.6	0.6
	Total Ground Cover			97.6	100.0
	Total Wetland Species			74.6	76.4
	Total Upland Species Total of Nuisance / Exotic Species			23.0	23.6
				8.6	8.8
	Open Water			1.2	N/A
	Bare Ground / Dead Vegetation			2.4	N/A

\* Species observed in fruit or flower: 35

(1) - FLEPCC Category I Invasive Exotic

(2) - FLEPCC Category II Invasive Exotic

#### Table 9

#### Tree Data By Species - Southwest Wedge

#### Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

Species	Common Name	ACOE Status	Total Number	Density (Trees/Acre)	Average Height (m)	Total Canopy (m <sup>2</sup> )	Canopy Cover (%)	Percent Composition
Acer rubrum	Red maple	OBL	18	146	1.1	2.5	0.5	19.6%
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	FACW	3	24	0.8	0.0	0.0	3.3%
Fraxinus caroliniana	Pop ash	OBL	33	267	1.5	7.8	1.6	35.9%
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	FAC+	4	32	0.6	0.0	0.0	4.3%
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay	FACW+	8	65	0.6	0.3	0.1	8.7%
Taxodium distichum	Bald-cypress	OBL	17	138	0.9	1.9	0.4	18.5%
Ulmus americana	American elm	FACW	9	73	1.2	2.9	0.6	9.8%
	TOTALS		92	745	1.1	15.4	3.1	100.0%

**Table 10** provides a list of additional vegetation species observed within each wetland but not identified within the quadrats.

#### Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC - Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation

#### Table 10

#### Additional Vegetation Species Observed Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status
	Archie Creek - Forested		
*	Aeschynomene americana	Shyleaf	FAC
*	Aeschynomene indica	Indian jointvetch	FACW+
*	Boehmeria cylindrica	False nettle	FACW+
	Centrosema virginianum	Spurred butterfly pea	UPL
*	Chamaesyce hyssopifolia	Hyssopleaf sandmat	FAC
*	Cyperus odoratus	Fragrant flatsedge	FACW
*	Eclipta prostrata	False daisy	FACW-
	Eleocharis vivipara	Viviparous spikerush	OBL
	Eupatorium capillifolium	Dogfennel	FACU
*	Gaura angustifolia	Southern beeblossum	UPL
	Indigofera hirsuta	Hairy indigo	UPL
*	Juncus megacephalus	Bighead rush	OBL
*	Leptochloa fusca subsp. fascicularis	Bearded sprangletop	FACW+
*	Ludwigia suffruticosa	Shrubby primrosewillow	OBL
*	Panicum hemitomon	Maidencane	OBL
*	Panicum repens	Torpedograss	FACW- (1)
*	Paspalum notatum	Bahiagrass	FACU+
*	Pluchea baccharis	Rosy camphorweed	FACW
	Archie Creek - Herbaceous Stream		
*	Aeschynomene indica	Indian jointvetch	FACW+
*	Bacopa monnieri	Herb-of-grace	OBL
*	Boehmeria cylindrica	False nettle	FACW+
*	Cyperus odoratus	Fragrant flatsedge	FACW
	Eleocharis vivipara	Viviparous spikerush	OBL
	Eupatorium leptophyllum	Falsefennel	FAC+
	Hydrocotyle ranunculoides	Floating marshpennywort	OBL
*	Juncus effusus subsp. solutus	Soft rush	FACW+
*	Juncus megacephalus	Bighead rush	OBL
*	Leptochloa fusca subsp. fascicularis	Bearded sprangletop	FACW+
*	Ludwigia decurrens	Wingleaf primrosewillow	OBL
*	Ludwigia erecta	Yerba de jicotea	OBL
*	Ludwigia peruviana	Peruvian primrosewillow	OBL (1)
*	Panicum hemitomon	Maidencane	OBL
	Salix caroliniana	Carolina willow	OBL
*	Thalia geniculata	Alligatorflag	OBL

