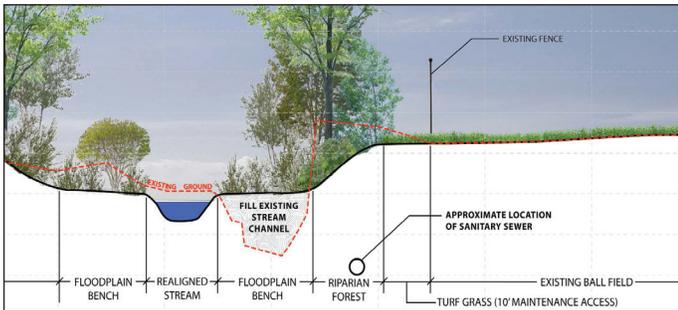


Kelsey Creek Restoration Concept

Summit County, Ohio



from top: Initial conditions; Cross section of restoration concept plan

The City of Cuyahoga Falls called upon Biohabitats to develop a concept to restore approximately 1,000 linear feet of degraded Kelsey Creek. The tributary to the Cuyahoga River, which flows through Kennedy Park, has experienced significant bank erosion and channel downcutting, primarily due to the removal of a downstream

dam in 2009. These conditions are not only hazardous to park visitors and aesthetically unappealing, but they limit the stream's biological communities and ecological services provided by the stream. This downcutting has also exposed gas lines and presented threats to a sanitary sewer line that runs both parallel to and under the stream channel.

Restoring stability, function and beauty to Kelsey Creek enhances local ecology as well as a popular park's reputation as a welcoming, comfortable and engaging place.

Biohabitats developed a stream restoration concept that will be incorporated into plans for a future arboretum in the park. The City will also use the concept and information from the memorandum to garner public support and pursue additional design and construction funding. Ultimately, the stream can become an environmental education centerpiece for the future arboretum as well as an adjacent school.

establish native riparian vegetation on both stream banks and limit mowing to take advantage of the benefits provided by a natural forest buffer to slow overland flow, process nutrients and sediment from the channel, and eventually provide shading and woody debris to the channel.

Based on the concept, the City of Cuyahoga Falls received an Ohio EPA Surface Water Improvement Fund Section 319 Grant to implement the Kelsey Creek restoration. Biohabitats was awarded the contract to design and construct the project, scheduled for summer/fall 2013.

SERVICES

- Inventory & Assessments
- Concept Design
- Project Management

Biohabitats' concept will rehabilitate the stream by slightly raising the channel invert to reconnect the channel to existing floodplain benches. It will also involve minor adjustments to protect the sewer line and adjacent ball fields, excavating floodplain benches where feasible, and grading some eroding banks to a stable angle. The concept will

conservation planning
ecological restoration
regenerative design



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