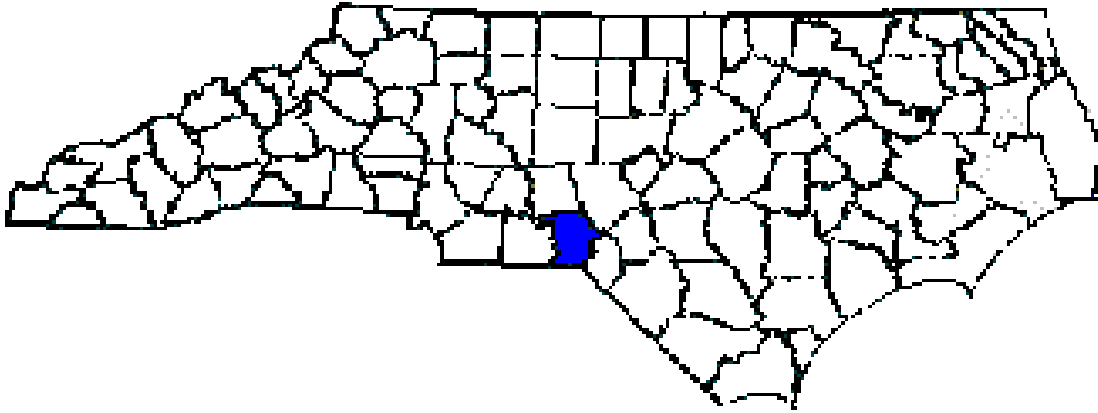


ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003



**Little River Bridge Mitigation Site
Richmond County
TIP No. B-2608**



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December 2003

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SUMMARY

The Little River Bridge Mitigation Site is located in Richmond County. The site was planted in 2001 and was designed as wetland mitigation for impacts associated with bridge project B-2608.

The mitigation encompasses approximately 2.48 acres of wetland restoration. The restoration effort involved re-vegetating the area that was temporarily impacted due to mechanized land clearing. The area that was impacted by mechanized clearing is being monitored to ensure that it re-attains wetland jurisdictional status. The restoration area was re-vegetated with bottomland hardwood species. No hydrologic monitoring is required for this project; however, vegetation monitoring is required for three years.

After the first year of monitoring, the Little River Bridge Site shows, by visual observation, that the planted species in the wetland are surviving and that the impacted area is re-attaining jurisdictional status.

NCDOT recommends continuing vegetation monitoring on this site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

