
The Nature Conservancy

Maumee State Forest, Blue Creek Restoration

Swanton, Ohio



Habitat, stability, and function are restored to a stream degraded by decades of human impacts.

SERVICES

Construction
Design-build
Ecological Restoration
Nature Based Solutions

The headwaters of Blue Creek are located within a globally rare Oak Openings ecosystem. Portions of the creek had suffered decades of damage from surrounding agricultural practices, ditching, and the maintenance of an adjacent golf course. The historically straightened creek lacked natural morphology, floodplain connectivity, and habitat. The Nature Conservancy sought Biohabitats' help in restoring Blue Creek.

Executed in a design-build capacity with partner Meadville Land Service, the restoration involved stabilizing priority areas along 2,500 LF of heavily impacted stream, restoring fish and benthos habitat through tailored concepts that would withstand stream maintenance, restoring 2,500 LF of riparian buffer, and adding living wattle fences throughout a field which had returned to Category 3 wetland. By increasing retention time in the wetlands, the wattles help improve the quality of water entering Blue Creek. The design restores habitat, stabilizes slopes, increases riparian and instream cover, and captures runoff through a wetland before it flows into Blue Creek.

The project restored ecological diversity and functionality, while also reducing stream maintenance needs and improving aesthetics. By dramatically improving fish habitat, it also addressed the Maumee Area of Concern "beneficial use impairment" known as Loss of Fish Habitat.