The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers environmental issues in all aspects of its corporate enterprise. In particular, a strong emphasis on compliance with environmental laws and improving sustainability is translated into everyday actions that have an effect on the environmental conditions of today, as well as the uncertainties and risks of the future. These challenges are complex, ranging from global trends such as increasing and competing demands for water and energy, climate change, and declining biodiversity; to localized manifestations of these issues in extreme weather events, the spread of invasive species, and demographic shifts.

Mill Creek Project staff proactively consider environmental consequences and seek win-win solutions when planning operations and maintenance (O&M). Many post-construction-era infrastructure improvements have been made to the Project which support sound environmental stewardship. These additional features also require O&M to sustain their benefit to the environment.

Environmentally focused infrastructure additions and practices include, but are not limited to: three fish ladders, three fish screen systems, low-flow fish weirs in the Mill Creek channel, vegetation management using domestic goats instead of herbicide, seasonally relocating fish trapped in low-water areas, habitat area development, invasive species management, and more.

Considering the Environment in Everything We Do – In 2002, USACE adopted its Environmental Operating Principles, or green ethics, which continue to guide our environmental and sustainability work today. Learn more at www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Operating-Principles