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Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM)

Phase 2-Benefits Analysis

S. Kyle McKay, Bruce A. Pruitt, Brian A. Zettle, Niklas Hallberg,
Vince Moody, Allan Annaert, Meredith Ladart,
Marshall Hayden, and Justin McDonald

August 2018

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Report 2 of a series

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Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Under Proctor Creek feasibility study under Environmental Laboratory Scope of Work
#16-132

Abstract

In partnership with the City of Atlanta and thirteen federal agencies, the Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is planning an urban stream restoration in Proctor Creek, Atlanta, Georgia. A two-part numerical modeling toolkit, the Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM), was developed to support planning of this ecosystem restoration project. This report presents the second phase of model development (PCEM2), a numerical tool for computing environmental benefits of restoration actions, informing feasibility-level design, and facilitating restoration decision-making. PCEM2 contains four modules related to instream condition, riparian condition, hydrologic change, and watershed connectivity, these are combined into an overarching assessment of stream ecosystem integrity at the watershed-scale. The model was applied to compute ecological benefits of restoration actions at thirteen potential sites in the Proctor Creek watershed. Benefits were computed for 8,192 plans representing every possible combination of site and restoration action. When coupled with cost estimates, these data were used to conduct cost effectiveness and incremental cost analyses to inform the Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone of the USACE Planning Process. While parameterized for Proctor Creek, PCEM2 provides an adaptable, generic framework for computing watershed-scale benefits of stream restoration actions.

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Preface

This study was conducted for and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District (SAM), Proctor Creek feasibility study under Environmental Laboratory Scope of Work #16-132. Ms. Cheryl Hrabovsky was the SAM project manager, Mr. Peter F. Taylor was the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, and Colonel James A. DeLapp was the District commander.

The development of this report and the associated model was led by the Ecological Resource Branch (EE-E) in the Ecosystem Evaluation and Engineering Division (EE), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center – Environmental Laboratory (ERDC-EL). At the time of publication, Dr. Jen Seiter was Chief, CEERD-EE-E and Mark Farr was Chief, CEERD-EE. The Director of ERDC-EL was Dr. Ilker R. Adiguzel.

All analyses presented in this document were funded by the USACE Mobile District SMART planning study on Proctor Creek ecosystem restoration. Analyses were supported by the entire Mobile District planning and project management team, which also included supervision and guidance from Mr. Todd Boatman and Ms. Cheryl Hrabovsky.

Preliminary discussions of the Proctor Creek Ecological Model were informed by discussions with Dr. Krista Capps, Dr. Amy Rosemond, and Mr. Phillip Bumpers (University of Georgia), and their guidance is gratefully acknowledged. Technical reviews and comments by Dr. Craig Fischenich and Mr. Mick Porter are gratefully acknowledged. The team would also like to thank Mr. Nate Richards (USACE Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise) for facilitating model certification reviews.

COL Ivan P. Beckman was the Commander of ERDC, and Dr. David W. Pittman was the Director.

Unit Conversion Factors

Multiply	By	To Obtain
acres	4,046.873	square meters
acre-feet	1,233.5	cubic meters
cubic feet	0.02831685	cubic meters
feet	0.3048	meters
gallons (US liquid)	3.785412 E-03	cubic meters
hectares	1.0 E+04	square meters
miles (US statute)	1,609.347	meters
square feet	0.09290304	square meters

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAHU	Average Annual Habitat Units
BEHI	Bank Erosion Hazard Index
CE-ICA	Cost-Effectiveness and Incremental Cost Analyses
CM	Construction Management
DoD	Department of Defense
EL	Environmental Laboratory
ERDC	Engineer Research Development Center
FWP	Future With Project
FWOP	Future Without Project Conditions
GIS	Geographic Information System
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HEC-HMS	Hydrologic Engineer Center's Hydrologic Modeling System
IEI	Index of Ecosystem Integrity
MCDA	Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
PCEM	Proctor Creek Ecological Model
PDT	Project Development Team
PED	Planning, Engineering, and Design
SAM	USACE Mobile District
TSP	Tentatively Selected Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	United States Geological Survey

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

With over 80% of the U.S. population residing in urban areas (Muir 2014), the management and protection of urban waterways is a crucial challenge facing land and water management agencies. Urban streams and rivers are often highly impacted by changes to land use (e.g., from forested to suburban), impervious area (e.g., parking lots, rooftops), inputs of stormwater and wastewater (e.g., “flashy” surface runoff, industrial inputs), pollutant loads (e.g., nutrients, metals), infrastructure crossings (e.g., roads, dams), and a variety of other stressors (Wenger et al. 2009). These drivers and stressors characterize an “urban stream syndrome” (Walsh et al. 2005) seen throughout the world associated with a multitude of ecosystem changes ranging from channel degradation and water quality problems, to reduced biodiversity and shifts in ecosystem functions (Paul and Meyer 2006, Booth and Bledsoe 2009).

Stream restoration provides a potential mechanism for returning ecological function of urban waters, and a stream restoration and mitigation industry of more than \$1B annually has emerged to meet this need in the United States (Bernhardt et al. 2005). A challenge confronting this field of study and practice is the inherently interdisciplinary approach required to address the array of hydrologic, geomorphic, ecological, design, and engineering issues that arise in the course of a project (Fischenich 2006; Bennett et al. 2011). Owing to these obstacles, some restoration projects have inadequately addressed the underlying reasons for degradation and have not resulted in the ecological improvements originally anticipated (September 2011 Special Issue of *Ecological Applications*). These failures have led to a broad call for the discipline to embrace a process-based view of restoration, where a multi-disciplinary perspective of the ongoing drivers and stressors is explicitly applied, and a dynamic view of ecosystems is embraced (Palmer et al. 2005; Jansson et al. 2005; Beechie et al. 2010; Palmer and Febria 2012).

Structured decision-making has emerged as a family of techniques capable of increasing the transparency and repeatability of environmental management decisions (Gregory and Keeney 2002). In the context of stream restoration, these methods help project teams tell the story of

restoration decisions by explicitly linking underlying motivations for restoration (i.e., the problems) with the outcomes of restoration (i.e., the environmental and social benefits). The benefits from the quantification process can be applied to the following: (1) distinguish between different restoration actions, (2) characterize the return on investment from restoration, (3) prioritize restoration projects, (4) maximize desired outcomes relative to different levels of expenditure, and/or (5) ensure mitigation requirements are met (Fischenich et al. 2013). Therefore, hydrogeomorphic, engineering, and ecological models often play a role central in these analyses by providing objective, scientifically based evidence used to inform decisions (Swannack et al. 2012).

1.2 Proctor Creek ecosystem restoration

Proctor Creek in Atlanta, Georgia presents a classic example of ecological degradation common in urban streams. The headwaters of this watershed drain the most urbanized portions of downtown Atlanta as the stream flows west to the Chattahoochee River (Figure 1). Common drivers and stressors in this watershed include combined sewer overflows, extremely high impervious surface coverage (> 30% on average), and other industrial and residential pollution (Horowitz et al. 2008; Peters 2009; Wright et al. 2012). High rates of poverty, crime, property abandonment, illegal dumping, and interior flooding are also common within this watershed (EPA 2015). Owing to these challenges, this watershed was selected as one of nineteen nationwide sites for the urban waters federal partnership, in which a consortium of fourteen federal agencies are partnering with local communities to revitalize urban waters, restore stream ecosystems, and improve the lives of residents (Muir 2014; EPA 2016b). In partnership with the City of Atlanta (non-Federal sponsor), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District (SAM) is leading a feasibility study associated with aquatic ecosystem restoration in this watershed.

1.3 Objectives

The USACE team iteratively applied a basic structured decision making model, the ProACT framework, in which Problems are identified, Objectives are developed and refined, Alternatives are identified, Consequences of alternatives are assessed relative to objectives, and Trade-offs are made by decision-makers (Gregory and Keeney 2002). This process mirrors the USACE project planning process (ER-1105-2-100) and facilitates discussion of requisite planning steps (Fischenich et al. 2013).

Figure 1. Proctor Creek watershed map with reach divisions shown as red points and potential restoration sites from Phase 1 analyses highlighted in black (See Table 1). Other notable features include the Chattahoochee River to the northwest, downtown Atlanta to the southeast, the Atlanta railyards to the north/northeast, and major interstates to the west (I-285) and south (I-20).

The project team iterated through the ProOACT framework in two primary phases. Phase 1 emphasized site selection and rapid screening in support of the USACE Alternatives Milestone of the SMART Planning Process¹ (See McKay et al. 2017). Phase 2 emphasized development of preliminary restoration designs and environmental benefits analysis of restoration alternatives in support of the USACE Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone of the SMART Planning Process.

In Phase 1, an objectives hierarchy, was developed in coordination with the project sponsor, local stakeholders, and other federal agencies. These objectives guided the development of metrics for identifying high potential restoration sites. Given these objectives, a menu of potential restoration alternatives (e.g., riparian planting, flow attenuation, fish passage improvement, streambank protection) was identified that could be appropriate at multiple sites in the Proctor Creek watershed. These alternatives drew heavily from existing basin planning activities (ARC 2011; Ecological Solutions 2011; Park Pride 2011; EPA 2016).² A simple ecological model and rapid field reconnaissance were applied to screen from 61 potential restoration sites (46 reach-scale actions + 15 flow attenuation locations) to 17 high potential sites. The feasibility, acceptability, and desirability of these 17 sites were subsequently screened in coordination with the project sponsor. From this analysis, twelve reach-scale restoration sites and four flow attenuation sites were preserved for future consideration (Table 1).

The ProOACT framework was again applied in Phase 2 to analyze what group of sites and restoration actions would form the USACE's recommended action (i.e., the tentatively selected plan (TSP)). Problems, opportunities, and objectives from Phase 1 were further clarified and refined through meetings with the USACE team, sponsor, stakeholder groups, and other agencies. This objectives hierarchy (Table 2) serves as the basis against which the USACE project success is measured.

¹ More information on SMART Planning may be found in the USACE Planning Community Toolbox: <https://planning.erdcdren.mil/>.

² <http://www.proctorcreek.org/plans--studies.html>.

Table 1. Potential restoration actions and sites identified in Phase 1 analyses. Reach definitions are shown in Figure 1 and presented Appendix A.

Site	Brief Description of Phase 1 Restoration Alternative
PC06	Channel realignment by moving in-channel bars to decrease width
PC08	Bank protection and invasive species removal
PC09	Barrier improvement at sewer crossing (rock ramp)
PC10	Bank protection, invasive species removal, riparian plantings, and bar shaping
PC13	Invasive species removal, riparian plantings, and minor bar reshaping
PC14	Addition of woody debris
PC15	Reshape in-channel bars and bank protection
PC21	Bank protection and right bank wetland complex
TC02	Right bank wetland, channel reshaping, invasive species removal, riparian plantings, and recreation access
TC05	Barrier improvement at sewer crossing (rock ramp), left bank wetland, in-channel bar realignment, and channel reshaping
TC07	Bank protection, floodplain reconnection, possible wetland, and removal of historic bank armoring
GP01/02	Daylighting piped segment of stream with minor bank protection and plantings downstream
D04	Tributary detention pond at Ridge Avenue on a tributary of Terrell Creek
D10	Off-line flow attenuation structure in the "Valley of the Hawks"
D12	Inline detention structure upstream of Perry Road on tributary
D17	Inline flow attenuation structure upstream of I-20

Table 2. Planning objectives and sub-objectives for the Proctor Creek restoration study.

Primary goal and focus of restoration plan formulation.
<p>Make Proctor Creek a vibrant, sustainable ecosystem full of native species.</p> <p>1.1 Improve <u>in-channel conditions</u> suitable for a diversity of aquatic organisms (e.g., fish, crayfish, salamanders, benthic macroinvertebrates, turtles)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore channel geomorphic conditions to less disturbed conditions • Reduce sediment loading from stream bed and banks • Increase instream habitat for a diverse assemblage of local fauna <p>1.2 Improve <u>riparian conditions</u> supportive of a diverse aquatic and riparian community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore natural sources of organic carbon (i.e., energy) within the system • Increase nutrient uptake within the basin • Improve temperature regimes • Increase riparian habitat to support native biodiversity <p>1.3 Restore <u>flow regimes</u> to best attainable conditions achievable in altered urban environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease peak flows • Decrease hydrologic flashiness • Improve the capacity of the watershed to attenuate flows <p>1.4 Promote an <u>interconnected system</u> resilient to foreseen and unforeseen disturbances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase connectivity of movement corridors for aquatic and riparian species • Increase the capacity to absorb natural and anthropogenic disturbance
Secondary goals potentially affected by the project.
<p>Make Proctor Creek an asset and source of pride for the community</p> <p>2.1 Reconnect residents to aquatic and historic landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase recreational access <p>2.2 Make the creek a living laboratory for learning about local waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide educational opportunities for both residents and tourists <p>Make Proctor Creek a safe place to work and play.</p> <p>3.1 Maintain or decrease existing levels of flood risk</p> <p>3.2 Reduce health risks to neighboring communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce exposure to contaminated water • Decrease mosquito breeding areas to reduce vector borne disease transmission

1.4 Purpose

The USACE team required a scientifically defensible, analytical toolkit to inform Phase 2 planning in the Proctor Creek Ecosystem Restoration Study. In particular, planning needs for the tool included the following:

- Informing restoration designs effective at meeting the project objectives for a given site at the feasibility level (i.e., 10-20% design).
- Assessing cumulative, watershed-scale effects of many types of restoration actions (e.g., flow management, riparian planting, or channel modification) at many locations (e.g., reach-1, reach-2, etc.).
- Forecasting the ecological benefits of restoration actions over a 50-year planning horizon to inform federal return on investment analyses (i.e., cost-effectiveness and incremental cost analysis).

1.5 Approach

The approach for model development was to provide a tool sufficiently sensitive to potential USACE restoration actions to inform the specified planning needs. The model is intended to capture the effects of extremely diverse project objectives (Table 2), and thus, its development emphasized the relative change in the overarching ecosystem condition relative to those objectives.

