

West Creek Confluence Project

Independence, OH

Project Type: *Stream and Wetland Restoration*

Description: Development patterns have had a significant influence on West Creek especially at its confluence with the Cuyahoga River. In the 1950's and 1960's, the stream was straightened and channelized, and businesses were allowed to develop in the floodplain. This project involved a number of partners including the West Creek Preservation Committee, the City of Independence, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and the Trust for Public Land. Phase I of the project included demolition of the existing warehouse structures and removal of the parking lot. Phase II involved the restoration of the stream channel and its banks, recreation of the floodplain, and the creation of wetland complexes along the floodplain.



Size: The West Creek Preservation committee was able to purchase a 10 acre site at the confluence.

Design: Staff at West Creek Preservation Committee and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District worked together to conceptualize the project. Phase I demolition was performed by Independence Excavating. Phase II design and construction will be bid pending funding in 2009.



Cost: Funding for Phase I was obtained by the West Creek Preservation Committee through the Ohio Public Works Commission and the Water Resources Restoration Sponsorship Program. Phase I – purchase and demolition costs were \$2.2 million. Phase II – restoration is estimated at \$2 million (NEORSRD will manage the outside contractor's work).

Maintenance: Project maintenance is performed by West Creek Preservation Committee.

Application: This type of practice is applicable where buildings have encroached on the floodplain and repeated flooding has occurred.



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