Bath Creek Restoration

2009
Bath Township from 2005 through 2010 has had an opportunity to enhance the water quality of one of the two streams within the Bath Nature Preserve (See Map1).

**Bath Creek** – This area was ditched beginning in 1882 to help improve the drainage from standing water for agricultural reasons. In 2005 the stream and the adjacent floodplain were ranked “poor” by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic habitat due to the trenched stream the muck substrates and the lack of riparian canopy.

Today, Bath Creek has had extensive stream restoration. What was a 1700 linear foot straight line ditched has become a meandering 2500 linear foot stream. A sand and gravel substrate was added within certain areas of the channel to increase the dissolved oxygen supply through riffles and pools. This gravel substrate also allows for proper bedding for macro invertebrates such as stone fly larvae and water pennies. In addition, 5,200 bare root shrubs have been planted along the new stream channel creating a riparian canopy, eventually creating cooler water temperatures.

This project was achieved through multiple steps: **First** - it was recommended in the NEFCO (Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning & Development Organization) Yellow Creek Watershed Action Plan, **Second** - the Friends of Yellow Creek chose this project out of the 70 target areas from the NEFCO plan, **Third**- Oxbow Stream and Restoration Inc. performed as both contractor and contacting agent for the project, **Fourth** – Bath Township and the adjacent neighbors sought the goal of improving the water quality of Bath Creek, **Fifth** - This project was financed in part or totally through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act **Sixth** - the township is responsible through an in kind contribution of $31,852.00 and **Seventh** - the University of Akron is conducting both pre and post construction monitoring of the stream.

Please enjoy the following photos using Map 2, you can follow the progress of the project by referring to the construction stations numbered 115+00 – 133+00.
Map 2

133+00
128+00
123+00
118+00
115+00
BEFORE
Pre-Construction Meeting
Original starting point changed 118+11
Straw waddles
114+65 Shadow
115+00 Culvert D
115+00 Riffles
116+00 - 117+00 Rough Cut
116+00 Corrected Riffles
116+00 Meander A
116+00 Riffles New Grass
117+00-118+00 Wetland
117+00 & 118+00 Meander
117+00 B Riffles
117+00 Trib. B
117+00 Tributary B
120+00 BM#3 S Meander 2
122+00 Tributary A
123+00 -125+00 Spoils
125+11 View North
128+00 Drainage Swale
128+42 Cross Over Culvert.JPG
131+00 Historic Channel is Soil Profile.JPG
132+00 A Gravel Substrate.JPG
Join Us
October 3, 2009
10am - 2pm
Stream Restoration Celebration

FOOD
HAYRIDES

Year of the River 2009
Bath Nature Preserve

FUN
PUMPKINS
The Year of the River
Stream Restoration Celebration
& UA Field Station Open House

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Bath Township Public Event for the Project
Public Event for the Project
Public Event – Hayride Tours of the Project
Field station event features fall fun

10/15/2009 - West Side Leader

By Kathleen Folkerth

BATH — More than 500 people celebrated autumn with a visit to The University of Akron (UA) Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve Oct. 3. The Year of the River Stream Restoration Celebration and open house for the field station featured activities such as hayrides and pumpkin painting, according to organizers. One group of attendees is pictured at left bottom as they select pumpkins from a patch at the site. Another young participant is shown at right as he shows off his arm paintings.

Bath community organizations also were present with information about activities in the township. Shown at right bottom is a display from Bath Community Day. A blimp balloon from the UA Department of Biology also got some attention at the event, as shown at left top. The event also featured raffles of items donated by local businesses and organizations. Those who attended also had the chance to see the stream restoration site, where an overview of the renovation of the Bath Ditch was given.

Photos courtesy of Debbie McKinney