1.6 Scope

This report documents the development of a numerical model to inform Phase 2 of the Proctor Creek ecosystem restoration study (PCEM2). This index-based model synthesizes multiple project objectives into a single habitat unit based on the overall quality and quantity of habitat in the watershed. The model is programmed in a scripting environment (i.e., the R statistical software language) and uses a variety of field, office, and judgment based parameters as inputs, all of these are stored in an accompanying spreadsheet database. This report is intended to provide documentation of the model's theoretical basis, quantitative framework, testing and evaluation, application in the Proctor Creek watershed, and relevant information for USACE model certification (EC 1105-2-412; PB 2013-02).

2 Model Development Process

A two-phase modeling framework was developed to meet the separate needs of the SMART planning milestones for the Proctor Creek study. The Phase 1 Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM1) utilized a rapid data collection and analysis framework for screening potential restoration sites. Additional details on PCEM1 may be found in McKay et al. (2017). This report documents the development of a numerical model to inform Phase 2 of the Proctor Creek ecosystem restoration study. This model, PCEM2, was developed explicitly to meet the modeling needs identified above and provides a more detailed analysis over the PCEM1. However, the basic framework for PCEM1 and PCEM2 are identical (i.e., consistent four modules mapped to project objectives), and the tools were designed to provide continuity in analytical approach throughout the project. Table 3 summarizes several key elements distinguishing the two phases of the PCEM project.

Development of PCEM2 followed a common ecological modeling process of conceptualization, quantification, evaluation, and application (Grant and Swannack 2008; Swannack et al. 2012). PCEM1 also followed this process, and thus, PCEM2 represents a second, more detailed iteration of the modeling process. The model was developed iteratively with the model development team (i.e., authors of this document) and the larger project development team. An outline of model structure was presented prior to field data collection, refined by the field team, further refined during team meetings, coded as a numerical model, tested and reviewed, and subsequently documented. The team avoided errors by documenting code thoroughly, checking input data sources, and manually checking code during development. These processes cannot guarantee error-free analyses, however, best practices can minimize the occurrence of errors. Notably, Phase 2 model development was constrained by the need for rapid development and application under the USACE Smart Planning paradigm, this required eight months for field study, model development, and project application. This model framework was designed to be applied not only under these constraints, but also be adaptable for future uses where additional data or time may be available.

Table 3. Phased modeling approach for the Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM).

Model Element	Phase 1 (PCEM1)	Phase 2 (PCEM2)
Primary Use	Informed site-selection and prioritization leading into the Alternatives Milestone	Informed the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) recommendation and feasibility-level design
Data Sources	Remotely sensed data Rapid, field survey at the stream segment and watershed scales	Remotely sensed data Field measurement at down-selected set of high potential restoration sites
Cost	Rapid, relative cost estimates for purely comparative purposes	Site-specific, rough order of magnitude (ROM) cost engineering analyses
Treatment of Time	Snapshot of futures with and without projects	Temporal trajectories over 50-year horizon based on restoration recovery rates
Treatment of Uncertainty	None	Rapid examination of expected, worst, and best case scenarios and stochastic simulation across a range of model inputs
Actions by Others	Neglected	Examined through scenario analysis of the recommended plan
Quantity	Length of stream from National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)	Length of stream from NHD
Quality Sub-Model: Instream Condition	Simple visual surveys of generalized condition	Field-based measurements and targeted visual surveys explicitly associated with project sub-objectives
Quality Sub-Model: Riparian Condition	Simple visual surveys of generalized condition	Field-based measurements and targeted visual surveys explicitly associated with project sub-objectives
Quality Sub-Model: Hydrology	Ad-hoc unit hydrograph model based on Gotvald and Knaak (2011) and Inman (2000). Crude measurement of storm volume only.	Spatially explicit watershed model based on land use and rainfall data (i.e., HEC-HMS). Addresses multiple aspects of the hydrologic flow regime and hydrologic function of the watershed.
Quality Sub-Model: Connectivity	Network-scale model of cumulative passability from the Chattahoochee River based on qualitative passability scores	Network-scale model of cumulative passability from the Chattahoochee River based on quantitative barrier passability estimates from Coffman (2004) and Collins (2016)

3 Model Conceptualization

An enormous array of models have been developed for stream corridor assessment (e.g., FISRWG 1997, Appendix B). In addition to differing in technical complexity and application time, these models also vary based on factors such as the disciplinary perspective (e.g., hydrologic, geomorphic, ecological), the level of ecological hierarchy addressed (e.g., individuals, populations, communities, ecosystems), the basic approach to modeling (e.g., statistical, theoretical), input requirements (e.g., few parameters vs. extensive geospatial layers), the treatment of time and space (e.g., lumped vs. distributed), and the degree of development (e.g., long history vs. ad hoc). This technical report takes a common approach to ecological modeling based on quantity and quality of habitat. These “index” models (Swannack et al. 2012) were originally developed for species-specific applications (e.g., slider turtle, *Pseudemys scripta*; Morreale and Gibbons 1986), but the general approach has also been adapted to guilds (e.g., salmon), communities (e.g., floodplain vegetation), and ecosystem processes (e.g., the Hydrogeomorphic Method) (Brinson 1993).

The Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM, pronounced “P-Sim”) combines habitat quantity and quality for a given segment of river. Quantity assesses the size of the ecosystem (e.g., area or linear feet along a stream), and quality provides a numerical assessment of the general ecological functionality of the ecosystem. For Proctor Creek, the following four basic sub-models (or modules) are used in the assessment of habitat quality: instream condition, riparian condition, hydrology, and watershed connectivity. Each of these modules is directly related to the primary planning objectives for the restoration study (Table 2) and forms the central structure for PCEM.

Conceptual ecological models are required for all USACE ecosystem restoration projects due to their utility to increase understanding, identify potential alternatives, and facilitate team dialog (Fischenich 2008; USACE 2011). A generalized conceptual model of Proctor Creek (Figure 2) was iteratively developed by project team members during Phase 1 project planning in conjunction with the identification of problem and opportunities, objectives and metrics, and potential alternatives. McKay et al. (2017) provide additional detail on the development and scope of this model.

Figure 2. General conceptual ecological model for Proctor Creek stream restoration intended to facilitate communication among team members, stakeholders, the project sponsor, and agency partners (adapted from McKay et al. 2017).

Conceptual models also inform the development of quantitative ecological models used in the assessment of the environmental benefits of restoration (Grant and Swannack 2008; Swannack et al. 2012). A more detailed conceptual model was created to inform PCEM2 development (Figure 3). This model emphasizes a more mechanistic view of how proposed restoration actions alter key elements of the ecosystem and subsequently roll into model variables. A seven-step conceptual model development process was followed (Fischenich 2008; Grant and Swannack 2008), drawing heavily from existing conceptual models addressing general stream processes (e.g., Channel Evolution Model) (Simon 1989), urban streams (Wenger et al. 2009), and Appalachian Piedmont streams (McKay et al. 2011; McKay and Pruitt 2012). Table 4 presents the generalized conceptual modeling process along with its application to developing PCEM2.

Figure 3. Detailed conceptual model for Proctor Creek stream restoration intended to inform numerical model development. Boxes are color-coded relative to: potential USACE restoration actions (orange), model variables (grey), intermediate aspects of ecosystem structure and function (white), and ecosystem state conditions captured by PCEM modules (yellow).

Table 4. Stepwise development of the detailed conceptual model for Proctor Creek to guide numerical model development (Figure 3).

Step	Proctor Creek Application
1. State the model objectives	This model provides sufficient detail linking families of restoration actions to focal project outcomes, which may then be used to guide numerical model development. The model is intended as a tool for communicating the basic structure of the PCEM2 numerical model within the model development team as well as to interested technical groups.
2. Bound the system of interest	The model was developed specifically for the Proctor Creek watershed in Atlanta, Georgia. However, the model is relatively general and could likely be applied or adapted to other urban or Appalachian Piedmont streams. The model was designed to address stream corridors including the instream, riparian, and associated wetlands environments.
3. Identify critical model components within the system of interest	Model components were compiled in both “bottom-up” and “top-down” formats. First, ecological outcomes were derived from project objectives and sub-objectives. Physical, chemical, and biological processes leading to these outcomes were then assembled. Second, a menu of potential restoration actions was compiled from existing literature (e.g., FISRWG 1997, EMRRP Technical Notes collection, etc.). Associated elements of ecosystem structure and function were then collected, which are directly affected by these restoration measures. Duplicate or redundant processes and model elements were then removed.
4. Articulate the relationships among the	The general flow of the model was intended to capture the relationship of each family of restoration method to the project-specific, ecological outcomes of interest. Accordingly, model relationships were identified based on prior conceptual models (e.g., Wenger et al. 2009), peer-reviewed

Step	Proctor Creek Application
components of interest	literature (e.g., McKay et al. 2016), grey literature and project reports (e.g., Rosgen 2001), and professional judgment and experience.
5. Represent the conceptual model	A box-and-arrow flow diagram of the conceptual model (Figure 3) was developed to articulate relationships between restoration actions, ecological processes, model variables, and project outcomes. In this process, some model elements were removed to simplify the diagram.
6. Describe the expected pattern of model behavior	The team qualitatively assessed flow of logic between model components (e.g., culverts can reduce passability, which affects watershed connectivity and reduces capacity for recovery after disturbances).
7. Test, review, and revise as needed	The model was informed by current views of urban stream function (e.g., Wenger et al. 2009), developed by the team in isolation of other groups, and then subsequently presented to the local sponsor and interagency working group for input and revision.

The model was iteratively developed following the Phase 1 model structure (Figure 2), site investigations, and quantitative model development. The model does not provide a complete mechanistic description of all ongoing physical, chemical, and biological processes. For instance, bank erosion is influenced by a complex set of state conditions such as bank height and sediment material (clay vs. sand) and processes such as helical flow and seepage. Furthermore, bank protection practices ranging from bank shaping to crib walls uniquely act upon these conditions (FISRWG 1997). However, the general notion of many bank protection actions is to reduce near bank shear stress, which is presented in Figure 3. Following this example, Figure 3 provides insight into some key mechanisms and emphasizes the logic of how a particular family of restoration methods (orange boxes) is intended to influence key project outcomes (yellow boxes). The model also explicitly acknowledges the eleven model variables (grey boxes) that are combined to assess habitat quality in the quantitative phase of model development (Chapter 3). Notably, the model does not explicitly include boundary conditions of the watershed (e.g., geology, climate, land use), specific ecological outcomes stemming from improvement in the four focal outcomes (e.g., the increase in abundance of Fish-X is not shown), or restoration and management actions outside of the USACE authority and consideration (e.g., management of combined sewer overflows). The generalized conceptual model (Figure 2) is intended to provide this context, whereas this model (Figure 3) is intended to guide detailed numerical model development.

4 Model Quantification

The second phase of ecological model development quantifies some or all of the conceptual model in terms of mathematical relationships, model parameters, a simulation environment, and ultimately quantitative outputs (Grant and Swannack 2008). This chapter articulates PCEM2's structure, functional forms of each sub-model (i.e., module), protocols for collecting model parameters, and the associated numerical toolkit.

PCEM2 is an index model based on assessing the quantity and quality of habitat for a given segment of river. The model is applied on a reach-by-reach basis, but the reach scores address the cumulative effects of upstream drainage areas (via hydrology) and downstream barriers (via connectivity). As such, this model represents a watershed scale model for assessing cumulative benefits of multiple stream and riparian restoration actions in the Proctor Creek watershed. Notably, project timelines required that some methods include rapid assays (e.g., pseudo-quantitative scoring systems) or rely on professional judgment. However, if the model were applied under different planning circumstances, these components could easily be substituted for more sophisticated, direct analyses. For instance, the instream condition module includes a rapid scoring system for measuring embeddedness of stream substrates (i.e., a 0–20 pick-list), this could be substituted for a more rigorous approach including field sampling or laboratory analyses (e.g., depth of embeddedness) (MacDonald et al. 1991).

The basis for the model is the combination of habitat quantity and quality into a single variable, a quality-weighted area. Area of stream is used as the primary metric of habitat quantity. Area was computed by multiplying all stream lengths by a consistent metric of width. Stream length was assessed using a Geographic Information System (GIS) as all mapped segments in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). Any metric of stream width has the potential to be highly variable and challenging to transparently reproduce in the Proctor Creek watershed. For instance, field measurements of bankfull width are not available at all sites, the project footprint would not necessarily capture healthy adjacent riparian areas, and the width of the forested areas would likely result in a simple reflection of the city's riparian buffer requirements. Rather than impose a key uncertainty, the team chose consistent width measurements that could be easily reproduced. Channel width is estimated as bankfull width derived from regional hydraulic geometry curves for sites with less than

10% impervious area (Figure 5 blue line). Measurements are unavailable at all 46 reaches throughout the watershed, and these width measurements may be transparently reproduced for all locations with only drainage area as an input. A channel-oriented measurement has the potential to underestimate overall restoration area (e.g., riparian actions extending beyond channel margins), but the method provides a consistent, transparent method of estimating width at all watershed locations.

For Proctor Creek, the following four sub-models (or modules) are used in assessment of habitat quality: instream condition, riparian condition, hydrology, and watershed connectivity. Each module is directly related to a primary planning objective (Table 2) and forms the central structure for PCEM. The modules are summarized in indices scaled from zero to one, where zero indicates no ecological value and one indicates perfect ecological condition. The modules are described in detail in subsequent sections, but briefly, each index is composed of multiple model variables (Table 5), this directly corresponds to project sub-objectives, and are themselves often composed of multiple field measurements.