## Table 10 (continued)Additional Vegetation Species ObservedFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status
	North Mitigation Area - Herbaceous		
	Acer rubrum	Red maple	OBL
*	Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligatorweed	OBL (2)
*	Ammannia coccinea	Scarlet ammannia	FACW+
*	Bacopa monnieri	Herb-of-grace	OBL
	Bidens laevis	Burrmarigold	OBL
*	Cephalanthus occidentalis	Common buttonbush	OBL
*	Coreopsis leavenworthii	Leavenworth's tickseed	FACW
*	Diodia virginiana	Virginia buttonweed	FACW
*	Echinochloa walteri	Coast cockspur	OBL
	Eleocharis vivipara	Viviparous spikerush	OBL
	Fraxinus caroliniana	Pop ash	OBL
*	Juncus effusus subsp. solutus	Soft rush	FACW+
*	Leptochloa fusca subsp. fascicularis	Bearded sprangletop	FACW+
*	Myrica cerifera	Wax myrtle	FAC+
	Nuphar advena	Spadderdock	OBL
*	Nymphaea odorata	American white waterlily	OBL
	Nyssa sylvatica var. biflora	Swamp tupelo	OBL
*	Panicum dichotomiflorum	Fall panicgrass	FACW
	Panicum hemitomon	Maidencane	OBL
*	Panicum repens	Torpedograss	FACW- (1)
*	Pluchea odorata	Sweetscent	FACW
*	Sacciolepis striata	American cupscale	OBL
*	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Softstem bulrush	OBL
	Spartina bakeri	Sand cordgrass	FACW+
*	Thalia geniculata	Alligatorflag	OBL
*	<i>Typha</i> sp.	Cattail	OBL (3)
	Ulmus americana	American elm	FACW

#### Table 10 (continued) Additional Vegetation Species Observed Fifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status
	South Mitigation Area - Forested		
*	Amaranthus australis	Southern amaranth	OBL
*	Cyperus odoratus	Fragrant flatsedge	FACW
*	Cyperus surinamensis	Tropical flatsedge	FACW
*	Diodia virginiana	Virginia buttonweed	FACW
	Eleocharis vivipara	Viviparous spikerush	OBL
*	Juncus megacephalus	Bighead rush	OBL
*	Leptochloa fusca subsp. fascicularis	Bearded sprangletop	FACW+
*	Ludwigia decurrens	Wingleaf primrosewillow	OBL
*	Ludwigia peruviana	Peruvian primrosewillow	OBL (1)
*	Myrica cerifera	Wax myrtle	FAC+
*	Polygonum glabrum	Denseflower knotweed	OBL
	Salix caroliniana	Carolina willow	OBL
*	Sesbania herbacea	Danglepod	FACW-
*	Sesbania vesicaria	Bladderpod	FAC+
*	Symphyotrichum bahamense	Bahaman aster	OBL
*	<i>Typha</i> sp.	Cattail	OBL (3)
*	Vigna luteola	Hairypod cowpea	FACW
	South Mitigation Area - Herbaceous		
	Eleocharis interstincta	Knotted spikerush	OBL
	Nuphar advena	Spadderdock	OBL
	Nymphaea elegans	Tropical royalblue waterlily	OBL
*	Nymphaea odorata	American white waterlily	OBL
	Panicum hemitomon	Maidencane	OBL
	Pistia stratiotes	Water-lettuce	OBL (1)
*	Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed	OBL
*	Sagittaria lancifolia	Bulltongue arrowhead	OBL
*	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Softstem bulrush	OBL
*	Thalia geniculata	Alligatorflag	OBL

## Table 10 (continued)Additional Vegetation Species ObservedFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	ACOE Status
	Southwest Wedge - Forested		
*	Cynodon dactylon	Bermudagrass	FACU
*	Cyperus surinamensis	Tropical flatsedge	FACW
	Eleocharis interstincta	Knotted spikerush	OBL
	Eleocharis vivipara	Viviparous spikerush	OBL
*	Eustachys petraea	Pinewoods fingergrass	FACU-
*	Gaura angustifolia	Southern beeblossum	UPL
*	Juncus marginatus	Grassleaf rush	FACW
*	Paspalum notatum	Bahiagrass	FACU+
*	Sacciolepis indica	Indian cupscale	FAC
*	Scleria ciliata	Fringed nutrush	FAC
	Spartina bakeri	Sand cordgrass	FACW+
*	Sporobolus indicus	Smutgrass	FACU+

\* Species observed in fruit or flower

(1) - FLEPCC Category I Invasive Exotic

(2) - FLEPCC Category II Invasive Exotic

(3) - Commonly Identified Nuisance Species

#### Wildlife

As outlined by **Table 11** an abundance of wildlife has been regularly observed within and around the Archie Creek Relocation Mitigation area since monitoring began in 2006.

Wading birds were regularly observed foraging within the relocated creek and mitigation areas, often concentrated near the spreader weirs and control structures. Channeled apple snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*) has colonized the entire site, but predation by wading birds controls the snail population. Limpkins (*Aramus guarauna*) and wood storks (*Mycteria americana*) were directly observed consuming snails, and numerous empty shells were obvious along the shallow edges of all wetlands.

