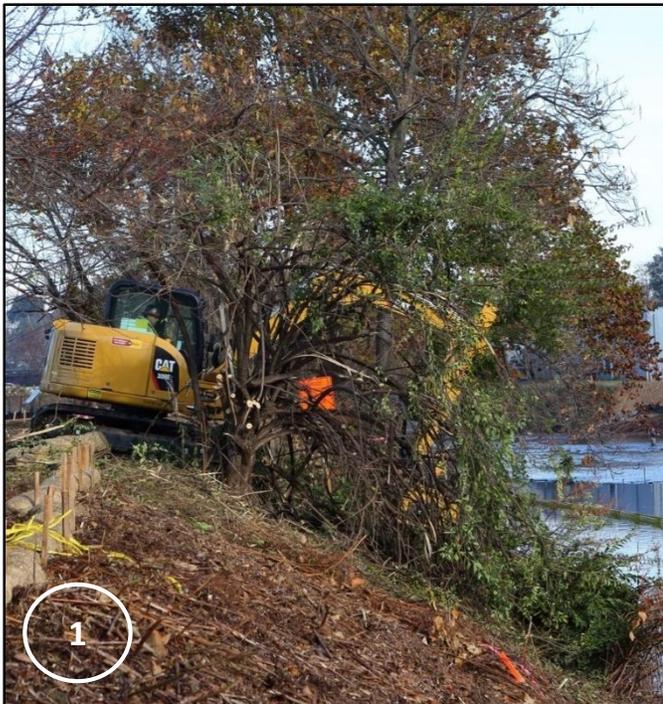


# South River SCIENCE TEAM UPDATE

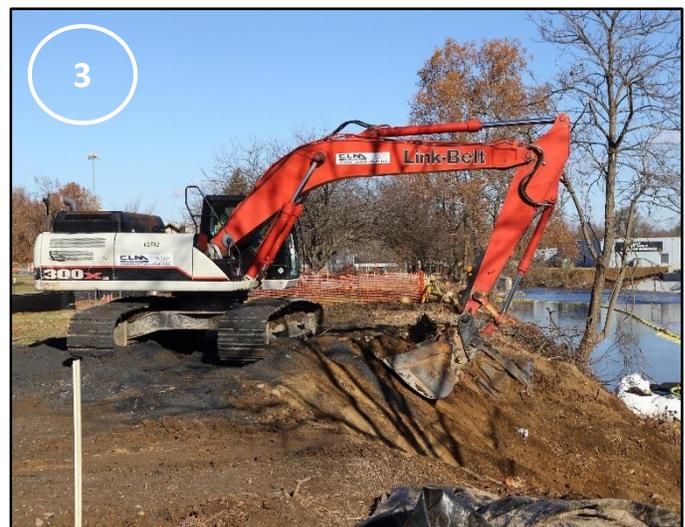
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## Constitution Park Riverbank Remediation Complete

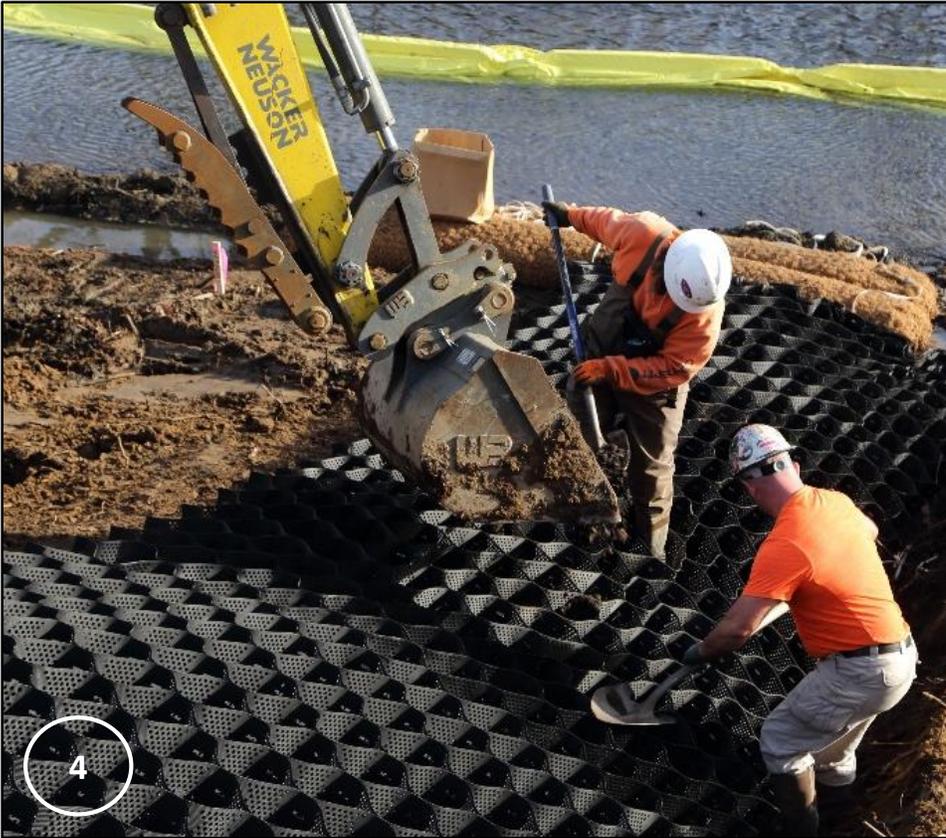


The remediation of the Constitution Park riverbanks was completed in February 2017. This riverbank was identified to be remediated for two reasons: the soil contains elevated concentrations of mercury, and the soil is eroding into the South River. These riverbanks are the first of several to be remediated with the objective of significantly decreasing the erosion of mercury into river. The majority of the identified riverbanks will be capped. The soil in areas with the highest levels of mercury will be excavated and disposed of properly prior to capping. This newsletter highlights the activities that were involved in completing the remediation at Constitution Park.



- 1 Site access was controlled with temporary fencing. A silt-retaining curtain was installed to prevent construction sediment from entering the river, and vegetation was removed. Healthy trees were left in place.
- 2 Heavy fabric bags called super sacks were filled with clean soil and used to create a temporary dam around the planned excavation area. The area behind the dam was pumped dry.
- 3 A section of riverbank about 75 feet long containing the highest mercury levels was excavated. The excavated soil was transported and disposed of at a permitted landfill.

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The riverbank was reinforced using 12-inch-high, honeycomb-shaped grids (a geocell). The geocell openings were filled with a mixture of sand and biochar. Biochar is a charcoal-like material that has the ability to adsorb mercury and bind it in place.

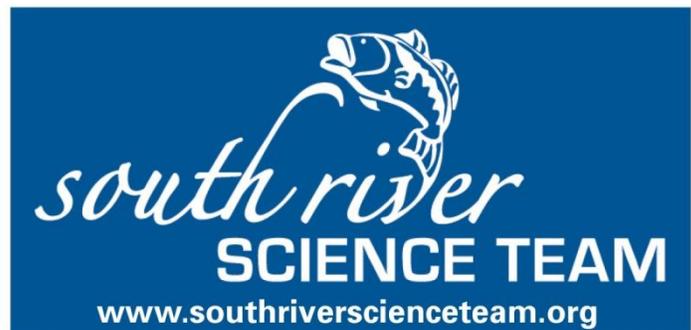
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Topsoil and an erosion-control blanket were placed over the geocell. Hundreds of native shrubs and trees were planted; once mature, the plantings will enhance the habitat and stabilize the riverbank.



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