Habitat quality is computed as the combination of quality scores for each module. This Index of Ecosystem Integrity (*IEI*) is then combined with habitat quantity and summed at the watershed scale as an overarching metric of watershed condition. The *IEI* is computed as the geometric mean of the four modules with the assumption that ecosystem quality is dependent upon a balance of all four components and degradation is likely when any single component is degraded.

$$IEI = \sqrt[4]{I_{ins} * I_{rip} * I_{hyd} * I_{con}} \quad (1)$$

Where *IEI* is the Index of Ecosystem Integrity, *I_{ins}* is a quality index from the instream module (0 to 1), *I_{rip}* is a quality index from the riparian module (0 to 1), *I_{hyd}* is a quality index from the hydrologic module (0 to 1), and *I_{con}* is a quality index from the watershed connectivity module (0 to 1).

The final model output is a quality-weighted stream area (in acres). The maximum possible output for the Proctor Creek watershed would occur if all stream segments in the watershed (i.e., 43.1 acres) had perfect quality (i.e., *IEI*=1). However, this outcome is not realistic given the highly developed watershed and, consequently, is not considered attainable.

Table 5. Overview of the quality sub-models in the PCEM. The modules are explained in more detail in Sections 4.1 (instream), 4.2 (riparian), 4.3 (hydrology), and 4.4 (connectivity) of this report.

Module	Objective	Sub-Objective	Metric / Model Variable
Instream condition (I_{ins})	1.1 Improve in-channel conditions suitable for a diversity of aquatic organisms	Restore channel geomorphic conditions to less disturbed conditions.	V_{bkf} – Percent difference in bankfull channel area relative to a regional hydraulic geometry curve.
		Reduce sediment loading from stream bed and banks.	V_{behi} – Bank Erosion Hazard Index scoring system for assessing bank stability (Rosgen 2001).
		Increase instream habitat for a diverse assemblage of local fauna.	V_{ibi} – State-wide visual fish habitat assessment for measuring biotic integrity (GA DNR 2005).
Riparian condition (I_{rip})	1.2 Improve riparian conditions supportive of a diverse aquatic and riparian community	Restore natural sources of organic carbon (i.e., energy) within the system.	V_{carb} – Visual assessment protocol reflecting carbon sources and the basis of the food web.
		Increase nutrient uptake within the basin.	V_{nut} – Combination of variables assessing lateral connectivity of the river and floodplain and potential for root uptake by riparian plants.
		Improve temperature regimes.	V_{temp} – Ratio of riparian canopy height to bankfull channel width as a proxy for temperature regulation.
		Increase riparian habitat to support native biodiversity.	V_{hab} – Extent of invasive species in riparian areas.
Hydrology (I_{hyd})	1.3 Restore the flow regime to the best attainable condition	Decrease peak flows.	V_{peak} – Peak discharge from 2-year rainfall.
		Decrease hydrologic flashiness.	V_{flash} – Hydrograph width for 2-year rainfall.
		Improve the capacity of the watershed to attenuate flows.	V_{att} – Visual assessment of the capacity of a reach to attenuate floods primarily via hydraulic roughness.
Connectivity (I_{con})	1.4 Promote an interconnected system resilient to disturbances	Increase connectivity of movement corridors for aquatic & riparian species.	V_{con} – Watershed connectivity to the Chattahoochee River for small-bodied native fishes. This single metric is used to reflect both objectives as the resilience of an urban stream often depends on its ability to recolonize following disturbance (e.g., repopulate following chemical spill).
		Increase the capacity to absorb natural and anthropogenic disturbance.	

PCEM2 was explicitly developed to measure the success of USACE restoration actions in the Proctor Creek watershed. While the approach is scientifically based and defensible, there are a number of key assumptions and limitations regarding the overall approach to model quantification.

- The index model structure of a quantity-quality assessment is standard of practice within USACE restoration planning. However, other modeling approaches could have captured different aspects of ecosystem structure and function (e.g., a simulation model of fish metapopulation dynamics). This model assumes an index approach sufficiently captures changes in ecosystem structure and function, and variables were intentionally designed to incorporate functional processes where possible.
- PCEM2 was designed to measure the ecological objectives for the Proctor Creek ecosystem restoration study. These objectives are commonly expressed stream restoration objectives, but the model is not intended to capture all potential ecologically relevant aspects of stream ecosystem structure and function (e.g., mass of nutrient uptake or abundance of salamanders).
- The four primary objectives for the project and associated indices are assumed to be of equal importance (i.e., they are not weighted). Likewise, model variables are assumed to be of equal importance when combined into the index for each module.
- Model variables were rigorously screened based on their sensitivity to restoration actions. Variables are developed to emphasize outcomes affected by USACE restoration actions. For instance, stream temperatures are strongly correlated with air temperature and surface runoff from impervious areas (e.g., hot runoff from a summer parking lot). However, impervious area was not included in the assessment of temperature regimes due to small changes associated with USACE actions (i.e., the percent change in imperviousness at the watershed scale would be small relative to project footprints).
- All variables and data collection had to be possible within the project timeline, which included one week of field data collection by two teams and eight months for all analyses.

4.1 Instream module

The instream module addresses the overall geomorphic state, ongoing geomorphic processes, and habitat provision associated with the in-channel environment. Specifically, this module directly addresses the

primary planning objective of improve in-channel conditions suitable for a diversity of aquatic organisms (i.e., Objective 1.1 in Table 2), and variables were selected to emphasize the associated sub-objectives. The variable associated with each sub-objective is presented below along with the combination of these variables into an index of instream condition.

4.1.1 Restore channel geomorphic conditions to less disturbed conditions

As a result of urbanization, stream geomorphology undergoes a predictable process of channel evolution (Simon 1989). As impervious area increases, the magnitude and timing of runoff events tends to induce dramatic or “peaky” hydrographs. The erosive force of these events leads to a common pattern of channel degradation (i.e., downcutting), widening (i.e., bank failure with associated loss of riparian vegetation), and eventually arrives at a new stable equilibrium. The condition along this continuum can inform restoration decisions and guide actions (Watson et al. 2002). This metric uses the shape and dimensions of a channel (i.e., the geometry) as a proxy for current and future geomorphic condition.

Geomorphologists have long used bankfull dimensions of a channel as a surrogate for geomorphic condition and ongoing processes. In an unaltered stream, the bankfull condition generally refers to the incipient point of flooding, this is indicative of the long-term channel shape in response to a watershed’s hydrologic regime and geology (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Bankfull channel geometry definitions (Figure 2.16 from FISRWG 1997).

Bankfull geometry (i.e., depth, width, and cross-sectional area) may be measured at many sites in a region to develop a regional hydraulic geometry curve. These regressions typically relate geometric properties with drainage area or bankfull discharge in an effort to characterize typical

channel shape in the region. Regardless of data set size, these regressions often display a significant amount of scatter due to the simplistic assumption of a single independent and dependent variable to define a complex system (NRCS 2007).

As a reference condition for the Proctor Creek study, bankfull geometry data were assembled from the following three existing studies of Appalachian Piedmont streams in (Figure 5): Georgia (Pruitt 2001), North Carolina (Doll et al. 2002), and Maryland (McCandless and Everett 2002). These studies provided bankfull dimensions across a land use gradient and were compiled to developed regional hydraulic geometry curves for high and low levels of impervious area (i.e., greater than, and less than 10%, respectively). For Proctor Creek, the deviation from the low imperviousness regional curve was used as the primary metric of geomorphic condition (V_{bkf}).

$$V_{bkf} = \frac{|A_{bkf,ref} - A_{bkf,site}|}{A_{bkf,ref}} \quad (2)$$

Where V_{bkf} is the metric for geomorphic conditions, $A_{bkf,ref}$ is the cross-sectional area predicted by the low imperviousness regional curve, and $A_{bkf,site}$ is the cross-sectional area of the stream at a proposed Proctor Creek restoration site (either without or with the restoration project).

Cross-sectional surveys of existing condition in Proctor Creek were conducted in June 2016. Channel cross-sections were obtained at representative sites in each reach. Bankfull elevations were identified based on field indicators such as wrested vegetation, depositional zones or breaks in topography, tops of point bars, and leaf and debris markers (Harrelson et al. 1994). Regional curves were also used to inform design decisions (e.g., channel widths), and the design drawings were then used to extract channel geometry for the restoration conditions.

Figure 5. Region bankfull hydraulic geometry curves for the Appalachian Piedmont. Proctor Creek channel geometry is shown in black for relative comparison of the existing condition.

4.1.2 Reduce sediment loading from stream bed and banks

Urban runoff and accelerated erosion increase sediment supply from overland, bed, and bank sources. USACE actions are not intended to address overland introduction of sediment, and thus, overland introduction is not considered here. However, sediment loading from the stream bed via degradation and stream banks via widening are problematic sources both for the Proctor Creek ecosystem and downstream rivers (e.g., reservoir sedimentation in the Chattahoochee River). The Proctor Creek watershed has been developed for many decades, and a majority of reaches have undergone downcutting and are now in the widening phase of channel evolution based on observations from a February 2016 field investigation. In addition, accelerated sediment deposition, results in the formation of mid-channel and traverse bars, increasing near bank shear stress, and ultimately causing bank failure. As such, the influence of bed sediment is neglected, and the focus remains on the potential for sediment introduction from streambanks.

Rosgen (2001) proposed a semi-quantitative methodology for assessing potential for bank erosion. The Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) combines five basic variables into an overarching score on a 0–50 point scale: (1) a measure of entrenchment as the ratio of the height of the top of the bank to the bankfull depth, which diverges from 1 as a channel degrades, (2) the ratio of rooting depth to the height of the top of the bank, (3) a visual estimate of the root density in the bank zone, (4) the angle of the bank, and (5) a measure of the protection of bank surfaces by vegetation. For each variable, a categorical score is assigned based on a specified rubric (Table 6). For instance, a bank angle of 70 degrees would indicate a categorical score of 5.0. The scores are then summed across the five categories to reach an overall hazard score. This assumes linearity of scoring within a category, which is implied but not explicitly recommended by Rosgen. The BEHI approach also offers two correction factors for bank materials (e.g., bedrock vs. silt) and stratification (i.e., layering of sediment types).

All data were collected for Proctor Creek in conjunction with channel cross-sectional measurements described above at representative locations in each reach. The correction factors to simplify application within the constrained time horizon of the project were disregarded. The BEHI scores were computed for both the left and right (descending) streambanks, and reach-wide scores were computed as the average of the values. To compute the overall sediment loading metric (V_{behi}), the 50-point scale was then normalized from 0–1.

Table 6. The Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) scoring system.

Hazard Category (Range of Total Score)	Categorical Score	H_{bank} / H_{bkf}	H_{root} / H_{bank}	Root Density (%)	Bank Angle (deg)	Surface Protection (%)
Very Low (5-10)	1-2	1.0-1.1	1.00-0.90	100-80	0-20	100-80
Low (10-20)	2-4	1.1-1.2	0.90-0.50	80-55	20-60	80-55
Moderate (20-30)	4-6	1.2-1.5	0.50-0.30	55-30	60-80	55-30
High (30-40)	6-8	1.5-2.0	0.30-0.15	30-15	80-90	30-15
Very High (40-45)	8-9	2.0-2.8	0.15-0.05	15-5	91-120	15-10
Extreme (>45)	9-10	>2.8	< 0.05	< 5	> 120	< 10

4.1.3 Increase instream habitat for a diverse assemblage of local fauna

Urban waters commonly experience degradation and homogenization of instream habitat with an associated decline in biodiversity, although mechanisms why are poorly understood (Paul and Meyer 2001). In Proctor Creek, pools have been filled due to accelerated sedimentation resulting in dominance of runs, and reduction in bedform spacing and diversity. Diverse aquatic taxa (e.g., macroinvertebrates, fish, salamanders, and crayfish) often differentially experience these physical, chemical, and biological changes to the ecosystem. This metric uses a semi-quantitative scoring system design for Georgia's fish community to assess instream habitat (GA DNR 2004). While a more thorough taxa specific system is preferred (e.g., habitat suitability calculations for a diversity of taxa), the fish community's role as a high order consumer (i.e., often near the top of the aquatic food web) assumes that protecting fish habitat results in a concomitant protection of lower order taxa (e.g., benthic macroinvertebrates), that is, they serve as an umbrella species (Lambeck 1997).

This assessment of instream habitat is based on the following two, well-vetted procedures: (1) the EPA's Rapid Bioassessment Protocol, and (2) a state procedure for fish biomonitoring (GA DNR 2005). These procedures provide a 0–20 point scale for assessing ten variables indicative of habitat quality. This metric used a subset of the recommended ten variables

(Table 7) because riparian condition and bank processes are assessed separately and bedform diversity is challenging to forecast. Qualitative descriptions of the 0–20 point scale were developed for each variable in the context of the Proctor Creek basin (Appendix B). The 20-point scale was viewed in the context of the Proctor Creek watershed with 20 representing the best attainable condition for this basin rather than a pristine, unaltered condition. Minor modifications to the scales were made in light of other qualitative stream survey methods (Newton et al. 1998; Barbour et al. 1999; Rankin 2006; Boyer 2009). The five habitat variables were averaged across observers and variables and subsequently normalized from 0–1 to obtain the instream habitat metric (V_{ibi}).

Table 7. Description of the importance of instream habitat variables.

Variable	Description and Reason for Inclusion
Epifaunal and Instream Cover	The presence and stability of diverse habitat types provides a variety of niches for aquatic organisms. Some possible stable habitat types include fallen trees, overhanging shrubbery, and diverse bedforms and substrates.
Embeddedness in Runs	Sediment types and sorting play an important role in benthic processes and the embeddedness of sediments is a common indicator of instream processing. This variable addresses the degree to which gaps around large substrates (e.g., gravels) are filled in with silts and clay.
Velocity and depth regime	Instream complexity is often indicative of habitat value for a variety of aquatic taxa, and diverse habitats (e.g., pools, riffles, runs, glides) are common to intact stream ecosystems. Four generalized depth and velocity regimes were addressed: slow-deep, fast-deep, slow-shallow, and fast-shallow.
Channel alteration	The degree and age of river engineering structures and alteration (e.g., piping, channelization, bank armoring) is a good surrogate for overall ecosystem impact experienced over long time scales.
Sediment Deposition	Sediment accumulation in pools reduces habitat diversity and negatively impacts benthic organisms. This variable assess the relative amount of deposition in an area as well as indicators of large-scale changes to the sediment environment (e.g., enlargement of bars).