Many of the wading bird species present are provided some degree of protection by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) as species of special concern, while the wood stork is listed as endangered by both the FFWCC and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Additional protected species observed on site included American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), listed as species of special concern by the FFWCC and threatened due to similarity of appearance by the USFWS; eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), listed as threatened by both the FFWCC and USFWS; and sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*), listed as threatened by the FFWCC.

Extensive utilization of the relocated creek and mitigation areas by wading and shore birds, numerous frog species and turtles should be considered ecologically significant for this coastal freshwater system. Wildlife utilization is expected to continue to increase as on-site vegetation matures.

## Table 11Wildlife ObservationsFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

	Species	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status
	Avian Species			
*	Botaurus lentiginosus	American bittern		
*	Anas rubripes	American black duck		
*	Anhinga anhinga	Anhinga		
	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle		
	Strix varia	Barred owl		
*	Ceryle alcyon	Belted kingfisher		
*	Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned night-heron		
	Rhynchops niger	Black Skimmer	SSC	
	Cyanocitta cristata	Blue jay		
*	Quiscalus major	Boat-tailed grackle		
	Bubulcus ibis	Cattle egret		
*	Columbina passerina	Common ground-dove		
*	Gallinula chloropus	Common moorhen		
*	Phalacrocorax auritus	Double-crested cormorant		
	Dendrocygna bicolor	Fulvous whistling duck		
*	Plegadis falcinellus	Glossy ibis		
*	Ardea herodias	Great blue heron		
*	Casmerodias albus	Great egret		
*	Butorides striatus	Green heron		
	Lophodytes cucullatus	Hooded merganser		
	Aramus guarauna	Limpkin	SSC	
*	Egretta caerulea	Little blue heron	SSC	
	Anas fulvigula	Mottled duck		
*	Zenaida macroura	Mourning dove		
	Circus cyaneus	Northern harrier		
*	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey		
*	Buteo lineatus	Red shouldered hawk		
	Egretta rufescens	Reddish egret	SSC	
*	Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged blackbird		
	Platalea ajaja	Roseate spoonbill	SSC	
	Grus canadensis pratensis	Sandhill crane	Т	

## Table 11 (continued)Wildlife ObservationsFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

				Federal
	Species	Common Name	State Status	Status
	Avian Species (cont.)			
*	Egretta thula	Snowy egret	SSC	
*	Tachycineta bicolor	Tree swallow		
	Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture		
*	Eudocimus albus	White ibis	SSC	
*	Mycteria americana	Wood stork	E	Е
	Amphibian Species			
*	Rana catesbeiana	Bullfrog		
	Osteopilus septentrionalis	Cuban tree frog		
*	Pseudacris nigrita verrucosa	Florida chorus frog		
*	Hyla cinerea	Green tree frog		
	Eleutherodactylus planirostris	Greenhouse frog		
*	Bufo quercicus	Oak toad		
*	Rana grylio	Pig frog		
*	Rana sphenacephala	Southern leopard frog		
	Fish Species			
*	Tilapia aurea	Blue tilapia		
*	Gambusia holbrooki	Mosquito fish		
	Mammalian Species			
	Sylvilagus floridanus	Eastern cottontail rabbit		
*	Dasypus novemcinctus	Nine-banded armadillo		
	Procyon lotor	Raccoon		
	Odocoileus virginianus	White-tailed deer		
*	Sus scrofa	Wild pig		

## Table 11 (continued)Wildlife ObservationsFifth Annual Quantitative Monitoring Event, September 2011

Species	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status
Reptilian Species			
Alligator mississippiensis	American alligator	SSC	T (S/A)*
Drymarchon corais couperi	Eastern indigo snake	Т	Т
Nerodia fasciata pictiventris	Florida banded water snake		
Chelydra serpentina osceola	Florida snapping turtle		
Apalone ferox	Florida softshell turtle		
Anolis carolinensis	Green anole		
Coluber constrictor priapus	Southern black racer		
Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti	Water moccasin		
Aquatic Invertebrate Species			
Pomacea canaliculata	Channeled apple snail		
Order Decapoda	Crayfish		

