



Beaver Watershed Alliance February e-News

Beaver Watershed Alliance Receives Over \$37,000 Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant

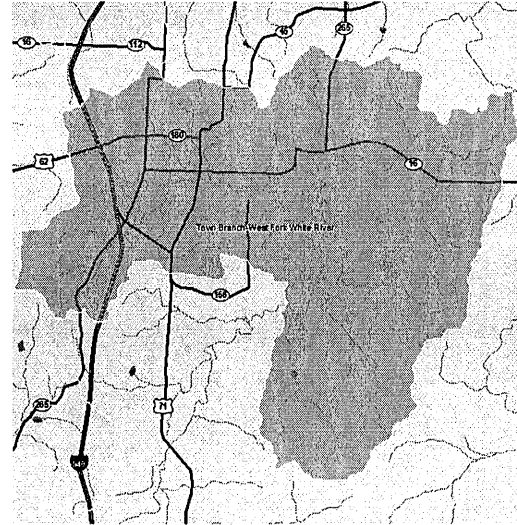
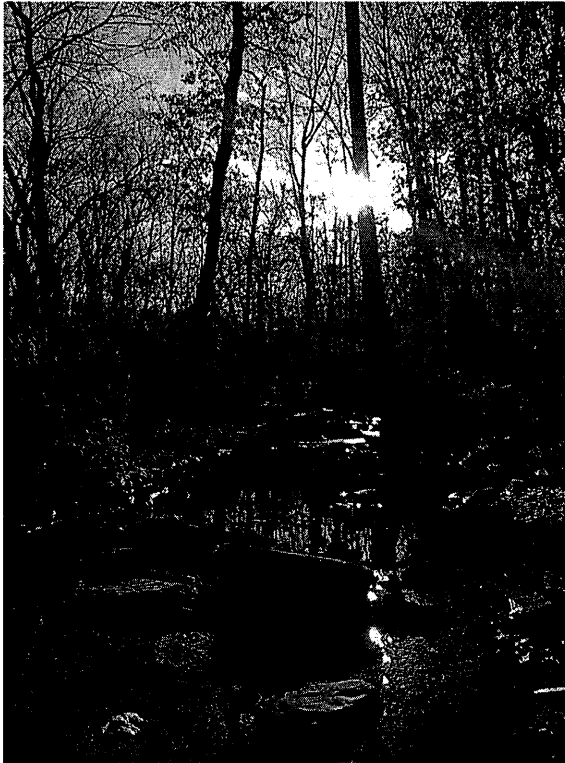
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has awarded a grant totaling \$37,710.56 to the Beaver Watershed Alliance. The grant proposal, "Initiating Community Stewardship through Watershed Discovery," was selected from over 250 proposals nationwide for their program, The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program, which seeks to develop nation-wide-community stewardship of local natural resources, preserve these resources for future generations and enhance habitat for local wildlife. Funding is awarded to projects which seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development.

BWA's grant project will target the Town Branch watershed, a sub-watershed of the West Fork-White River watershed. The West Fork of the White River (WFWR) flows into Beaver Lake, the regional drinking water source for 1 in 6 Arkansans. The WFWR is an impaired river impacted by sediment and nutrients, and has lost one-third of aquatic species on record since 1894 (Brown et al., 2003). Through community partnerships and stakeholder engagement, Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) will conduct on the ground restoration activities that will include development of an ecological restoration plan for 97 acres of upland urban forest, removal of invasive species from 108 acres, enhancement of 20 acres of riparian habitat, removal of 6,000 pounds of bulky waste and trash from 15 miles of waterway, and implementation of five green infrastructure elements within the project area.

The ecological restoration plan for the 97 acres of upland forest will be for Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, which

will include 97 of the 108 acres slated for invasive plant removal. In 2003, Theo Witsell with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, surveyed the property and noted invasive plant species such as Amur Honeysuckle, Japanese Honeysuckle, Oriental Bittersweet, Tree-of-Heaven, Wintercreeper, Fragrant Honeysuckle, Perilla Mint, and Multiflora Rose. Previous assessments were completed by Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association. The Arkansas Forestry Commission also completed a Conservation Management Plan in 2003 for Mt. Sequoyah.

BWA will continue to work with local agencies and area stakeholders to build on previous assessments and plans and address the invasive species concerns, as well as work towards restoring the native habitat of the upland forest and develop a comprehensive conservation management plan.



The Town Branch watershed is a subwatershed of the West Fork-White River basin. The West Fork of the White River (WFWR) flows into Beaver Lake, the regional drinking water source for 1 in 6 Arkansans.