Field-based visual surveys were used to assess the existing condition of each variable. All stream reaches with proposed restoration actions (Table 2) were visited during a rapid survey conducted 13–17 June 2016. The length of each reach was walked by a consistent team of USACE personnel. The instream scoring system was then independently assessed by three team members for the existing and with project conditions (See Chapter 6 and Appendix B for additional details). All surveys were conducted by a team including expertise in biology, geomorphology, stream ecology, water resource engineering, and USACE planning.

4.1.4 Instream index

Total instream condition (I_{ins}) was assessed as the arithmetic mean of the three instream metrics. Two assumptions are implicit in this equation, (1) equal weight among the variables and (2) independence of the variables.

$$I_{ins} = \frac{V_{bkf} + V_{behi} + V_{ibi}}{3} \quad (3)$$

Where I_{ins} is an index of instream condition, V_{bkf} is a metric of geomorphic condition, V_{behi} is a metric of sediment loading, and V_{ibi} is a metric of instream habitat.

4.2 Riparian condition module

Riparian condition refers broadly to the overall health of the riparian zone, its influence on instream processes, and its capacity to provide habitat. This module addresses the planning objective of improve riparian conditions supportive of a diverse aquatic and riparian community (i.e., Objective 1.2 in Table 2), with variables selected to emphasize associated sub-objectives. The variable associated with each sub-objective is presented below along with the combination of these variables into an index of riparian condition.

4.2.1 Restore natural sources of organic carbon within the system

Stream food webs obtain energy from inside of the stream (i.e., “autochthonous” sources such as algal growth) and outside of the stream (i.e., “allochthonous” sources such as leaf litter and coarse woody debris input). The relative ratio of internally and externally derived carbon varies with size of the stream, land use conditions upstream, and level of disturbance in the riparian zone (Vannote et al. 1980). This metric assesses the contribution of different carbon sources as a proxy for energy input and its role in driving food web structure.

For PCEM2, the metric (V_{carb}) incorporates three components of carbon dynamics. All three elements were assessed visually using a procedure that follows the general form of the habitat assessment described above (i.e., EPA and GA-DNR’s 0–20 point scale). First, primary carbon sources (e.g., algal vs. leaf input) present in the system were coupled with an assessment of carbon retention within a reach (e.g., evidence of leaf packs and wood).

Second, the complexity of the vertical structure of the riparian canopy was used as a proxy for the diversity of leaf inputs and relative effect of stream shading. Third, the diversity and vigor of bank vegetation was assessed from an adapted habitat assessment procedure (GA DNR 2005) as a second proxy for the diversity of leaf inputs and relative effect of stream shading. All three variables were assessed following the visual assessment procedure described above (i.e., stream walk, three observers, and averages of left and right banks). Qualitative descriptions of the 0–20 point scales for each variable in the context of the Proctor Creek basin are provided in Appendix B.

4.2.2 Increase nutrient uptake within the basin

Nutrient dynamics in urban streams are often highly altered from a myriad of factors such as increased loading (e.g., fertilizer runoff, sewer overflows), reduced uptake zones (e.g., impervious upland and riparian zones), and altered hydrology (e.g., reduced residence times). Watershed management actions such as stormwater control, installation of green infrastructure, wetland creation, or fertilizer control programs can reduce these effects significantly. However, proposed USACE restoration actions primarily influence the uptake capacity of the stream and associated floodplain and wetland complex, and thus, are the focus of this metric.

First, lateral connectivity between the channel and floodplain contributes to the uptake of nutrients by increasing contact time with riparian vegetation and increasing the area of potential uptake. Floodplain connectivity is assessed in PCEM2 as the ratio of bankfull depth to the bank height of the lowest bank (to a maximum of one). Cross-sectional surveys described above are used in the assessment of these variables.

Second, vegetation along streambanks interact with base flows through root zones, this can provide a source of nutrient reduction. Riparian zones can also uptake and transform nutrients from upland sources moving through these stream buffers (de Steven and Lowrance 2011). Uptake capacity of streambank vegetation is assessed as the average root density (%) from left and right bank measurements from the BEHI survey.

The overall nutrient uptake metric (V_{nut}) is the combination of the floodplain connectivity and bank vegetation variables.

4.2.3 Improve temperature regimes

Urban areas often exhibit higher stream temperatures due to increased runoff from hot impervious areas (e.g., parking lots, roofs), reduced stream shading, and delivery of warm inputs from point sources (Kaushal et al. 2010). USACE restoration actions are unlikely to alter the delivery of hot water from impervious zones upstream or point sources. However, some restoration actions have a direct impact on temperature regimes relative to stream shading. Stream temperatures have been shown to increase dramatically in forest gaps, but also reduce quickly in response to forested cover (Kraseski 2015). This metric uses the relative level of canopy shading as a proxy for stream temperature regimes in a given reach. Specifically, the ratio of the canopy height within 25 feet of the top of bank, to the bank-to-bank width (Figure 6), is used as a surrogate for light levels and associated temperature change. This ratio is assessed for both banks and averaged to a maximum value of one. Both parameters were assessed in the field during cross-sectional surveys.

Figure 6. Increase riparian habitat to support native biodiversity.

In addition to their influence on streams, riparian zones also serve as important habitats due to their role as an ecotone between the aquatic and terrestrial environments. In urban areas, riparian zones provide migratory corridors, refugia, and stopover habitat for a variety of birds, mammals, insects, and other organisms. Invasive species such as kudzu, privet hedge, multiflora rose, Russian olive, and English ivy dramatically alter habitats and overtake native species throughout the Proctor Creek watershed. This metric, (V_{hab}), reflects the extent to which invasive species have compromised riparian habitat functions. This variable is computed as the average percent of native species in the left and right riparian zones, from belt transect surveys conducted in conjunction with cross-sectional surveys.

4.2.4 Riparian index

The total riparian condition, (I_{rip}), was assessed as the arithmetic mean of the four riparian metrics. The following two assumptions are implicit: (1) equal weight among the variables and (2) independence of the variables.

$$I_{rip} = \frac{V_{carb} + V_{nut} + V_{temp} + V_{hab}}{4} \quad (4)$$

Where I_{rip} is an index of riparian condition, V_{carb} is a metric of carbon sources, V_{nut} is a metric of nutrient uptake, V_{temp} is a metric of temperature regimes, and V_{hab} is a metric of riparian habitat.

4.3 Hydrology module

Hydrologic condition refers to the degree of similarity between an unaltered, pre-development hydrograph and the modified, current hydrograph. This module directly addresses the primary planning objective of restore flow regimes to best attainable conditions achievable in altered urban environments (i.e., Objective 1.3 in Table 2), variables were selected to emphasize the associated sub-objectives. The variables associated with each sub-objective are presented below along with the combination of these variables into an index of hydrologic condition. Notably, the first two sub-objectives are presented together due to a single analytical approach.

4.3.1 Decrease peak flows and hydrographic flashiness

Hydrologic change due to increased impervious area in cities represents one of the most important changes in stream and riparian functions resulting from urbanization (Fischenich 2005). Piedmont streams provide a classic example of urban hydrologic change, with watersheds generally exhibiting increased peak flows and reduced time of concentration (i.e., a “flashy” hydrograph) (Inman 2000; Gotvald and Knaak 2011; Feaster et al. 2014). Flashy conditions result in a reduction in baseflow discharge and depth which adversely affects aquatic biota (e.g., suppressed dissolved oxygen, increased water temperature, reduction in “living space”, limited access to habitat types). Two metrics are used to summarize these hydrologic changes in PCEM2, peak discharge (V_{peak}), and hydrograph width (V_{flash}), both of these are assessed via a hydrologic simulation model. Many other hydrologic metrics could be used to assess these objectives (e.g., Olden and

Poff 2003; Baker et al. 2004), but these were selected in light of hydrologic model development burden and relevance to USACE actions.

The Hydrologic Engineer Center's Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS Version 4.2) (Scharffenberg 2016) was applied to assess hydrologic change throughout the Proctor Creek watershed. Details of the hydrologic model development and calibration at local United States Geological Survey (USGS) gages are provided in Appendix C. To provide a reference point of comparison, the HMS model will be simulated for current levels of development and a hypothetical, undeveloped, forested condition. This is not to imply that this state is desirable or achievable, but merely provides a consistent frame of reference for comparison of hydrologic change. Each reach in the Proctor Creek watershed was assigned an associated "pour point" in the HMS domain, this provided HMS outputs for every reach and alternative.

The HMS was executed in a storm simulation context (rather than a continuous simulation) for a 24-hour, 2-year recurrence interval rainfall event (3.72 inches) (NOAA 2017) uniformly applied over the entire watershed. The 2-year event was chosen for assessment of the benefits of restoration actions as a compromise between storm event frequency and magnitude. Furthermore, 2-year discharge events are often correlated with geomorphically significant events such as bankfull or effective discharge (Wilkerson 2008). For these simulations, hydrographs were generated, and peak discharge and hydrograph width were extracted for every reach in the watershed. Hydrograph width was assessed at 75% and 50% of the peak discharge following traditional methods for hydrograph characterization (Bedient et al. 2013), and the average width was applied as a metric of hydrologic flashiness. The relative change in these parameters from the forested condition was used as the metrics for PCEM2 (Figure 7).

$$V_{peak} = -\frac{Q_{peak}}{Q_{pre}} + 2 \quad V_{flash} = \frac{2w_{peak}}{w_{pre}} - 1 \quad (5)$$

Where V_{peak} is the metric for peak discharge, Q_{peak} is the peak discharge for a given alternative, Q_{pre} is the pre-development, fully forested peak discharge, and V_{peak} is bracketed from a minimum of 0 when $Q_{peak} = 2^*$ Q_{pre} to a maximum of 1 when $Q_{peak} = Q_{pre}$. Also, V_{flash} is the metric for

flashiness based on hydrograph width, w_{peak} is the average width of the hydrograph at 75% and 50% of peak discharge for a given alternative, w_{pre} is the pre-development, fully forested average width of the hydrograph at 75% and 50% of peak discharge, and V_{flash} is bracketed from a minimum of 0 when $w_{peak} = 0.5 * w_{pre}$ to a maximum of 1 when $w_{peak} = w_{pre}$ (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Summary of hydrologic metrics for peak discharge (V_{peak}) and flashiness (V_{flash}): (A) Schematic of storm hydrographs in undeveloped (blue) and developed (orange) watershed conditions with key hydrograph features as labeled. (B) Rescaling of peak discharge from 0 to 1. (C) Rescaling of flashiness metric from 0 to 1.

4.3.2 Improve the capacity of the watershed to attenuate flows

In addition to direct changes to hydrology, restoration actions can impact the hydrologic function of a watershed indirectly. For instance, a low floodplain environment with vigorous vegetation and a temporary wetland can alter flood routing via hydraulic roughness and surface storage. The degree of hydrologic impact is a function of the geomorphic conditions (e.g., accessibility of the floodplain), presence and health of riparian vegetation, degree of other roughness elements (e.g., large wood,

meanders, etc.), and volume of floodplain storage areas. A visual assessment scale was developed to capture the relative effect of these factors on hydrologic function and attenuation within a reach (Table 8). The scale was designed following the 0–20 point scale used for other variables. Other hydrologic variables (V_{peak} , V_{flash}) were assessed cumulatively for every reach in the watershed, and thus, this variable was also applied watershed-wide. All assessments were conducted remotely by the team using information related to cross-sectional surveys (e.g., bankfull depth, bank height ratio), stream walks and photos, area / volume of known wetland features, and riparian vegetation scores. The scoring system was independently assessed by three team members for the existing and with project conditions. All surveys were conducted by a team including expertise in biology, hydrology, geomorphology, stream ecology, water resource engineering, and USACE planning. Scores were normalized from 0–1 to obtain the hydrologic attenuation metric (V_{att}).

Table 8. Semi-quantitative scoring system for assessing hydrologic attenuation.

Condition (Scoring Range)	Description
Optimal (20–16)	Low accessible floodplain environment with vigorous vegetation, little (if any) impervious area, significant storage, and likely presence of floodplain wetlands with significant residence time.
Suboptimal (15–11)	Vegetated floodplain with likely effect on flood routing due to frequency of events (e.g., accessible floodplain) or floodplain storage. Moderate residence times. High surface water-groundwater interaction.
Marginal (10–6)	Vegetated floodplain with minimal effect on flood routing due to frequency of events (e.g., perched floodplain) or floodplain storage. Low residence times. Low surface water-groundwater interaction.
Poor (5–0)	Perched floodplain with little vegetation, no surface storage, significant impervious cover, and little (if any) effect on flood routing.

4.3.3 Hydrologic index

The total hydrologic condition, (I_{hyd}), was assessed as the arithmetic mean of the three component metrics. The following two assumptions are implicit: (1) equal weight among the three variables and (2) independence of the variables.

$$I_{hyd} = \frac{V_{peak} + V_{flash} + V_{att}}{3} \quad (6)$$

Where I_{ins} is an index of watershed hydrology, V_{peak} is a metric of peak flows, V_{flash} is a metric of hydrologic flashiness, and V_{att} is a metric of hydrologic attenuation in the watershed and riparian zone.

4.4 Connectivity module

Hydrologic connectivity refers to the water-mediated transfer of matter, energy, and/or organisms within or between elements of the hydrologic cycle (Pringle 2003). This module directly addresses the primary planning objective of promote an interconnected system resilient to foreseen and unforeseen disturbances (i.e., Objective 1.4 in Table 2), and the assessment approach emphasized the following associated sub-objectives:

- Increase connectivity of movement corridors for aquatic and riparian species.
- Increase the capacity to absorb natural and anthropogenic disturbance.

Connectivity between headwaters and large rivers is important for maintaining population dynamics and dispersal of both aquatic and riparian organisms (Freeman et al. 2007; Meyer et al. 2007; Fuller et al. 2015). Spatially connected systems are buffered against disturbances in urban environments (e.g., floods, chemical spills) and can repopulate or recover more quickly than isolated systems. This capacity to bounce back (i.e., resilience) represents an important mechanism for coping with urban stressors (Palmer et al. 2005).

