



Lake Avenue Stream and Wetland Restoration

Lorain County Community Development Department

Funding provided by Ohio EPA under the Section 319(h) Grant Program

The Lorain County Community Development Department, with the assistance of Coldwater, received a grant from Ohio EPA to partially fund the Lake Avenue Stream and Wetland Restoration Project. The project is located on a tributary to the Black River known as Clinton Avenue Ditch. The Black River is a Lake Erie tributary and a Great Lakes Area of Concern. The County received \$295,000 from the Ohio EPA's Section 319(h) Non-Point Source Program to construct approximately 1,900 linear feet of natural, meandering stream channel that is reconnected to a restored wetland floodplain. During an assessment of Clinton Avenue Ditch, Coldwater determined that the stream reach on the project site has been relocated from the historic flowpath, straightened, and channelized. The goal of the project is to restore the channelized and incised Clinton Avenue Ditch to a more natural, meandering stream system, and to enhance wetland hydrology by reconnecting the channel to the floodplain. The wetlands on-site currently lack connections to the stream channel, resulting in minimal hydrologic diversity on the site and limiting diversity in the wetland. Non-wetland and invasive plant species have become established in some areas of the site.



Pre-construction: Clinton Avenue Ditch has been channelized and has incised, nearly vertical, erosive banks with almost no mature riparian vegetation.

The stream and wetland restoration project involves the construction of a new meandering stream channel through the central portion of the site. The design includes the raising of the bed along sections of the channel to restore wetland hydrology and ensure connectivity between the stream and the existing floodplain wetland. In-stream habitat structures will be installed, including riffle/pool sequences and grade control structures. Six floodplain wetlands will be constructed along the relocated channel in order to improve wetland hydrology and provide a secondary detention benefit to the watershed. Wetland plant diversity will be restored through removal of invasive species and planting with native herbaceous, shrub, and tree species.

Coldwater services for Lorain County include completion of the grant application, performance of site assessments, project design, assistance with environmental permitting, project bidding, and construction management services. Construction of this restoration project is scheduled for 2017.



Conceptual restoration design

