TWIN CREEK PRESERVE: PROJECT COMPLETE

We’ve come a long way with the help of so many partners to reach the completion of Twin Creek Preserve in Sharonville. What a job, but what a beautiful result. If you haven’t made it out to see this stretch of Mill Creek, it is a sight to see: a 30-acre natural oasis amidst an urban landscape. Twin Creek Preserve represents an excellent example of a diverse group of stakeholders coming together to create a restored stream environment that improves water quality and provides a place for the community to enjoy.

At the preserve, thousands of native trees and shrubs have been planted, and many improvements have been made to the riparian habitat. Major goals of this project include cleaner water, recreational opportunities reduced flooding, and improved quality of life for the surrounding community. There have already been wildlife sightings such as a blue heron in the wetland and darter fish and minnows within the Newbury riffles, a direct outcome of improved habitat.

The Council oversaw project outreach by organizing the ground-breaking and grand opening ceremonies, sponsoring educational tours, coordinating volunteer planting and maintenance events, and facilitating a Mill Creek Yacht Club canoe trip through restored stream reaches. This fall, six educational signs are being installed along the half-mile pathway that loops through the site. Each sign tells a piece of the story of this multi-objective restoration effort.

Projects like Twin Creek Preserve are major stepping stones towards a better Mill Creek for all to enjoy. We thank everyone who took time to make this project a reality. It demonstrates how to improve our quality of life.

Volunteers from Catholic Heart Workcamp spent three days at Twin Creek Preserve, pulling invasive weeds and performing other maintenance, June 2012

Employees of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency tour Twin Creek Preserve, May 2012

Ducks are drawn to East Fork Mill Creek in Twin Creek Preserve, March 2012

We Need Your Support!

Your Contribution Goes a Long Way
BUILDING COLLABORATION

A Unique Group of Project Partners

Twin Creek Preserve would not have been a success without the unique collaboration of a diverse group of project partners. A plan arose five years ago on August 17, 2007 when the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities led an outdoor brainstorming session to propose a new vision for the site. Though zoned for industry, this site did not attract the development for which it was intended. Persistent flooding made the site unappealing for commercial development, but an ideal location for a wetland and stream restoration project.

The Council, in collaboration with the project partners, worked to secure $2.2 million worth of state and federal grant funding to make the vision a reality. Special thanks to project partners:

And we could not have done it without the state and federal grant funds administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, which gave guidance and assistance every step of the way. We extend a heartfelt thank you to OEPA staff in the following:

- Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
- Division of Surface Water

The Council looks forward to working with these project partners again and building new partnerships to implement projects elsewhere to improve the Mill Creek Watershed.

SPOTTED IN THE MILL CREEK WATERSHED!

Great Blue Heron
Twin Creek Preserve

Spotted Sandpiper
Twin Creek Preserve

Ninebark
Twin Creek Preserve

HANDS DIRTY, FEET WET

Float trip with the Mill Creek Yacht Club through Twin Creek Preserve, June 2012

Dispatches From The Mill Creek Yacht Club

“It was a beautiful day to enjoy the cool waters of a shaded stream corridor. Along the way we saw a young male deer, great blue heron, common carp, black-eyed Susans, red-tail hawk, coneflowers, blue gill, a mouse and more. Yet to be confirmed is our potential sighting of a blue catfish, which would indicate improved stream habitat.”

—Commodore Koehler

TWIN CREEK PRESERVE DRAWS PRAISE

On behalf of all the project partners, the Council was delighted to accept top honors from two of the state’s most respected professional organizations.

Nonprofit Project Excellence
Awarded by the Ohio Stormwater Association
2012 Ohio Stormwater Conference, May 2012

Recognizes successful and innovative stormwater management practice.

Innovation in Floodplain Management
Awarded by the Ohio Floodplain Management Association
2012 Ohio Statewide Floodplain Management Conference, August 2012

Recognizes a watershed management approach focused on local responsibility with a drive to act; an exemplary partnership demonstrating common sense, sound scientific reasoning and cost-effective strategies.

CONTACT US

720 East Pete Rose Way
Suite 420
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (513) 563-8800
Fax: (513) 621-9325

info@millcreekwatershed.org
millcreekwatershed.org

Breaking ground with the project partners, March 2011

Streambanks on Beaver Run is stabilized with terrace walls providing a gently sloping streambank.

Beaver Run is a Mill Creek tributary that starts in Forest Park, flows through Springdale, and ends in Sharonville. In July, a cleanup and creek walk event marked the end of a grant project that restored 230 linear feet of stream on Beaver Run, improving water quality and riparian habitat along the stream corridor. Beaver Run empties into Twin Creek Preserve at the confluence of the main stem Mill Creek and East Fork Mill Creek.

Chamberlain Park in Springdale is the best place to enjoy Beaver Run for its wildlife, scenery, and arching pedestrian bridge. Like Twin Creek Preserve, the Beaver Run restoration was designed to improve the riparian corridor and protect fragile stream banks, allowing the stream to be enjoyed by many for years to come.
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COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

Wrapping up Beaver Run Restoration in the City of Springdale

Beaver Run is a Mill Creek tributary that starts in Forest Park, flows through Springdale, and ends in Sharonville. In July, a cleanup and creek walk event marked the end of a grant project that restored 230 linear feet of stream on Beaver Run, improving water quality and riparian habitat along the stream corridor. Beaver Run empties into Twin Creek Preserve at the confluence of the main stem Mill Creek and East Fork Mill Creek.

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Your Contribution Goes a Long Way

The project is complete! It’s been a long journey, but the Twin Creek Preserve is now a restored stream environment that improves water quality and provides a place for the community to enjoy. Thousands of native trees and shrubs have been planted, and many improvements have been made to the riparian habitat. Major goals of this project include improving fisheries, reducing flooding, and improving quality of life for the surrounding community. There have already been wildlife sightings such as a blue heron in the wetland and darter fish and minnows within the Newbury riffles, a direct outcome of improved habitat.

The Council oversaw project outreach by organizing the groundbreaking and grand opening. A public pathway that loops through the site allows visitors to experience the project firsthand. Each sign tells a piece of the story of this multi-objective restoration effort.

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2012 Calendar of Events

November
Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities Full Council Meeting & Public Forum, Tuesday, 11/13, 2:30pm, Fairfield Township Hall

December
Holiday Music on the Mill Creek, Friday, 12/7, 6:30pm, Location TBD

Contact Annie Rahall to RSVP or for details: 513.563.8800 or arahall@millcreekwatershed.org