

Rivercane Restoration Projects in Western North Carolina

Adam D. Griffith - Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee
Artisan Resources (RTCAR)

19 NOV 2019 - Fire Learning Network





Restoration: from what?
Before European contact?
After Native American removal?



Restoration: from what?

Before European contact?

After Native American removal?

To what?

Monoculture?

Multispecies riparian buffer?





Restoration: from what to what?





Restoration: from what to what?

YES!



Why is restoration necessary?

- Cultural significance
- 2% of original habitat remains (Noss, 1995) - probably less
- Population growth
- Development pressure
- Demand for plant: DOT, NFPs, EBCI, private land owners



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TRACT 1
TRACT 2



Restoration methods:

- Plant from seed
- Nursery material
- Transplant





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Cherokee Restoration Efforts

- Cherokee Central Schools
- Photo below from 2007
- Fall 2008 and Spring 2009



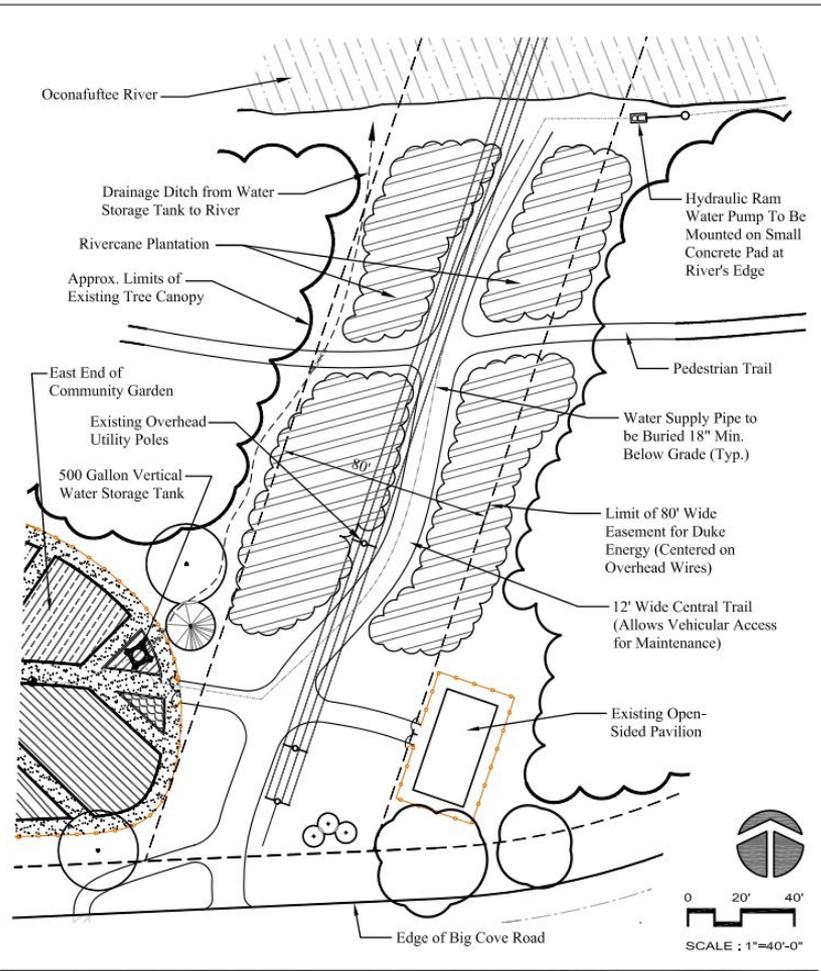
Cherokee Restoration Efforts

- Cherokee Central Schools
- Photo below 7
- Fall 2009



Cherokee Restoration Efforts

- Cherokee Central Schools
- Photo below
- Fall 2008



UC-1 Utility Corridor Layout and Planting Plan
 Date: October 6, 2008

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 Cherokee Central School
 Cherokee, North Carolina

Clos Landscape Architecture, P.A.
 132 RAYBROOK LANE • HOUSTON, NC 28942
 PHONE: 828-281-1070 • FAX: 828-707-2388



Cherokee Central Schools

- Multiple donor sites (5+)
- Both hand dug clumps and bare root plants
- Did not trim tops of plants
- short travel distance