In the PCEM, connectivity is assessed as a watershed-scale process and quantified as the cumulative probability of aquatic organism passage beyond a sequence of multiple potential barriers. For instance, two barriers in sequence create three unique reaches. If an organism has a 50% probability of passing each barrier, the cumulative probability of an organism passing in each reach is 100%, 50%, and 25% moving upstream. This general approach has been applied to more than forty studies of barrier prioritization worldwide (McKay et al. 2016), and the team adopted the approach of McKay et al. (2013), which uses network analyses to summarize the cumulative passage process.

In the Proctor Creek watershed, movement barriers arise primarily from road crossings, sewer crossings, piped or channelized streams, and natural waterfalls. While other organisms use aquatic and riparian corridors (e.g., amphibians, otter, song birds), all passage processes were assessed relative to fish movement. A multi-species framework would be preferable as a more holistic measure of connectivity, but fish were used as a surrogate with the assumption that they are generally more limited in movement ability than other taxa. Furthermore, this region possesses incredibly high fish biodiversity, and rather than a species-specific movement model, this approach is generalized for “small bodied fishes” of greatest conservation concern (Anderson et al. 2012).

Barrier passability was assessed using the methods of Collins (2016), which built from prior studies by Coffman (2005) and Anderson et al. (2012). In these studies, barrier properties (e.g., culvert perch height) are measured in the field, and these measurements are used to parameterize multiple passability models. From these models, a Bayesian belief network is used to predict the probability that a barrier is completely impassable, partially passable, or completely passable.

In Proctor Creek, potential barrier locations were compiled from existing dam databases, road-stream crossings, and other known crossings (e.g., sewers). The number of road-stream crossings were reduced by removing bridges from the National Bridge Inventory. This preliminary analysis resulted in 23 potential barriers, these were comprehensively surveyed in the summer of 2016 to collect needed physical parameters. Three potential barriers were either bridges or free spanning crossings, leaving 20 total barriers for the entire watershed. From field data, probabilities were estimated in group assignment relative to passable, partially passable, and impassable structure following the method of Collins (2016). An overall passage rate for each structure was assessed as the weighted average of group assignment and an estimate passage rate for the category as follows:

$$p_{total} = 0.0 * p_{impass} + 0.5 * p_{partial} + 1.0 * p_{pass} \quad (7)$$

Where p_{total} is the passage probability at a given structure, p_{impass} is the probability the barrier is completely impassable weighted by a passage rate of 0.0, $p_{partial}$ is the probability the barrier is partially passable weighted by a passage rate of 0.5, and p_{pass} is the probability the barrier is completely passable weighted by a passage rate of 1.0.

These structure-specific passage rates were combined with network analysis following the methods of McKay et al. (2013, 2016) to estimate the connectivity of a given reach to the Chattahoochee River (I_{con}).

4.5 Numerical toolkit

The PCEM2 evaluates a variety of ecological processes addressing instream condition, riparian condition, hydrologic change, and watershed connectivity. This multi-metric, ecosystem-based approach requires a variety of input variables collected in both field and office settings. A spreadsheet database was developed to compile data from multiple field observations (e.g., visual assessments, cross-sectional surveys, barrier properties), office analyses (e.g., HMS outputs, connectivity assessments), and geospatial resources (e.g., reach lengths, watershed properties).

The PCEM2 combines all modules into a script-based environment the user can use to compute ecological outputs for futures, without and with restoration actions. Potential restoration actions at any site throughout the watershed can be turned on and off by the user to analyze combinations of actions (e.g., riparian planting at site-1, barrier removal at site-2, and flow management at site-3). All analyses are conducted using the R statistical software package (version 3.3.2, R Development Core Team 2016). Numerical model code and associated project database are available from the authors upon request.

A generalized workflow was developed to track the execution of the quantitative model described in Chapter 4 (Figure 8). Generally, the workflow computes separately the variables related to reach-scale processes (V_{bkf} , V_{behi} , V_{ibi} , V_{carb} , V_{nut} , V_{temp} , V_{hab} , and V_{att}) and watershed-scale process (V_{peak} , V_{time} , and V_{con}) for the futures without and with restoration actions. The model then loops over every combination of restoration action and uses lookup tables to query the appropriate values and compute indices (I_{ins} , I_{rip} , I_{hyd} , and I_{con}). The overarching index (IEI) is then combined with habitat quantity as the benefits metric used in cost-effectiveness and incremental cost analyses. Model outputs are structured as a matrix with a unique plan identifier, the restoration status of every reach (i.e., 0=future without project, 1=future with project), the total habitat at all time points (i.e., years 0, 2, 10, and 50), and the average annual habitat units.

Figure 8. Numerical model workflow for PCEM2.

5 Model Evaluation

Ecological models, such as PCEM2, commonly address many ecological processes, rely on multiple variables, and in many cases present a variety of ecological outcomes. As such, models can quickly become complex system representations with many components, inputs, assumptions, and modules. Model evaluation is the process for ensuring that numerical tools are scientifically defensible, transparently developed, and numerically sound. Evaluation is often referred to as verification or validation, but it in fact includes a family of methods ranging from peer review to model testing to error checking (Schmolke et al. 2010). In this more general sense, evaluation should include the following (Grant and Swannack 2008): (1) assessing the reasonableness of model structure, (2) assessing functional relationships and verifying code, (3) evaluating model behavior relative to expected patterns, (4) comparing outcomes to empirical data, if possible, and (5) analyzing uncertainty in predictions. The USACE has established an ecological model certification process to ensure that planning models used on ecosystem restoration projects are sound and functional, this generally consists of evaluating tools relative to three of the following categories: technical quality, system quality, and usability (EC 1105-2-412; PB 2013-02).

5.1 Technical quality

The technical quality of a model is assessed relative to its reliance on contemporary theory, consistency with design objectives, and degree of documentation and testing. As described in the conceptualization and quantification chapters, PCEM2 couples a variety of peer-reviewed ecological modeling methods for analyzing stream ecosystem integrity. The overarching quantity-quality framework has been applied extensively to assess restoration outcomes ranging from a single species to ecosystems (e.g., Habitat Evaluation Procedures and the Hydrogeomorphic Methods, respectively). Furthermore, the sub-models are supported by the peer-reviewed algorithms described in Chapter 4. Although qualitative, field-based judgments are used in some sub-models, these methods have been shown to provide significant utility and predictive power, and remain highly applied in stream assessment (Hughes et al. 2010). To minimize any potential bias from judgment, multiple observers assessed each judgment-based model input, and the mean judgment was used in the analyses. In

addition to qualitative evidence of technical quality, two quantitative evaluation methods were applied, calibration, and sensitivity analysis.

5.1.1 Model calibration

Calibration of the entire model is not feasible due to the lack of a single unifying metric of stream integrity. However, the hydrologic module was calibrated based on its ability to replicate observed stream discharge at a USGS stream gage (Gage #02336526 Proctor Creek at Jackson Parkway). The HMS model was deemed sufficiently accurate in calibration simulations relative to four unique storm events (Appendix C).

5.1.2 Global sensitivity analysis

Technical quality was also evaluated through a partial sensitivity analysis of the overall structure of the model. As described, the model is composed of eleven central variables, these are combined into four indices and one overarching quality index (Table 5). For this analysis, the team examined the hypothetical change in the overarching index resulting from large changes in any one variable. All variables were held at a constant value of 1, and then systematically reduced one variable at a time by intervals of 0.05 to a value of zero. The change in IEI provides an indicator of the sensitivity of PCEM2 to any one variable in any given reach.

Figure 9 presents the change in IEI for each variable, with variables ranked from most to least sensitive (i.e., V_{con} to V_{hab}). The overarching index is highly sensitive to changes in the connectivity module due to the single variable influencing the connectivity index (i.e., $I_{con} = f(V_{con})$, whereas $I_{rip} = f(V_{carb}, V_{nut}, V_{temp}, V_{hab})$). Although sensitive, this index is derived from field measurements (rather than judgments), and a well-published set of quantitative techniques for estimating barrier passability and connectivity (Coffman 2005; Anderson et al. 2012; McKay et al. 2013; Collins 2016; McKay et al. 2016). Thus, index sensitivity is deemed satisfactory relative to the scientific support of this index. No other variable changes IEI values more than 10%, even under the extreme range of 0–1. Each variable could be subsequently broken down to examine the sensitivity of the components. For instance, the instream biotic integrity metric (V_{ibi}) is composed of five parameters assessed by professional judgment (Table 7). As such, PCEM2 is relatively insensitive to small change in any one of these parameters.

Figure 9. Global sensitivity analysis of major model variables.

The PCEM2 model structure is proposed in Chapter 4 as variables that are combined into indices using arithmetic means, and then subsequently combined into the IEI using a geometric mean. To examine the sensitivity to this formulation, the team examined the inverse case as an extreme case of how model structure could influence sensitivity. In this formulation, variables are combined into indices using geometric means, and then subsequently combined into the IEI using an arithmetic mean. Even in this extreme scenario, the model shows similar sensitivity to connectivity and a maximum change in IEI of 25% for all variables.

From these analyses, the team concluded that the model structure of PCEM2 is sensitive enough to capture ecological changes resulting from restoration actions, and that the most sensitive parameters are those relying on the strongest scientific evidence and the most commonly applied methods.

5.2 System quality

Ecological models must not only maintain an appropriate theoretical and technical basis, but also must be computationally accurate. System quality refers to the computational integrity of a model (or modeling system) (e.g., is the tool appropriately programmed, has it been verified or stress-tested, and do outcomes behave in expected ways)? The system quality of PCEM was evaluated in a variety of ways, including the following:

- Quality assurance practices: Errors were avoided to the extent practical by following common best practices for model development (Grant and Swannack 2008). First, a workflow was developed *a priori*. Second, all code was documented extensively with in-line comments during development to articulate model logic, clarify naming conventions, and avoid editing errors. Third, interim error checking was applied routinely during development. Fourth, input files are imported in one location with one naming convention to avoid version control problems. Fifth, old model code was stored in a separate directory to avoid version control issues.
- Code checking: All code was error-checked during and after development by the primary programmer (McKay) and was also inspected by team members periodically. Error checking considered consistent variable naming, investigated outputs from individual lines of code, and blocks of code (e.g., functions and loops).
- Model testing: An extensive post-hoc test of model functionality was conducted on the final model version. Appendix D provides tabular results of individual tests run on all functions and large blocks of code, these include the purpose of the test, mechanism of testing, and result of the test. All model tests were deemed successful based on this testing procedure.

5.3 Usability

The usability of a model can influence the repeatable and transparent application of a tool. This type of evaluation typically examines the ease of use, availability of inputs, transparency, error potential, and education of the user. As such, defining the intended user(s) is a crucial component of assessing usability. PCEM was developed for application by the USACE technical team of the Proctor Creek stream restoration study. The tool is not currently intended for broader application by local sponsors, other regional teams, or other USACE Districts. As such, there is currently no graphical user interface (GUI) for the model beyond the script itself. There is also no training on model use currently planned, given the small user community.

To this end, the current form of the model has maintained usability through four key mechanisms. First, PCEM is designed in a simple input-output workflow. All inputs are stored in a single Excel file, this is structured where each sheet is converted to a *.csv and imported directly into PCEM. The model selects these *.csv files based on user specifications

and provides all results in a separate *.csv. Second, input data and files were checked extensively by the team to ensure accuracy of data entry and manipulation in Excel. Third, the R statistical language is open source, freeware that is approved for USACE usage. Fourth, the R language and *.csv inputs can function across operating platforms and with minimal computational burden, which makes the model flexible and transferrable to future applications.

6 Model Application

The Phase 2 Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM2) was developed to examine the relative effects of multiple and diverse restoration actions distributed throughout an urban watershed. PCEM2 was applied to inform multiple aspects of the Proctor Creek ecosystem restoration study, in particular: examining current watershed condition (i.e., the future without project) and assessing cumulative effects of many types and locations of restoration actions (i.e., multiple futures with restoration projects). This chapter presents a preliminary demonstration of model application to inform USACE decision making for the Proctor Creek Restoration Study. However, these analyses do *not* represent all aspects of the feasibility study decision-making process, and therefore should not be construed as agency recommendations or decision documents. All model applications presented in this chapter are for purely demonstrative purposes.

6.1 Future without project (FWOP) conditions

The future without project condition (FWOP) provides a baseline condition for the current status and future trajectory of the Proctor Creek watershed and forms the basis for comparing ecological effects of restoration actions (ER 1150-2-100). For this analysis, the team assumed the following:

- Land use change is static. Due to the long history of development in the area, the team assumed no additional development will occur beyond current levels of imperviousness. Market trends within the basin indicate that land use may continue to change with redevelopment of portions of the basin, but there are not reliable forecasts of land use at the scale of the 50-year planning horizon.
- No climate change is considered due to extreme variability in forecasts in the region ($< +0.5$ to $> +4$ °C minimum and maximum temperature anomalies and < -10 to $> +25$ percent change in precipitation) based on statistically downscaled General Circulation Model projections for the Chattahoochee watershed in year 2090 (Lafontaine et al. 2015).
- No additional invasive species expansion. Invasive taxa currently occur in every reach of Proctor Creek with some reaches dominated. The team assumed expansion beyond the current extent will be minimal.
- As a focal watershed for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a variety of potentially relevant watershed management actions are being

taken in the Proctor Creek basin (e.g., culvert repairs, stormwater programs, recreational development). However, to avoid dependence of USACE actions on these projects, the team has assumed no other actions influence the USACE recommended plan.

Based on these uncertainties, the future without project condition is assumed to be the existing condition in the watershed, and future degradation or improvement cannot be substantiated without highly uncertain assumptions. As such, the existing condition is also assumed to persist for the duration of the 50-year planning horizon. In later stages of the feasibility study, alternative FWOPs will be tested with scenario analyses of alternative land uses, climate conditions, and actions by others.