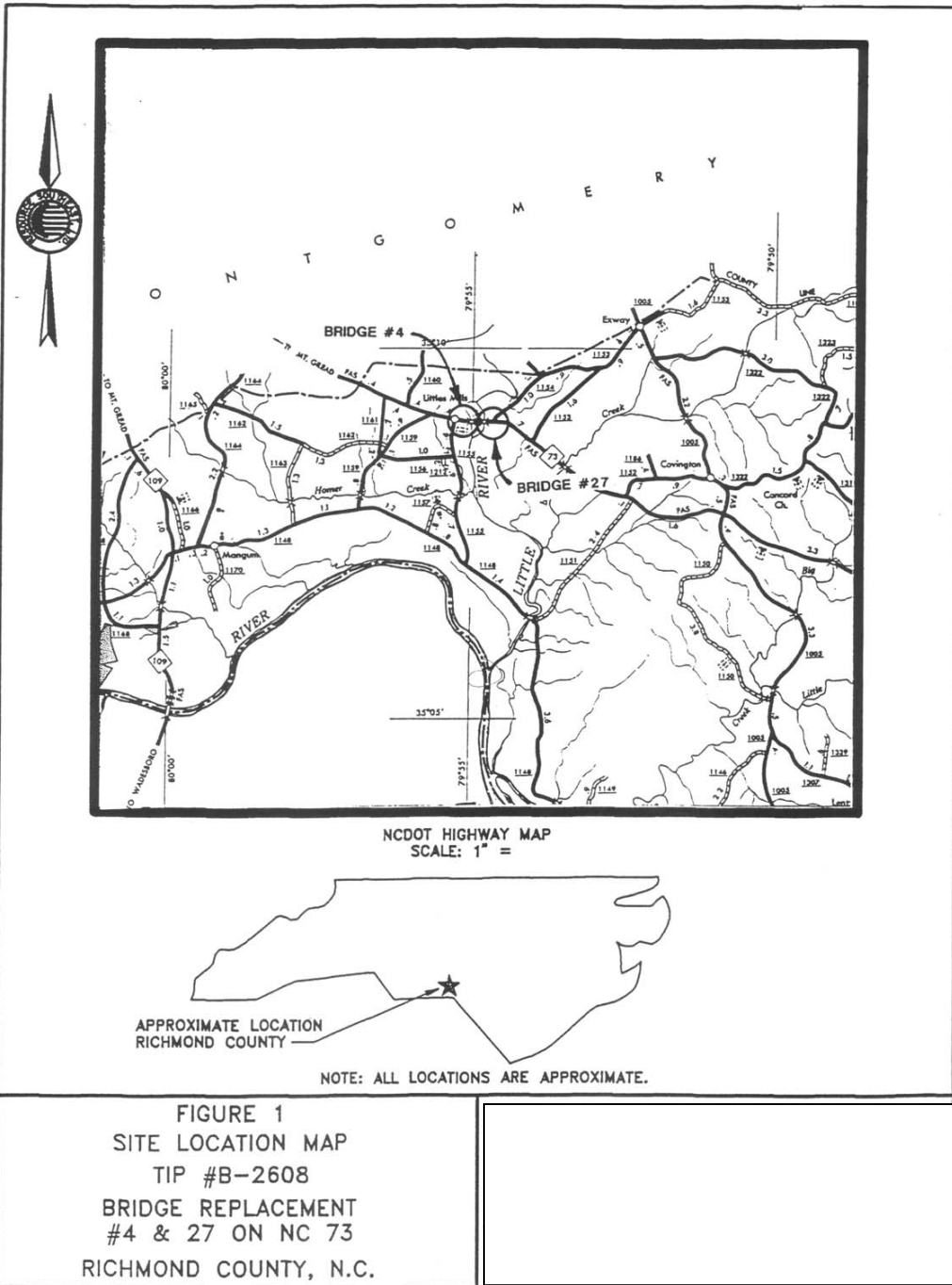
The Little River Bridge Mitigation Site is located at Bridge No. 4 over Little River and Bridge No. 27 over Little River Overflow and approaches on NC-73 East of Little Mills (Figure 1). The site consists of approximately 2.48 acres of mitigation for wetland impacts associated with project B-2608.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, the site must meet vegetation success criteria. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2003 at the Little River Bridge Mitigation Site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for the site.

1.3 Project History

March 2001	Site planted
September 2003	Vegetation Monitoring (1 year)



H:\96073.01\LOCMAP.PRF

2.0 VEGETATION: LITTLE RIVER BRIDGE MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 1 MONITORING)

2.1 Success Criteria

Success criteria states that the temporarily impacted area where mechanized clearing occurred shall be replanted using bottomland hardwood species and the temporarily impacted area must re-attain jurisdictional status at the end of three years.

2.2 Description of Species

The following wetland species were planted in the Wetland Reforestation area:

Salix nigra, Black Willow

Betula nigra, River Birch

Quercus nigra, Water Oak

Quercus falcata var. *falcata*, Southern Red Oak

Quercus falcata var. *pagodaefolia*, Cherrybark Oak

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

The impacted area where the mechanized clearing occurred and was re-vegetated is re-attaining jurisdictional status and the planted species are surviving.

2.4 Conclusions

There were approximately 2.48 acres of wetland restoration on site. There were no plots established; however, visual observation shows that the planted species are surviving and that the impacted area is re-attaining jurisdictional status.

3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations

NCDOT will continue vegetation monitoring at the Little River Creek Bridge Site.

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOS

Little River Creek Bridge



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4