

Improvements Underway at Soper's Mill

Pat Shehan, Special Projects Ranger

Concrete ramps added upstream & downstream of rock riffle

New crushed limestone parking area



Now that spring has arrived, many people are eager to get back on the South Skunk River. If you are one of these early season water trail enthusiasts, you may have noticed the work taking place at Soper's Mill Water Trail Access north of Ames. SCC is implementing a previously developed improvement plan and has secured the necessary grant funding through a Water Trail Development Grant to make this project a reality.

The construction contract was awarded to Tallgrass Land Stewardship Co. and they have hit the ground running for this project, taking advantage of the low water levels we were still experiencing in February. Once complete, this water trail access will offer a new and improved parking area in conjunction with concrete ramps located both upstream and downstream of the existing rock riffle.

This project is dependent on weather conditions, making project updates difficult to anticipate. Stay tuned to our social media accounts, as we will post more timely updates as needed. It is our expectation to have this project completed and available to the public by the middle of the summer season.



A CLOSER LOOK:

Above, a Tallgrass Land Stewardship Co. employee fills a sediment control log using woodchips generated from the less-than-desirable trees removed during construction. This practice lessens the possibilities of disease or invasive species entering the project location from sources outside the area, and reuses trees from the site.