



# February 2012 Kissimmee Basin Environmental and Restoration Features

Photography by Brent Anderson  
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February 16, 2012

Phase I restoration area river channel



February 16, 2012

Phase I restoration area oxbow



February 13, 2012

Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) foraging in the Phase I restoration area floodplain



February 16, 2012

Phase I restoration area floodplain



February 13, 2012

Cabbage palm/Oak hammock indicates the upper elevation limit of the Kissimmee River floodplain



Red shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) lets out a warning shriek...



February 13, 2012

Before the attack





February 16, 2012

Phase I restoration area floodplain



February 20, 2012

Perched osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) along the river channel in the phase I restoration area



February 13, 2012

Osprey (*P. haliaetus*) takes flight



February 16, 2012

Cloud reflections in the Phase I restoration area



Chain pickerel (*Esox reticulatus*) caught in the Pool A unrestored area



February 13, 2012

American coots (*Fulica americana*) scurry in the Phase I restoration area floodplain



February 13, 2012

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) stakes his claim in this pasture along the Kissimmee River



February 13, 2012

The Meadowlark (*S. magna*) disapproves of my presence





Phase I restoration area floodplain and river channel



February 13, 2012

Red shouldered hawk hunting along the Kissimmee River



February 13, 2012

Wild Osceola turkeys (*meleagris gallopavo osceola*) along the river channel in upper Pool E of the Kissimmee River



February 16, 2012

Carolina willow shrubs sprout new foliage which stands out in the winter landscape in the Phase I restoration area



February 13, 2012

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) peers out from a cabbage palm in the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park



February 16, 2012

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) waded through the shallow wetlands of the Phase I restoration area floodplain



February 20, 2012

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriwayon*) on his sentinel perch near his nest on the edge of the floodplain in Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.



February 13, 2012

Kissimmee River Phase I restoration area





February 16, 2012

Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*), white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), and small white herons in flight over the Kissimmee River Phase I restoration area



Oak Creek floodplain in the Kissimmee River floodplain



February 16, 2012

Large multi-species foraging flocks of wading birds in the Phase I restoration area...I wonder what they are eating?...



February 22, 2012

Let's find out...Environmental scientist Mike Cheek throws a box trap off the bow of the boat as we study wading bird prey density in the Phase I restoration area



February 13, 2012

Another nice toss



February 16, 2012

A large mixed species foraging flock (mainly glossy (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*)), flies over the Phase I restoration area



Environmental scientist Mike Cheek records water quality measurements in the throw trap



Scooping for critters



# Construction Update



**Remnant channel of the original Kissimmee River (Caracara Run)**

Hwy 98

To Okeechobee →

**C-38 canal in Pool D**

**PHASE III/III CONSTRUCTION AREA**

**Temporary roads for construction access**

**Partially re-carved river channel**

**Flow**

**NORTH**

December 19, 2011

Phase III - Contract 10A south - river channel re-carve construction. Image from December 2011



January 17, 2012

Phase III - Contract 10A south - river channel recarve construction. Image from January 2012



February 13, 2012

Contract 10A south – river channel recarve is nearly complete. Contractors are now moving their heavy equipment to the next section of recarve on the north side of HW 98.



February 13, 2012

Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking north



February 13, 2012

Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking north



February 13, 2012

Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking west at north end of recarve as it nears the C-38 canal just south of HW98.



February 16, 2012

Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking east at north end of recarve as it nears the C-38 canal just south of HW98.





February 13, 2012



February 13, 2012

Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking southeast from HW98



February 13, 2012

Contract 10A south – river channel recarve looking north.



February 13, 2012

Contract 10A north – Looking east at the beginning stages of river channel recarve. Contractors have scraped the landscape to map out the course of the river channel and have begun digging in some areas.



February 16, 2012

Contract 10A north – preliminary stages of excavating the new river channel just north of HW98.



February 16, 2012

Contract 10A north – preliminary stages of excavating the new river channel just north of HW98.



February 13, 2012



February 13, 2012

Looking east at the CSX Railroad bypass track. The old culverts and bridge will be demolished and a new navigable bridge will be constructed to reconnect the historic channel underneath the railway.