## 4

### Summary

Pursuant to Specific Condition 22 of the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County Executive Director's Authorization for Wetland Impacts, October 2000; Specific Condition 23 of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Resource Permit No. 29-015833133-001; and Special Condition 4 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit No. 199902004 (IP-JB), the criteria considered to determine the achievement of the restoration goals shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Success Criteria	Current Status of Mitigation Site	Success Criteria Demonstrated
A. Density of trees and total vegetative cover (canopy and groundcover) in forested wetland creation areas equivalent to that of similar natural systems (approximately 400 trees per acre and 70% total vegetative cover) and an indication of active growth of planted trees.	<u>Tree Density (tpa) / Vegetation Cover</u> Archie Creek Forested: 1035 / 102.9% South Mitigation Area: 291 / 99.9% Southwest Wedge: 745 / 97.6%	Yes / Yes No / Yes Yes / Yes
B. Total vegetative cover (shrub and groundcover) in herbaceous wetland creation and restoration area equivalent to that of similar natural systems (approximately 85% vegetative cover).	<u>Vegetation Cover</u> Archie Creek Herbaceous: 93.3% North Mitigation Area: 93.5% South Mitigation Area (Herbaceous): 0.0%	Yes Yes No
C. At a minimum, vegetative cover by exotic/nuisance vegetation shall be maintained at a level of less than 10%. Species targeted for control are generally those found on the current Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council list, with greater emphasis on species identified in Categories I and II of that listing. Control will be applied in a manner appropriate for meeting the long-term management goals.	Nuisance / Exotic Species Total Cover Archie Creek Forested: 0.9% Archie Creek Herbaceous: 32.5% North Mitigation Area: 0.0% South Mitigation Area (Forested): 22.5% South Mitigation Area (Herbaceous): 0.0% Southwest Wedge: 8.6%	Yes No Yes No Yes Yes
D. The wetland creation areas have been inspected by a member of the appropriate regulatory staff and determined to be within the landward extent of waters of the State pursuant to Chapter 62-340, FAC	All restoration and mitigation areas were inspected and approved by RRA members during the Annual RRA Meeting held on October 6, 2011	Yes

All sites, which lie within the Relocated Archie Creek Mitigation area, exhibit wetland hydrology consistent with that of natural wetlands within Hillsborough County, and are driven by both surface water inputs and groundwater seepage.

While plant species composition may change due to future precipitation trends, cover density and relative contribution by desirable wetland species has remained stable through several years and is expected to remain consistent during future monitoring events. Undesirable species have persisted in some areas regardless of regular maintenance events. The contribution of undesirable species is not uniform across transects or wetlands, and this condition is expected to improve with continued maintenance and natural recruitment of native wetland vegetation species as the herbaceous community matures.

Continued maintenance consisting of nuisance and exotic species control via targeted manual removal and/or herbicide treatment has been successful in reducing overall exotic species cover, maintaining a level below those listed in the applicable permits, except in a few areas within the South Mitigation Area and some sections within Archie Creek. Archie Creek itself poses particular maintenance challenges which are not often experienced on other mitigation and restoration sites as the seed source for many of the exotic species observed within the creek is upstream on properties not maintained by Mosaic. This is particularly evident with the infestation of hydrilla.

Tree species in the South Mitigation area exhibited greater than 90% survival within tagged subsamples, corresponding closely to visual estimates of overall survival, and have exhibited notable positive growth. Trees planted as part of the Alternative Mitigation Plan all appeared healthy at the time of this monitoring event. Many trees experienced some amount of planting stress, but all appear to have recovered. It is anticipated high survival rates will be observed during the next quantitative monitoring event.

In summary, all components of the Archie Creek Relocation and Mitigation sites are trending towards mitigation site success based on the fifth year of monitoring. Evaluations are underway to identify those areas potentially meeting the success criteria of the applicable permits. In the event that selected areas satisfy the success specifications, Mosaic will seek the appropriate agency confirmation.



Photostation 1 facing North



**Photostation 1 facing East** 



**Photostation 1 facing South** 



**Photostation 1 facing West** 



Photostation 2R facing North



**Photostation 2R facing South** 



**Photostation 4 facing East** 



**Photostation 4 facing West** 



**Photostation 5 facing North** 



**Photostation 5 facing East** 



**Photostation 5 facing South** 



**Photostation 5 facing West** 



**Photostation 6 facing North** 



**Photostation 6 facing East** 



**Photostation 6 facing South** 



**Photostation 6 facing West** 



**Photostation 7 facing North** 



**Photostation 7 facing West** 



**Photostation 8 facing North** 



**Photostation 8 facing South** 





 $O\!f\!fices$  orlando sarasota north carolina virginia new england new jersey new york maryland vermont