

# South River SCIENCE TEAM UPDATE

Keeping you up to date on South River Science Team Activities First Half 2019 · Printed on Recycled Paper



## Phase 1 Riverbank Remediation Over Halfway Complete

The South River Science Team discovered that the erosion of riverbanks contributes mercury to the South River each year. Riverbank remediation work has been focused on the two miles of the South River downstream from the former DuPont Waynesboro plant. These efforts are expected to significantly reduce the mercury input to the river. To date, four riverbank areas have been remediated and restored: a pilot bank downstream of the former DuPont plant, Constitution Park, City Shops, and Allied Ready Mix.

In early 2019, remediation work began on two riverbanks near Shiloh Baptist Church. When remediation in this area is complete, DuPont will have remediated riverbanks that represent about 60% of the mercury input to the South River from eroding banks in the first two miles downstream of the former plant. Remediation and restoration at North Park will be the final step of Phase 1 work.

### Allied Ready Mix

The riverbank remediation at Allied Ready Mix was completed at the end of October 2018. Remediation activities involved the following:

- ⇒ Excavating riverbank soil containing the highest mercury levels
- ⇒ Transporting and disposing of the soil at a permitted landfill
- ⇒ Reinforcing the riverbank using 12-inch-high, honeycomb-shaped grids called geocells
- ⇒ Filling the geocells with soil and biochar
- ⇒ Placing topsoil and an erosion-control blanket over the geocell
- ⇒ Planting native shrubs and trees

Although storms flooded the remediation area a few times (see photo below), very little re-work was needed. Portions of the riverbank that were remediated prior to flooding tolerated the high flows well.



Native trees and shrubs were planted on the riverbank to enhance the habitat and provide stabilization.





These artist renderings provide a visualization of the area surrounding Shiloh Baptist Church after DuPont completes riverbank remediation work. The renderings show the area several years after remediation when vegetation is mature.



## Shiloh Baptist Church

In early 2019, remediation work began on about 1,000 feet of riverbank located downstream of Shiloh Baptist Church along Riverside Drive. When complete, the team will remediate 200 feet of riverbank behind the church. In addition to the goal of reducing the amount of mercury input to the river, activities are focused on maintaining or improving the existing habitat. After remediation is complete at Riverside Drive and Shiloh Baptist Church, the City of Waynesboro plans to construct the Greenway, continuing it from the railroad bridge to behind the church and merging with Riverside Drive.

Throughout the remediation work, DuPont will use methods that have been proven at other riverbanks. In addition, the team routinely communicates with landowners to address their concerns and minimize disruption.

## North Park

Approximately 2,000 feet of eroding riverbanks in North Park will be remediated after remediation is complete at Riverside Drive and Shiloh Baptist Church. Similar to Constitution Park, river access points and connectivity to the Greenway Trail are planned as part of the restoration.

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