The PCEM2 has been developed to assess the cumulative condition of the entire Proctor Creek watershed. Modules related to instream and riparian condition are assessed on a reach-scale, while modules for connectivity and hydrology are cumulative at the watershed-scale. For connectivity analyses, all known barriers in the watershed were surveyed and included in calculations. The hydrology model was developed basin-wide and outputs were obtained for each reach. All restoration reaches (Table 1) were examined using PCEM2 methods for instream and riparian conditions. All non-restoration reaches assumed instream and riparian conditions from prior data collection and modeling (i.e., PCEM Phase 1; McKay et al. 2017).

The FWOP (Figure 10) provides further insight into the individual modules of the PCEM2 as well as the overarching IEI. The instream condition in Proctor Creek ranges from extremely poor to reasonably high quality (0.04–0.82), often in conjunction with underlying geomorphology (i.e., bedrock grade controls and confined valley types). Riparian zones are reasonably intact, but often contain significant invasive species disturbance and resultantly have fair quality scores (0.13–0.80). The hydrology module emphasizes the departure of storm flows from a forested reference condition and accordingly shows extremely high alteration (0.01–0.57). The watershed is relatively well-connected (i.e., no large dams), but a few barriers lead to significant areas of fragmentations. Examined in total, the IEI indicates Proctor Creek is heavily impacted with 14.3 acres of total quality-weighted habitat out of a possible 43.1 acres.

6.2 Future with project (FWP) conditions

As discussed in Chapter 1, prior project analyses identified twelve reaches with significant restoration opportunities and four potential flow attenuation sites (Table 1). All sites were investigated more thoroughly in the field, and as a result two reaches (PCo6, TCo7) and two detention features (D10, D12) were removed from additional consideration. The remaining reaches were walked by a consistent team with expertise in engineering, stream ecology, and project planning. The team noted specific restoration actions on aerial photographs and took extensive field notes to describe a restoration action for the site. From these notes, preliminary design drawings were developed describing each restoration site. An example drawing is provided for TCo5 in Appendix E, but the project feasibility study should be consulted for more detailed design information. Two sites (PCo8, TCo2) were split into sub-reaches to distinguish the unique aspects of the restoration actions. For the flow detention sites, site investigation and survey were used to parameterize detention pond modeling software (PondPack™, Bentley Systems 2009). These simulations facilitated the screening of an additional detention site (D4) due to its negligible effect on hydrologic conditions downstream. Thus, fifteen sites were maintained for analysis in PCEM 2 (Table 9). Cost engineering methods were then applied to estimate costs associated with real estate, design, and construction of these actions (Appendix F).

Watershed conditions were assessed for the FWP at four time steps. Year-0 was assessed as the existing condition, unless a preliminary impact was anticipated from construction actions. Year-2 was assessed as an initial point of recovery with expectation of early riparian growth. Year-10 was forecasted as a point of vegetation establishment and identifies a key decision threshold based on policy and guidance surrounding monitoring and adaptive management (WRDA 2007 Section 2039). Year-50 was forecasted as the end of the planning horizon and a point of ecological maturity for any restoration actions.

PCEM2 was applied to each time step, and variables were forecast differently depending upon their basis. Appendix G provides all future with project forecasts. Any physical changes to the system (e.g., channel reshaping, connectivity improvement, or hydrologic restoration) were assumed static through time. Visual assessments were reassessed by the consistent team involved in field assessment. All BEHI variables for root depth, root density, and surface protection were assessed as follows:

- Year-0 = Existing condition for root depth, root density, and surface protection.
- Year-2 = Max of existing condition OR root depth=0.5*bankfull depth, root density=75%, and surface protection=75%.
- Year-10 = Max of existing condition OR root depth=1.0* bankfull depth, root density=100%, and surface protection=100%.
- Year-50 = Max of existing condition OR root depth=1.0* bankfull depth, root density=100%, and surface protection=100%.

Table 9. Restoration site descriptions and preliminary cost estimates by reach. Appendix E presents an example of a detailed description of an alternative, and Appendix F presents an overview of cost estimation methods.

Reach ID	Brief description of restoration alternative	Project cost (\$K)
PC08.01	In-channel structures accompanied by riparian planting and extensive right bank invasive species management	709
PC08.02	Right bank weir structures with bank reshaping, riparian planting, and extensive invasive species management accompanied by minor reshaping of the confluence with Terrell Creek	765
PC08.03	No action	0
PC09	Installation of a small rock ramp at a sewer crossing that is causing a fish movement barrier	365
PC10	Minor right bank structures with extensive invasive species management and riparian planting (right bank)	760
PC13	Installation of rock and wood weir structures with invasive species management and riparian planting on the left bank	472
PC14	Installation of rock and wood structures	364
PC15	Large reach with rock and wood weir structures, in-channel structures, and excavation and planting of a large left bank wetland complex	1,134
PC21	Rock and wood bank protection with extensive invasive species management and riparian planting along with excavation and planting of a large right bank wetland complex	1,270
PCU03	Excavation and installation of a flow retention pond (D17)	371
TC02.01	No action	0
TC02.02	Minor bank protection with extensive invasive species management and riparian planting along with excavation and planting of a large right bank wetland complex	735
TC05	Installation of a rock ramp fish passage structure at a sewer crossing along with bank protection, invasive species management, riparian planting, and installation of a small left bank wetland complex	496
GP01	Installation of log vane channel structures with minor riparian planting	512
GP02	Stream daylighting with extensive channel reshaping, in-channel structure construction, and riparian planting	802

6.3 Preliminary cost-effectiveness and incremental cost analysis

For a watershed scale project, site-specific alternatives may be combined into different plans. Ideally, the solution space is explored by analyzing every possible combination of alternatives and calculating costs and benefits. Each of these plans could then be carried forward to cost-effectiveness and incremental cost analyses (CE-ICA) for comparing non-monetary benefits relative to the monetary restoration costs (Robinson et al. 1995).

For Proctor Creek, an exhaustive search of the solution space was conducted (i.e., 15 sites provides 2^{15} possible plans or 32,768 plans). From these, all plans were removed that contained “No Action” sub-reaches (PCo8.03 and TCo2.01), which left 8,192 plans (i.e., 2^{13}). Benefits and costs were computed for all plans, and average annual habitat units (AAHUs) were computed for non-monetary benefits¹. All habitat units were converted to “lift” above the future without project condition (i.e., the net benefit of restoration actions) for CE-ICA.

Based on the forecasted costs and benefits, 46 plans were identified as cost-effective (i.e., maximum benefits for a given level of cost and/or minimum cost for a given level of benefit) (Figure 11). These plans were then manually subjected to incremental cost analysis following existing methods (Robinson et al. 1995). Based on these analyses, the 14 best plans were identified (Table 15), these represent the most efficient alternatives across a range of costs and benefits. These data can serve as an initial point for informing restoration decisions in Proctor Creek. However, these decisions are complex and depend on a variety of factors. Some preliminary observations that might also be taken into consideration, include the following:

- The Proctor Creek stream area is 43.1 acres (~13 miles long), and thus, if quality were perfect throughout the watershed, there could be 43.1 acres of habitat. However, current levels of habitat degradation have significantly impacted quality in the study area, and there are only 14.3 acres of quality-weighted habitat. The maximum obtainable habitat if

¹ AAHUs were computed in a time-weighted manner in accordance with IWR Planning Suite’s methods. However, these AAHUs were not used in project planning, which is why their computation is not presented herein. PCEM2 outputs for year 0, 2, 10, and 50 were imported directly into IWR Planning Suite for computing AAHUs for the feasibility study.

all proposed USACE actions were executed is 22 acres of quality-weighted habitat.

- Return on investment decreases with increasing investment (i.e., incremental cost per unit goes up). Initial investment provides the greatest return, but may not meet a given target or constraint. For instance, Plan-410 provides 77% of the potential benefit at 19% of the cost, but this plan only provides a net increase of 6.0 acres of habitat, which could be considered too small relative to an agreed upon target.
- Other criteria are often crucial for distinguishing between plans. For instance, the recreational value or connectivity to a recreational network (e.g., the Atlanta Beltline) could provide additional support for an action. Furthermore, an agency objective could be to demonstrate the application of multiple restoration techniques, and a plan offering multiple techniques could be justified (e.g., Plan 4,401).

Figure 11. Preliminary cost-effectiveness analysis for model demonstration purposes only. Consult the feasibility study for final results.

7 Conclusions

This report presents the development and application of the second phase of the PCEM2. The objective for model development was to provide a tool sufficiently sensitive to potential USACE restoration actions to inform the specified planning needs. The model is intended to capture the effects of extremely diverse project objectives, and thus, its development emphasized the relative change in the overarching ecosystem condition relative to those objectives. In particular, the tool needed to inform restoration designs at the feasibility level, assess the cumulative effect of many types of restoration actions at many locations, and forecast the ecological benefits of restoration actions over a 50-year planning horizon. This index-based model synthesizes multiple project objectives into a single ecological unit based on the overall quality and quantity of habitat in the watershed. The model is programmed in a scripting environment (i.e., the R statistical software language) and uses a variety of field, office, and judgment based parameters as inputs, all of these are stored in a single accompanying spreadsheet database. This report is intended to provide documentation of the model's theoretical basis, quantitative framework, testing and evaluation, application in the Proctor Creek watershed, and relevant information for USACE model certification (EC 1105-2-412; PB 2013-02).

Applying PCEM2, 46 watershed-scale restoration plans were identified as cost-effective (Figure 11) and 14 were identified as best plans that were incrementally efficient investments (Table 10). These data provide a numerical basis for informing restoration decisions in Proctor Creek. However, additional decision criteria may affect agency recommendations.

Overall, the PCEM framework provided a basic structure for comparing the costs and benefits of diverse combinations of restoration actions spatially distributed throughout the Proctor Creek watershed. In Phase 1, a preliminary model was applied to rapidly screen potential restoration sites. In Phase 2, the model was refined and improved to inform restoration design and compute the environmental benefits of restoration actions. While the model met these needs, future improvements could address a variety of subjects, Appendix H documents key opportunities for improving this modeling framework during future analyses.

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Appendix A: Proctor Creek Reach Delineation¹

Table A1. Reach delineation points for Proctor Creek.

Reach ID	Description	Downstream Boundary		Upstream Boundary	
		Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
PC-01	Chattahoochee River to I-285	33.807788	-84.495787	33.806248	-84.493255
PC-02	I-285 to Pipeline crossing at Parrott Rd	33.806248	-84.493255	33.805456	-84.487813
PC-03	Pipeline crossing at Parrott Rd to 200m DS of Bolton Rd	33.805456	-84.487813	33.801313	-84.488987
PC-04	200m DS of Bolton Rd to Northwest Dr.	33.801313	-84.488987	33.799396	-84.487008
PC-05	Northwest Dr. to Coordinate	33.799396	-84.487008	33.799450	-84.483733
PC-06	Coordinate to Coordinate	33.799450	-84.483733	33.797500	-84.480017
PC-07	Coordinate to Pet Cemetery Bridge	33.797500	-84.480017	33.794477	-84.474308
PC-08-01	Bar nr Pet Cemetery to Jackson Pkwy	33.794477	-84.474308	33.794448	-84.474308
PC-08-02	Jackson Pkwy to Terrell Creek confluence	33.794448	-84.474308	33.795535	-84.471138
PC-08-03	Terrell Creek confluence to Hollywood Rd	33.795535	-84.471138	33.795890	-84.469650
PC-09	Hollywood Rd to Coordinate	33.795890	-84.469650	33.796950	-84.465967
PC-10	Coordinate to Coordinate	33.796950	-84.465967	33.799517	-84.462633
PC-11	Coordinate to Coordinate	33.799517	-84.462633	33.797133	-84.461567

¹ PC indicates Proctor Creek Mainstem downstream of North Avenue, PCU indicates Proctor Creek mainstem upstream of North Avenue, TC indicates Terrell Creek (also known as Center Hill tributary), GP indicates the tributary through Grove Park, and PCT indicates the tributary draining the West Highlands neighborhood.