Cherokee Central Schools





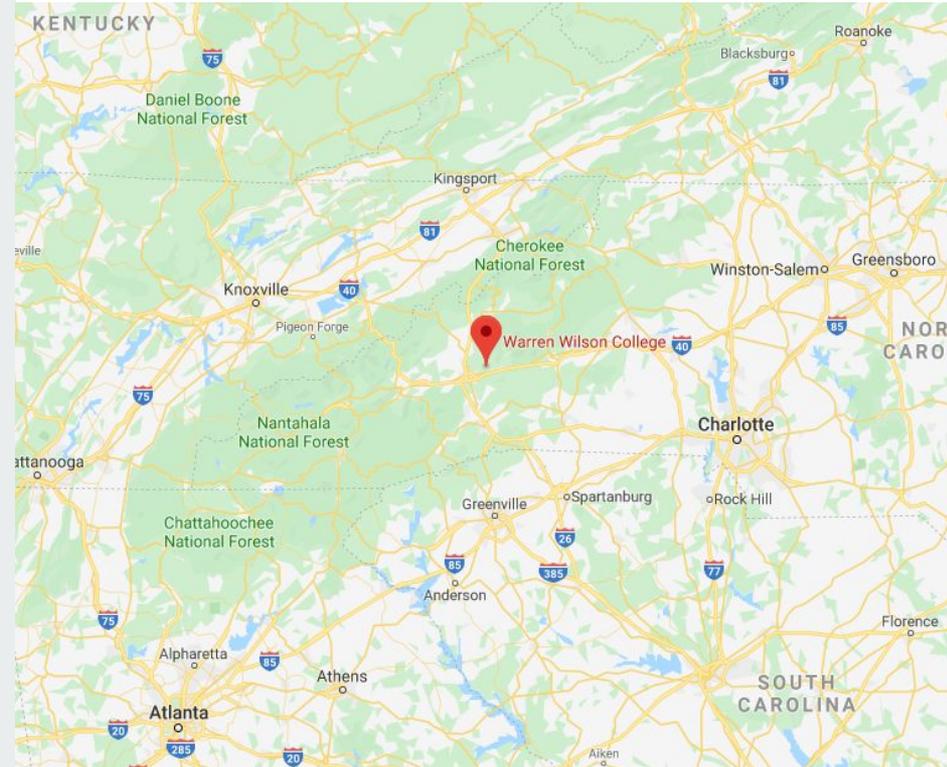
Cherokee Central Schools



- Clump survival close to 100%
- Bare root survival low

Warren Wilson College

- Removing ½ acre of river cane for restoration
- Conscientious project manager emailed us
- Cane being moved via seven different project partners: City of Asheville, City of Hendersonville, Nature Conservancy, Conserving Carolina, Veterans Healing Farms, EBCI Schools

