

Cove Spring Stream Restoration

Frankfort, Kentucky



Over 30 acres of enhanced marsh and swamp will serve as crucial habitat for many species, including waterfowl.



top: Initial conditions; bottom: Native species supported by new habitat

Cove Spring Run and Penitentiary Branch, which drain into the Kentucky River, demonstrate the natural history of the Frankfort area: steep limestone hillsides and springs, remnants of historical dam structures and farm buildings, more recent residential and commercial development, and current flood management infrastructure. This history has impacted the stream channels, wetlands, and adjacent riparian lands.

The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife, working through the City of Frankfort, funded the restoration of Cove Spring Run and Penitentiary Branch. To City turned to Biohabitats to lead this effort. Biohabitats' restoration design included low-gradient stream habitat and wetland habitat. The project encompasses two distinct conditions—one steep

and dominated by limestone boulders, and one with a history of beaver ponds and wetlands. The project re-establishes natural hydrology, connects the tributaries to their wetlands, and supports native vegetation while limiting invasive plants.

Biohabitats supervised baseline aquatic monitoring, wetland delineation, land surveying, and basemap production. Biohabitats completed stream morphological measurements, evaluated bed material in the field, and performed hydrologic and hydraulic monitoring. Biohabitats also led a design workshop with the client.

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