Reach ID	Description	Downstream Boundary		Upstream Boundary	
		Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
PC-12	Coordinate to Coordinate	33.797133	-84.461567	33.796283	-84.455800
PC-13	Coordinate to Coordinate	33.796283	-84.455800	33.793467	-84.456383
PC-14	Coordinate to Kerry Rd	33.793467	-84.456383	33.792325	-84.452173
PC-15	Kerry Circle to Johnson Rd	33.792325	-84.452173	33.784121	-84.450422
PC-16	Johnson Rd to Coordinate	33.784121	-84.450422	33.783683	-84.447750
PC-17	Coordinate to Coordinate	33.783683	-84.447750	33.778650	-84.443000
PC-18	Coordinate to Coordinate	33.778650	-84.443000	33.776883	-84.441350
PC-19	Coordinate to Grove Park	33.776883	-84.441350	33.775867	-84.439033
PC-20	Grove Park to corner of industrial lots	33.775867	-84.439033	33.775530	-84.431395
PC-20A	Donald Lee Hollowell Rd to 1500 feet upstream	33.775530	-84.431395	33.771936	-84.429919
PC-21	Donald Lee Hollowell Rd to North Ave (Mosquito Hole)	33.771936	-84.429919	33.768110	-84.427418
PCU-01	North Ave to US end of concrete channel	33.768110	-84.427418	33.760923	-84.427852
PCU-02	US end of concrete channel to Burbank Rd	33.760923	-84.427852	33.757237	-84.428778
PCU-03	Burbank Rd to Martin Luther King Dr.	33.757237	-84.428778	33.753471	-84.428326
TC-01	Proctor Creek Confluence to Hollywood Rd	33.795462	-84.471468	33.793213	-84.469267
TC-02-01	Hollywood Rd to valley widening	33.793213	-84.469267	33.791976	-84.467504
TC-02-02	Valley widening to Hollywood Rd	33.791976	-84.467504	33.789556	-84.466304

Reach ID	Description	Downstream Boundary		Upstream Boundary	
		Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
TC-03	Hollywood Rd to 100m US of Spring Rd	33.789556	-84.466304	33.788148	-84.465192
TC-04	100m US of Spring Rd to US of church at Lotus	33.788148	-84.465192	33.786650	-84.463544
TC-05	US of church at Lotus to Sewer crossing DS of Brooks Ave	33.786650	-84.463544	33.784797	-84.463425
TC-06	Sewer crossing DS of Brooks Ave to 50m DS of Grand Ave	33.784797	-84.463425	33.781884	-84.461709
TC-07	50m DS of Grand Ave to Donald Lee Hollowell Rd	33.781884	-84.461709	33.776644	-84.458516
TC-08	Donald Lee Hollowell Rd to Ayrshire Cir	33.776644	-84.458516	33.771914	-84.457299
TC-09	Ayrshire Cir to Baker Rd	33.771914	-84.457299	33.770288	-84.457625
TC-10	Baker Rd to US end of concrete channel	33.770288	-84.457625	33.765281	-84.456810
TC-11	US end of concrete channel to J.E. Boone Blvd	33.765281	-84.456810	33.763544	-84.461853
GP-01	Proctor Creek Confluence to Grove Park piping	33.775531	-84.440020	33.773902	-84.440367
GP-02	Grove Park piping to Donald Lee Hollowell Rd	33.773902	-84.440367	33.772270	-84.440859
GP-03	Donald Lee Hollowell Rd to Trib Confluence DS of Hasty Pl	33.772270	-84.440859	33.769993	-84.439517
GP-04	Trib Confluence DS of Hasty Pl to J.E. Boone Blvd	33.769993	-84.439517	33.763824	-84.446326
GPT-01	Trib Confluence DS of Hasty Pl to North Ave	33.769993	-84.439517	33.768043	-84.439038
GPT-02	North Ave to Carlisle St	33.768043	-84.439038	33.766276	-84.438512

Reach ID	Description	Downstream Boundary		Upstream Boundary	
		Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
GPT-03	Carlisle St to J.E. Boone Blvd	33.766276	-84.438512	33.763711	-84.438450
GPT-04	Boone Blvd to 241 West Lake Dr.	33.763711	-84.438450	33.761343	-84.439243
PCT-02	Perry Rd to piped section	33.791601	-84.444443	33.788615	-84.451535
PCT-01	Western Heights Trib at Proctor to Perry Rd	33.790485	-84.446920	33.791601	-84.444443

Appendix B: Field Data Collection

Many semi-quantitative and qualitative techniques exist for measuring the ecological, geomorphic, and hydrologic functions of stream corridors and riparian zones. Eight rapidly applicable data collection protocols provided the basis for the Proctor Creek visual assessments described in Chapter 4. Data collection forms (Figures B1–B3) provided narrative descriptions of each variable. Most variables were scored on a 0–20 scale mirroring the EPA’s Rapid Bioassessment Protocol (Barbour et al. 1999). In many cases, narrative descriptions were directly adopted or indirectly adapted from existing systems. The 20-point scale was viewed in the context of the Proctor Creek watershed with 20 representing the best attainable condition for this basin rather than a pristine, unaltered condition. Figures B4–B12 provide visual examples of scores given in the Proctor Creek watershed for each variable used in PCEM2.

All data were collected during a single week by a consistent team (Hallberg, McKay, and Zettle), which included expertise in biology / ecology, water resource / design engineering, and USACE project planning. All cross-sectional surveys were completed by a consistent team (Hayden and Pruitt), which included expertise in survey methods, stream assessment, and civil engineering. Notably, project timelines required a narrow window for field visits (i.e., a single week in February for PCEM1 and a single week in June for PCEM2), this could potentially limit the observation of ongoing processes. However, visits at multiple times of the year by consistent observers buffered against potential single-visit bias.

Table B1. Stream visual survey protocols used to create the instream and riparian condition surveys.

Description	Reference(s)
The Rapid Bioassessment Protocol (RBP) was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide baseline information for stream management, including problem screening, site ranking, and trend monitoring. These protocols have broad national adoption and have served as the basis for many of the subsequent qualitative, semi-quantitative, and quantitative stream assessment methods.	Barbour et al. (1999)
The Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) was developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to qualitatively evaluate the condition of wadeable streams.	Newton et al. (1998) Bjorkland et al. (2001) Boyer (2009)
The State of Georgia applied a consistent standard operating procedure for measuring the biological integrity of running waters. A semi-quantitative habitat assessment methodology is included in these procedures, which is similar to the RBP but altered specifically for application in Georgia.	GA DNR (2005)
Georgia's adopt-a-stream program engages citizens in the assessment and management of local streams. Through the state DNR, the program encourages use of a standardized, rapidly applicable visual stream survey methodology.	GA DNR (2004)
The Maryland Bioassessment Stream Survey (MBSS) developed a family of methods for rapid stream habitat assessment. These techniques were approved for USACE use by the Baltimore District and subsequently applied to the Anacostia River Watershed Study.	USACE (2014)
The Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) is a qualitative method for general evaluation of macrohabitat for stream fishes. The technique was developed for the state of Ohio, but it has seen use throughout the Midwest.	Rankin (2006)
A qualitative scoring method was developed to assess the ecological condition of first- to third-order stream reaches in the context of compensatory mitigation in the Auckland region of New Zealand.	Rowe et al. (2009)
The Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) is a semi-quantitative scale for assessing the potential sediment contribution of eroding streambanks.	Rosgen (2001)

Figure B1. Phase 2 field data collection form (1 of 3).

USACE Proctor Creek Reach Assessment (Phase 2)

A minimum of 3 observers should independently score the subjective criteria for instream condition. A brief description of the restoration alternative should be provided in the field provided and a detailed representation drawn on aerial maps showing quantity and type of restoration action.

Date _____ Reach Identification _____
 Assessor _____ Direction Walked _____
 Team _____ Weather / Flow _____
 Restoration Alternative _____
 Segment Description _____

Longitudinal Bedform Survey

Map bedforms over the length of the reach. The only bedforms considered are riffles, pools, and runs.

Length (ft)	Bedform	Length (ft)	Bedform	Length (ft)	Bedform	Length (ft)	Bedform

Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI)

The following parameters are inputs to a method for estimating the potential for bank failure based on Rosgen (2001).

Parameter	Description	Left	Right
Root Depth (ft)	Visually estimate the penetration depth of the rooting zone from the top of bank		
Root Density (%)	Visually estimate the density of roots in the bank area.		
Surface Protection (%)	Visually estimate the percent of bank area protected by debris, vegetation, or armoring.		
Bank material	Cobble, gravel, sand, or fines (i.e., silt and clay)		
Layers	If yes, how many?		

Social, Cultural, and Historic Resources

Are there notable features relative to recreation potential (access, trail, parks, gathering spaces), historical resources (Civil War, Civil Rights, cemeteries), community resources (citizen leaders, churches, schools), environmental justice issues (homelessness, vacant homes, disease hotspots, CSOs), flooding problems (nearby homes in floodplain, interior drainage), or development challenges (new growth)?

Key Topics for Field Notes

Note any important geomorphic features (e.g., valley type, channel evolution stage, Rosgen Stream type), field notes (e.g., pictures, waypoints, key features), overt project constraints (e.g., cemetery, sewer, homes), trash (washed in v. dumping), or restoration logistics (e.g., access to reach).

Figure B2. Phase 2 field data collection form (2 of 3).

Instream Condition

The following method estimates instream habitat condition based on the Georgia Department of Natural Resources protocol (2005). Possible stable habitat types for epifaunal score include: Fallen Trees / Large Woody Debris (LWD), Shallow Pools > 0.5 m (SP), Deep Pools > 1.0 m (DP), Overhanging Shrubbery in water (OS), Large Rocks (LR), Undercut Banks (UB), Thick Root Mats (TRM), Dense Macrophyte Beds (DMB), Deep Riffles (DR), and Long Runs with Cobble / Large Rock Substrate (RU).

Parameter	Optimal 20 19 18 17 16	Suboptimal 15 14 13 12 11	Marginal 10 9 8 7 6	Poor 5 4 3 2 1 0	Current Rating	Future w/Project
Epifaunal & Instream Cover	Stable and available habitats make up > 70% of reach. Well-developed riffle-run complex.	Stable and available habitats make up 40-70% of reach.	Stable and available habitats make up 20-40% of reach.	Stable and available habitats make up < 20% of reach.		
Embeddedness in Run Areas	Little or no embeddedness present by fine sediment and/or silt surrounding and covering rocks.	Fine sediment and silt fills 25-50% of the living spaces around gravel, cobble, and boulders.	Fine sediment and silt fills 50-75% of living spaces around gravel, cobble, and boulders.	Fine sediment and silt fills > 75% of living spaces around gravel, cobble, and boulders.		
Velocity & Depth Combinations (slow v. fast, shallow v. deep)	Complex stream system exhibiting heterogeneous combination of all velocity/depth patterns (4 of 4).	Stream is less heterogeneous, displaying fewer velocity/depth patterns (3 of 4).	Stream becomes more homogeneous. Loss of certain velocity/depth patterns (2 of 4).	Simple stream system heavily affected sediment deposition and/or channel alteration, monotonous velocity/depth pattern (1 of 4).		
Channel Alteration	Stream flows a normal and natural meandering pattern with a well-developed riffle/run complex. Alteration is absent.	Some alteration present but NO evidence of recent activities. Alteration probably occurred >20 years ago. In the process of recovery.	40 to 80% of the stream reach has been altered or channelized. Alteration may have occurred less than 20 years ago.	Instream habitat highly altered. More than 80% of the stream reach has been altered. Alteration may be recent (<10 years).		
Sediment Deposition	No enlargements of islands/pool bars present; <20% of the stream bottom affected by gravel or sand accumulation.	20-40% of stream bottom affected by sediment accumulation; increased deposition in pools and runs; some new increase in bar and island formation.	40-60% of stream bottom affected with increased deposition in pools. Runs and riffles highly impacted by sediment. Recent deposits observed on old and new point bars, islands, and behind obstructions. Formation new bars/islands is evident.	>60% of the stream bottom affected with heavy sediment deposition. Extensive deposits of fine sand and/or silt on old and new bars, islands, and along banks in straight channels. Riffle and pool habitats are reduced or absent due to substantial deposition.		
Energy and Carbon Sources	Significant leaf matter introduction from the riparian zone. Instream retention is evident (e.g., leaf packs). Little evidence of significant algal blooms.	Some leaf matter introduction. Minimal retention. Minor evidence of algal blooms.	Minor leaf matter introduction to the stream. Input is largely invasive. Some evidence of algal energy sources.	Algae is the dominant energy source with little evidence of organic matter loading and retention.		
Bank Vegetative Protection	More than 90% of the stream bank surface is covered by healthy, living vegetation. A variety of different types of vegetation is present (e.g. trees, shrubs, understory, and nonwoody macrophytes).	A variety of vegetation is present and covers 70 - 90% of stream bank surfaces, but one class of plants is not well represented. Some open areas with unstable substrate. Few barren or thin areas are present.	50 - 70% of stream bank surface is covered by vegetation; typically composed of scattered shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Disruption obvious, with patches of bare soil and/or closely cropped vegetation.	Less than 50% of the stream bank surface covered by vegetation. Disruption of vegetation is prevalent. Any shrubs or trees on bank exist as individuals or widely scattered clumps.	Left Right	Left Right
Canopy Complexity	Multiple age classes and vertical tiers of trees represented. Diversity of native species present.	Young age classes only with few trees >5m tall. A mix of native and invasive species.		Little vegetation, grass, or vines. Primarily invasive species.	Left Right	Left Right

Form version June 14, 2016

Channel Geometry and Riparian Transect

Survey riparian vegetation as a belt transect. Isolate the sample zone by extending 100-feet from the top of bank (where possible). Delineate zones based on changes in slope, different riparian plant communities, changes in canopy, developed features (e.g., roads, yards, etc.), or other notable features. A minimum of 5 zones should be used for each bank (even if there are no observable zones). Record break-points in the zones (e.g., 20-50ft). For each zone, use a 1m² quadrat to estimate the relative composition of native to invasive species. Record an estimate of canopy height in the zone. Note any additional features useful for restoration (e.g., which invasive species).

Survey Method (circle one): Total Station / Level Lat/Long: _____
Height of Instrument: _____ Rod: _____ Gun: _____ Date: _____

[illegible]

Figure B4. Examples of instream condition variable for epifaunal and instream cover: (A) optimal condition at TC02.01, (B) sub-optimal condition at PC13, (C) marginal condition at PC08.01, (D) poor condition at GP01.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Figure B5. Examples of instream condition variable for embeddedness: (A) optimal condition not observed in June 2016, (B) sub-optimal condition at TC02.01, (C) marginal condition at TC02.02, (D) poor condition at PC15.

Figure B6. Examples of instream condition variable for velocity and depth combinations: (A) optimal condition at PC14, (B) sub-optimal condition at PC10, (C) marginal condition at PC13, (D) poor condition at PC08.02.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Figure B7. Examples of instream condition variable for channel alteration: (A) optimal condition not observed, (B) sub-optimal condition at PC13, (C) marginal condition at PC08.01, (D) poor condition at GP01.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Figure B8. Examples of instream condition variable for sediment deposition: (A) optimal condition not observed, (B) sub-optimal condition at TC02.02, (C) marginal condition at PC13, (D) poor condition at PC15.

None Observed in June 2016

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Figure B9. Examples of riparian condition variable for energy and carbon sources: (A) optimal condition at TC05, (B) sub-optimal condition at PC13, (C) marginal condition at PC10, (D) poor condition at GP01.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Figure B10. Examples of riparian condition variable for bank vegetation: (A) optimal condition at PC14, (B) sub-optimal condition at PC10 (right side of photo on river left bank), (C) marginal condition at PC10 (left side of photo on river right bank), (D) poor condition at TC05.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Figure B11. Examples of riparian condition variable for canopy complexity: (A) optimal condition at PC14, (B) suboptimal / marginal condition at PC08.01, (C) poor condition at TC02.02.