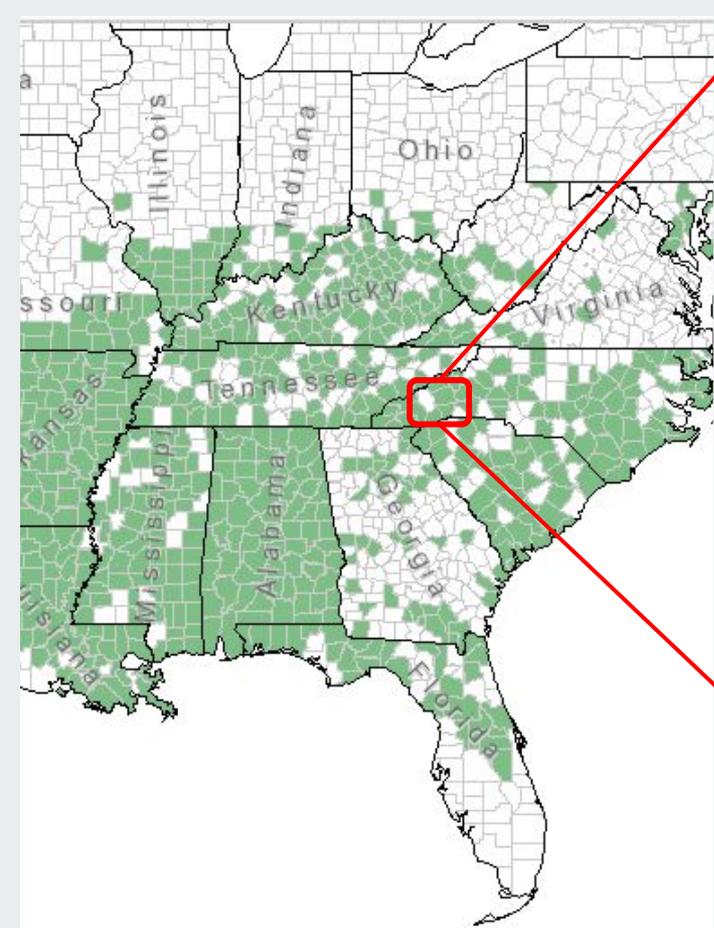




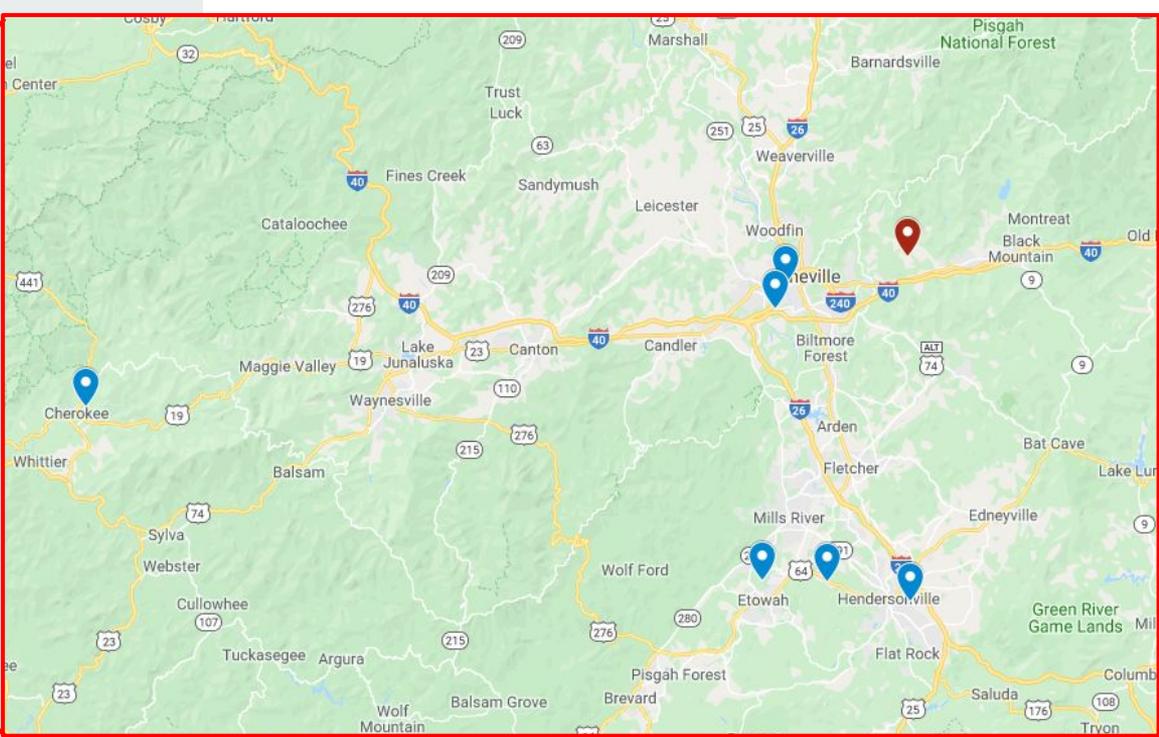
Warren Wilson College

- Remnant patch
- Confined for decades by mowing, agriculture
- Culm diameters under 1/2 "





USDA-NRCS-NG





Timing

- Originally planned for September
- Then October
- Then this month
- Now January 2020



Methods

- Trim plants to ~4 ft.
- Remove top ~12 inches of soil using a 3 ft. bucket on a track-hoe
- Cover with tarps for transport on flatbed trailers
- Unloaded the same day (ideally)



Opportunities

- Will learn about nurture vs nature regarding culm diameters
- Will learn about transplanting methods
- Will learn about logistics



**Is river cane the perfect
riparian buffer species?**

In this area, yes!



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Questions?



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