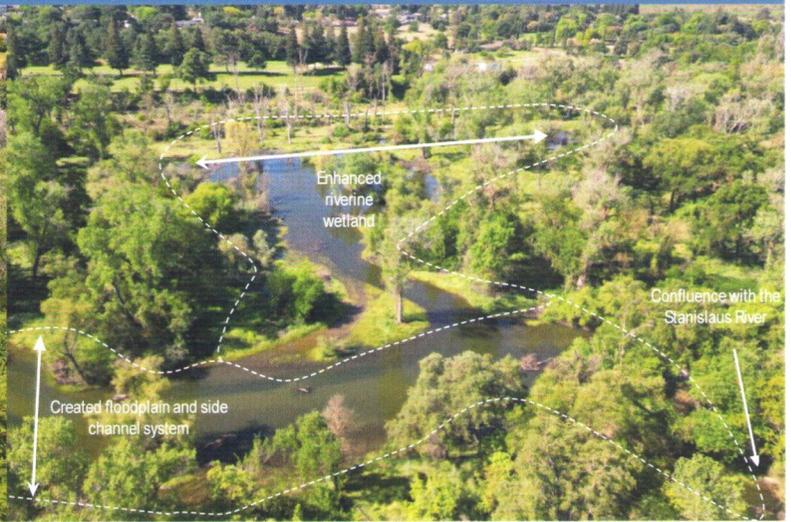




# SALMONID HABITAT RESTORATION AT KERR PARK

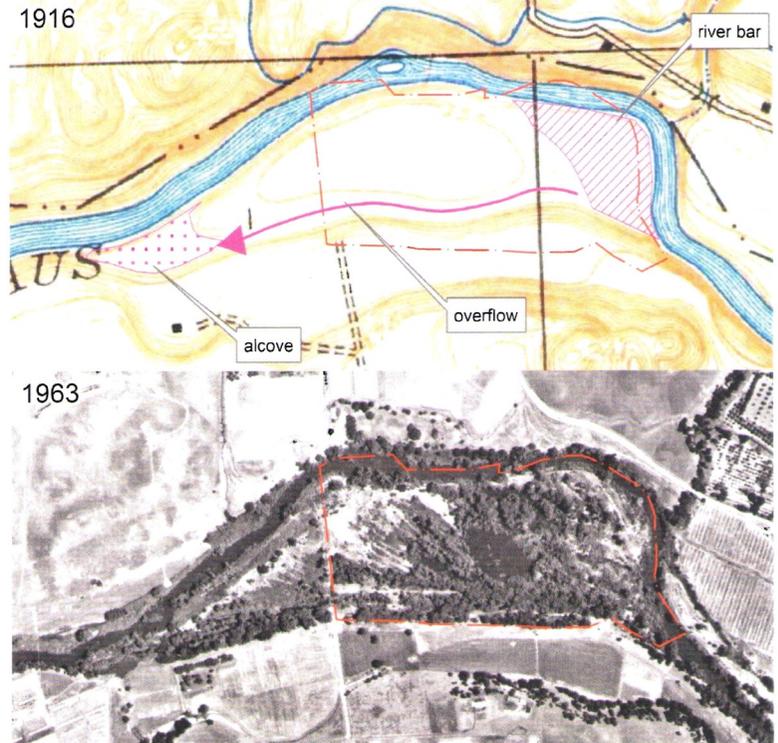


A legacy of human impacts in California's lower Stanislaus River have altered its flows and led to channel incision, hindering Chinook Salmon and steelhead juvenile rearing habitat.

To provide much needed restoration, Cramer Fish Sciences, City of Oakdale, East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, and both local and regional stakeholders collaborated to enhance salmonid rearing habitat, increase public access to support educational opportunities, and provide flood protection at Kerr Park.

A variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats were created or enhanced to support different ecological functions, including salmonid rearing. A key component of the habitat design was for it to be seasonally inundated. Habitats that inundate during rearing periods and desiccate in the summer naturally discourage seasonal overlap of habitats for juvenile salmon and non-native predatory fish species. Furthermore, acres of non-native vegetation, such as Himalayan Blackberry and Tree of Heaven, were cleared to encourage the growth planted native flora, providing a rollout of ecological benefits for other species who live in the area. A total of 41,652 yds<sup>3</sup> were excavated from the side-channel and wetland on the south side of the Stanislaus River, creating and enhancing approximately 8.45 acres of juvenile salmonid rearing habitat.

Cramer Fish Sciences is currently conducting post-project monitoring to assess whether the habitat is functioning as designed.



Large scale disturbance occurred after 1916, where it appears the area was mined for sand and gravel, leaving "scars" on the site's topography. Flow regulation has limited overbank flooding to replenish riparian and wetland habitats.

## Want to learn more?

To explore how Cramer Fish Sciences can help you plan, design, permit, and implement a restoration project contact Rocko Brown at [rocko.brown@fishsciences.net](mailto:rocko.brown@fishsciences.net).