(A)

(B)

(C)

Figure B12. Examples of hydrologic condition variable for flow attenuation: (A) optimal condition not observed, (B) sub-optimal condition at PC09, (C) marginal condition at PC08.02, (D) poor condition at GP01.

Appendix C: Hydrologic Model Development

A HEC-HMS hydrologic model was applied for all hydrologic simulations in the Proctor Creek watershed (Scharffenberg 2016)¹. An existing model was developed prior to the study for use in a Federal Emergency Management Administration Flood Insurance Study, this was obtained from the primary contractor and used as the principal basis for the existing model.²

Prior to application in the Proctor Creek ecosystem restoration study, three storms were used to calibrate and verify the model, which occurred on 7–8 April 2014, 8–9 August 2014, and 8–9 November 2015. Storms were selected to bracket a range of peak discharges surrounding the two-year runoff event while addressing seasonal variation. Gridded rainfall data were obtained for each storm from the Southeastern River Forecast Center (National Weather Service), and data were resampled from a resolution of 4,762.5m to 500m using the HEC-GridInterp software. Curve numbers and lag times were adjusted based on land cover, soil type, and basin properties to minimize model error to the extent practicable (Figure C1). HMS simulations were calibrated and verified relative to two US Geological Survey gages on Proctor Creek at James Jackson Parkway (#02336526) and at Hortense Way (#02336517). The model was evaluated relative to peak discharge, runoff volume, and Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency indices (magnitude of residual variance compared to measured data variance; Table C1) as well as visual fit of observed hydrographs (Figure C2).

Table C1. HEC-HMS model verification following calibration.

USGS Gage	Storm	Peak flow Obs (cfs)	Peak Flow Sim (cfs)	Volume Obs (ac-ft)	Volume Sim (ac-ft)	Nash- Sutcliffe Index
02336526	7-8 Apr 2014	3790	3206	1339	1341	0.958
02336526	8-9 August 2014	1090	1441	231	336	-0.046
02336526	7-8 Nov 2015	1750	1383	551	405	0.900
02336517	7-8 Nov 2015	1160	1201	283	260	0.892

¹ Additional details may be found in the engineering appendix of the feasibility study report.

² Monica S. Urisko, Atkins Global, personal communication.

Figure C1. Primary HEC-HMS model parameters by sub-basin: basin lag time (red) and curve number (blue).

Figure C2. HMS model verification of three storms at two location: (A) 8-9 April 2014 at USGS #02336526, (B) 8-9 August 2014 at USGS #02336526, (C) 7-8 November 2015 at USGS #02336526, and (D) 7-8 November 2015 at USGS #02336517.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Appendix D: Model Test Plan

Following model development, an extensive post hoc test of model functionality was conducted on the final model version. The purpose of model testing was to ensure the numerical accuracy of the tool (i.e., its system quality). Table D1 provides a summary of all tests conducted and the rationale for the test. Overall, the tests were intended to ensure the numerical accuracy of successively larger blocks of code with the assumptions that if the parts work, the code as a whole is accurately producing results. All trials were conducted by the primary programmer (McKay) on 24 February 2017. Any test failures were repeated with code modification until successful. At the conclusion of testing, all tests were deemed successful due to their capacity to exactly replicate the validating calculations described.

Table D1. PCEM2 testing trials.

Component Tested	Test Rationale	Test Procedure	Test Result
Function for geometric mean	Function used in the combination of indices into the overarching index (IEI)	Compared function output to temporary Excel computation.	Success
Function for combining judgment based scores	Function used in the combination of any judgment based scores used in the model	Compared function output to temporary Excel computation.	Success
Data import	Verify data are imported correctly	Manually verified file names, imported data files, and examined variables in R relative to the original database.	Success
Restoration plan combination	All possible combinations of restoration sites are computed and stored in a matrix	The matrix of plans was manually examined for logical consistency (i.e., did the pattern of site combinations “make sense”). The total number of plan combinations for 15 sites (Table 9) is theoretically 32, 768, and the algorithm produced this number of plans.	Success
Computation of visual scores	Scores from individual observers are combined into an overall assessment score for each site, year, and alternative	Variable combinations were “spot checked” manually against a calculator for more than 15 random sets of scores.	Success
V_{bklf}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{behi}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{ibi}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{carb}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{nut}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against manual calculations	Success
V_{temp}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	FAILED
V_{temp}	Prior test failed. Code checked, bug found, and code repaired	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{hab}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{att}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success

Component Tested	Test Rationale	Test Procedure	Test Result
V_{peak}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{flash}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against Excel computations	Success
V_{con}	One of 13 model variables	Model values compared against manual calculations of cumulative passage rates	Success
I_{ins}	One of 4 model indices	Calculated through a lookup process. Lookup values verified and variable combination was spot-checked against manual calculations for FWOP and FWP conditions.	Success
I_{rip}	One of 4 model indices	Calculated through a lookup process. Lookup values verified and variable combination checked against manual calculations.	Success
I_{hyd}	One of 4 model indices	Calculated through a lookup process. Lookup values verified and variable combination checked against manual calculations.	Success
I_{con}	One of 4 model indices	Calculated through a lookup process. Verified lookup.	Success
IEI	Combination of 4 indices	Verified against manual calculations.	Success
$habitat$	Combination of quality and quantity for each time step	Verified against manual calculations.	Success

Appendix E: Example Restoration Design

Figure E1 shows the example of preliminary design mock-up for TC05.

Figure E1. Example of preliminary design mock-up for TC05.

Appendix F: Cost Estimation

The cost estimate for each reach was developed using the Quantity Take-off method. Initially each reach was analyzed to determine the appropriate quantities for construction activities. The conceptual level plans, such as in Figure E1, along with the concept narratives provided the basis for the permanent works. The temporary activities, such as construction entrances, dewatering, and mobilization were primarily based on the estimator's judgement and discussion with the Project Development Team (PDT) members. Planning, Engineering, and Design (PED), as well as Construction Management (CM) costs were determined as a percentage of the construction costs. Pre-and Post- Construction Monitoring were estimated as a level of effort and are identical for each reach.

Contingency amounts for the various reaches were developed using the Abbreviated Risk Analysis method as required by *ER 1110-2-1302*. The construction contingency amounts for each reach varied slightly depending on the mix of features of work included. The contingency amounts for PED and CM were consistent throughout. Real Estate costs and contingencies provided by the Mobile Real Estate division and escalation were included to calculate the total Project Cost shown in Table 9.

The cost estimates are budgetary and serve the sole purpose of comparing the alternatives. Each reach was priced separately from all of the other reaches, this would omit any savings that could be incurred from an economy of scale in alternatives including multiple reaches.

Appendix G: Future with Project Forecasts

Figures G1–G13 provide the Future with Project Forecasts for the selected project.

Figure G1. Future with project parameterization for PC08.01.

Figure G2. Future with project parameterization for PC08.02.

Figure G3. Future with project parameterization for PC10.

Figure G4. Future with project parameterization for PC13.

Figure G5. Future with project parameterization for PC14.

Figure G6. Future with project parameterization for PC15.

Figure G7. Future with project parameterization for PC21.

Figure G8. Future with project parameterization for TC02.02.

Figure G9. Future with project parameterization for TC05.

Figure G10. Future with project parameterization for GP01.

Figure G11. Future with project parameterization for GP02.

Figure G12. Future with project parameterization for hydrologic restoration action.

Figure G13. Future with project parameterization for connectivity restoration actions.

Appendix H: Future Model Application

PCEM2 provided an analytical framework for assessing the potential benefits of watershed-wide restoration actions. The following provide some key areas of future model improvement relative to applications within Proctor Creek, potential limitations of the models, adaptation to neighboring basins, and opportunities for future model enhancement.

- Novel applications within Proctor Creek: The PCEM framework uses a variety of parameters assessed by professional judgment, and the sensitivity of the model to alternative judgments could be examined. A variety of assumptions about the future watershed conditions (e.g., land use and climate) were also made during model application, which could be examined through model scenarios testing alternative assumptions regarding the future.
- Coupling with stakeholder values: PCEM1 and PCEM2 assume equal importance among the objectives. Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) often examines the subjective importance different groups place on objectives, and this family of methods could be applied to better reflect local values.
- Additional variables: The PCEM framework was developed under the planning constraints of the Proctor Creek project. However, additional variables could be added to the model, or existing variables could be replaced by improved or more precise methods. Model adaptation would depend on multiple factors such as the objectives of other projects, available data, and resources to execute the model.
- Non-linearity in variables: Many of the PCEM model variables assume a linear change in condition relative to a physical measurement. However, ecological and physical thresholds likely exist, and (when knowledge of these thresholds exists) their incorporation would dramatically improve the ecological relevance of the models.
- Potential improvements in model variables: PCEM2 applies eleven model variables to assess ecological condition, these were selected for rapid application in Proctor Creek. Some of these variables could be improved by alternative algorithms in future applications.
 - Sediment loading: The BEHI scoring system is currently used to assess sediment loading, but other source of sediment may be crucial to consider (e.g., upland or channel-derived sources). Furthermore, the BEHI metric is current applied as an average of

- the left and right bank scores, and bank separation could lead to more resolute findings for future applications.
- Temperature: Riparian shading is an important component of stream temperature regulation, but other components (e.g., overland flow from impervious zones, point source discharge) should also be considered.
 - Riparian habitat: Additional variables could be incorporated into riparian metrics such as floral diversity, fragmentation metrics, and assessments of large wood or snags.
 - Hydrologic event: Herein, the 2-year rainfall event was used in the hydrologic module as a somewhat frequent, high magnitude event. However, hydrologic management of smaller events (e.g., less than the 1-year storm) may be important in many urban systems.
 - Hydrologic attenuation: A semi-quantitative method was applied to assess hydrologic attenuation, but other rapidly applicable methods (e.g., assessments of hydraulic roughness or floodplain width) may also be appropriate metrics.
 - Passage rates: Herein, we applied an existing assessment approach (Collins 2016) for assessing passage rates, but this method may require adaptation or replacement for other swimming capabilities, fish community compositions, or watershed characteristics elsewhere.
- Application elsewhere: The model has been developed specifically for this application in an urban Appalachian Piedmont stream. However, the applicability to other streams in the region is high, and the basic structure could potentially be adapted for other watershed scale restoration projects. In particular, the following cautions are offered:
 - Judgment-based parameters: Some modules of the current PCEM formulation rely extensively on professional judgment, and care should be used in assessing these parameters. The experience of the team may influence assessments, and independent assessment of variables by multiple individuals can avoid bias induce from “groupthink” and provide a mechanism for assessing sensitivity of decisions to any one individual’s judgment.
 - Spatial and temporal resolution: PCEM was designed for the scales of analysis appropriate to Proctor Creek (i.e., wadeable streams in a relatively small basin). The authors emphasize that caution should be exercise for significant departure from these conditions (e.g., to a

200 mi² watershed with non-wadeable conditions). The spatial extent of reaches in Proctor Creek were defined based on significant changes in geomorphic condition (e.g., valley type, grade control, instability), and the authors recommend any team identify an *a priori* approach to reach delineation. Furthermore, the PCEM assumes that a single point in time field measurement provides a satisfactory “snapshot” of existing conditions. However, seasonality and rapid basin change could negate that assumption.

- Sensitivity analysis: Basin topology and environmental conditions could increase or decrease the sensitivity of the model to any given variable. Any future applications should examine the sensitivity of model outcomes to input for a particular location.
- Verification: The PCEM framework assumes that many processes may be combined to reflect the overall condition of the watershed. These assumptions should be verified against other evidence of watershed condition, this may potentially include: biological monitoring data (e.g., state or volunteer collected macroinvertebrate samples), other stream data collection frameworks (e.g., Bledsoe et al. 2012), and other analytical models (e.g., Sterling et al. 2016).
- Usability: PCEM is currently executed in a script-based platform (the R computational freeware). No graphical user interface exists, but future applications may benefit from developing such an interface to avoid computational errors possible from code modification. A user interface may also increase the size of the user community and reduce barriers to model application.
- Documentation: This report summarizes the current structure of the PCEM models. However, any adaptation or adjustments for future applications would likely require additional documentation, this could range from a short addendum to an extensive rewrite of this report. The extent to which the models are adapted or modified should govern the degree to which documentation is needed.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.					
1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) August 2018		2. REPORT TYPE Final report		3. DATES COVERED (From - To)	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM): Phase 2-Benefits Analysis				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) S. Kyle McKay, Bruce A. Pruitt, Brian A. Zettle, Niklas Hallberg, Vince Moody, Allan Annaert, Meredith Ladart, Marshall Hayden, and Justin McDonald				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER #16-132	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER ERDC/EL TR-18-11	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington, DC 20314-1000				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) USACE	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT In partnership with the City of Atlanta and thirteen federal agencies, the Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is planning an urban stream restoration in Proctor Creek, Atlanta, Georgia. A two-part numerical modeling toolkit, the Proctor Creek Ecological Model (PCEM), was developed to support planning of this ecosystem restoration project. This report presents the second phase of model development (PCEM2), a numerical tool for computing environmental benefits of restoration actions, informing feasibility-level design, and facilitating restoration decision-making. PCEM2 contains four modules related to instream condition, riparian condition, hydrologic change, and watershed connectivity, these are combined into an overarching assessment of stream ecosystem integrity at the watershed-scale. The model was applied to compute ecological benefits of restoration actions at thirteen potential sites in the Proctor Creek watershed. Benefits were computed for 8,192 plans representing every possible combination of site and restoration action. When coupled with cost estimates, these data were used to conduct cost effectiveness and incremental cost analyses to inform the Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone of the USACE Planning Process. While parameterized for Proctor Creek, PCEM2 provides an adaptable, generic framework for computing watershed-scale benefits of stream restoration actions.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS		Urban hydrology Atlanta (Ga.) Restoration ecology Proctor Creek (Ga.)		Ecosystem management Watershed management Stream restoration	
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT UNCLASSIFIED	b. ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	c. THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)