

Kelsey Creek Design-Build

Summit County, Ohio



The City of Cuyahoga Falls called upon Biohabitats to restore approximately 1,000 linear feet of degraded Kelsey Creek. This tributary to the Cuyahoga River, which flows through Kennedy Park, is experiencing

significant bank erosion and channel downcutting, primarily due to the removal of a downstream dam in 2009. These conditions are not only hazardous to the people that visit the park and are aesthetically unappealing, but limit the biological communities and ecological services provided by the stream. This downcutting has also exposed gas lines and threatens a sanitary sewer line that runs both parallel to and under the stream channel.

By restoring Kelsey Creek and establishing a Bicentennial Arboretum; Kennedy Park will become a more welcoming, comfortable, and engaging place for the residents and visitors in Cuyahoga Falls.

The goal of this project is to restore approximately 1,000 feet of degraded Kelsey Creek in Kennedy Park. Ultimately the stream can become an environmental education centerpiece for an adjacent school and in the future Bicentennial Arboretum.

The restoration rehabilitated the stream through slightly raising the channel invert to reconnect the channel to existing floodplain benches, making minor adjustments to the alignment to protect the sewer line and adjacent ball fields, excavating floodplain benches where feasible, and grading some eroding banks to a stable angle. This restoration will 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.

Construction was completed in August of 2013 with a volunteer planting completed with students from the adjacent Schnee Learning Center in November of 2013.

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