
WEST CREEK CONSERVANCY

West Creek at Buckeye Stream Restoration

Parma, Ohio



From top: Restoration in progress; Once ditched for agriculture and dominated by invasive species, West Creek is regenerating stream and wetland habitat while managing stormwater from surrounding development; A Stage 0 design approach yielded a wide floodplain with complex habitat, allowing the creek to naturally evolve into a healthy ecosystem.

Urban stream restoration enhances habitat and reduces pollutant loads entering Lake Erie.

West Creek, which flows through Parma, OH, is a tributary to the Cuyahoga River and ultimately, Lake Erie. Tightly sandwiched between a senior living center and a power equipment retailer, a portion of West Creek had lost ecological value.

In a design-build capacity, Biohabitats helped the West Creek Conservancy, a non-profit dedicated to protecting natural habitats and restoring the ecological value and sustainability of urban land in the Greater Cleveland area, to restore the degraded portion of the creek to improve water quality and habitat.

The project relocated 500 linear feet of West Creek to re-establish floodplain connectivity, create a “Stage 0” anastomosing channel network, and restore a headwater wetland system. Biohabitats’ approach restored natural ecological systems and processes along the existing and relocated channel, reduced nonpoint pollution loadings from an adjacent property, improved riparian and upland habitat, removed invasive species, and enhanced the visual and aesthetic character of this urban area.

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