

US Fish & Wildlife Fish Habitat Restoration Grant

During the spring of 2007 the East Fork Watershed Collaborative partnered with the Cincinnati Nature Center to apply for a US Fish & Wildlife Fish Habitat Restoration Grant to restore riparian and floodplain habitat along Avey's Run. On July 16, 2007 the Cincinnati Nature Center received \$2400 from USFW to implement the restoration project. As a result nearly 3 acres of invasive species, primarily bush honeysuckle and tree-of-heaven, were removed and treated along Avey's Run. After the invasive species were removed and treated 150 native trees and shrubs were planted in the project area. A native herb and grass seed mix was also spread in the project area. The Collaborative and the Nature Center are committed to this project and will continue to monitor and evaluate the success of the project.



As a result of the US Fish & Wildlife Fish Habitat Restoration Project and the Avey's Run Stream Restoration Project over 300 native trees and shrubs, and 3 acres of native herbs and grasses, have been planted along Avey's Run representing 50 native botanical species. In addition 1600 feet of streambank along Avey's Run is now stabilized.

Clermont SWCD Rain Garden Mini Grant Program

In 2007 the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District began offering mini-grants to Clermont County homeowners to assist with the installation of rain gardens on home lots.

Rain gardens are beautiful landscape features filled with native perennial plants, which attract wildlife. Rain gardens help control the volume and velocity of runoff and can help improve drainage around the home. They also help filter pollutants like sediment, oil and grease from driveways, and lawn chemicals before they enter our streams and lakes.

The District is currently offering up to ten (10) mini-grants each calendar year of \$100 each. Application forms are available by calling the District Office at 513-732-7075.

Since the beginning of the program three (3) rain gardens have been installed and the District hosted a rain garden workshop in October. Fifteen Clermont County residents learned about how rain gardens work and how to properly install a rain garden. Attendees also toured the district's own rain garden (see photo below).



Anyone wishing to learn more about any of the above projects or activities please call Jason Brown, East Fork Watershed Coordinator, at (513) 732-7075 or visit us on the web at www.eastforkwatershed.org



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EAST FORK NEWS AND NOTES 2007

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Our Mission:

“To protect and enhance the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the East Fork of the Little Miami River and its tributaries.”

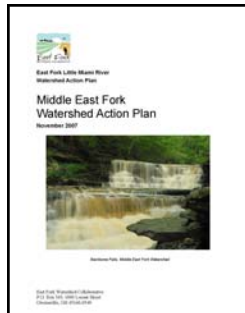
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A Personal Note from Watershed Coordinator Jason K. Brown

2007 was a great year for implementation in the East Fork watershed. The East Fork Watershed Collaborative and its partners worked together to restore over 1600 feet of stream channel, repaired or replaced 15 Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS), installed 4500 feet of livestock exclusion fencing, constructed one animal waste storage structure, acquired 3 acres of riparian and wetland conservation easements, removed 3 acres of invasive species from a riparian and floodplain area and planted over 300 native trees and shrubs, conducted over 200 education and outreach presentations and programs, and received \$4500 in grant funding to restore fish habitat and prevent marine debris from entering our streamways.

Watershed Planning

During the winter of 2007 the Middle East Fork Watershed Action Plan (WAP) received conditional endorsement by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Additional information will be added to the Middle East Fork WAP and it will be re-submitted for full endorsement. The Middle East Fork WAP was developed by the watershed coordinator and colleagues. Watershed Action Plans can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.oec.net/default.php?section=wataction>



A Watershed Action Plan for the Stonelick Creek watershed is in development and is expected to be submitted for endorsement by December 31, 2008.

Lower East Fork Ohio EPA 319 Project

The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and the East Fork Watershed Collaborative's \$335,000 Section 319 (h) Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has come to a close.

The overall purpose of the project was to improve water quality in several major tributaries to the Lower East Fork Little Miami River, in an effort to fully attain their Warm Water Habitat (WWF) status. More specifically, the project had the following goals:

1. To address habitat alteration and hydro-modification in a primary headwater stream (Avey's Run)
2. Perform a detailed assessment of physical and biological stream/riparian conditions in Hall Run and Shayler Run sub-watersheds
3. To reduce the number of failing Household Sewage Treatment Systems (with associated nutrient and pathogen loadings) in the Hall Run and Wolfpen Run subwatersheds,

Project Highlights

Four home sewage treatment system (HSTS) workshops have been held in Hall Run and Wolfpen Run watersheds. Owners of HSTS were given information on proper operation and maintenance, as well as information on how to apply for low interest loans for system replacement. As a result of these workshops and the overall project over one hundred HSTS owners have enrolled in the Clermont Health District's Basic System Assessment (BSA) inspection program, which will result in improved performance of these systems.

Ten (10) failing Household Sewage Treatment Systems have been replaced in the watershed through a grant cost share program in partnership with the Clermont General Health District. This eliminates pollutants from failing on-site systems (excess nutrients, organic waste) from entering local streams in the Lower East Fork.

Last spring the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and East Fork Watershed Collaborative contracted the Environmental Team at Ohio University's Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs to conduct a detailed geomorphologic assessment of Hall and Shayler Run's. The

goals of the assessment were to characterize the geomorphology of Hall and Shayler Run's and to identify potential stream enhancement/restoration opportunities.

Two Natural Design Workshops have been hosted by Clermont SWCD and the East Fork Watershed Collaborative. Both of these workshops focused on principles of stream management. The workshops were targeted at streamside landowners, developers, engineers, environmental consultants, and planning and zoning officials.

The biggest highlight of the Lower East Fork 319 has been the implementation of the Avey's Run Stream Restoration Project. The East Branch of Avey's Run was experiencing bank erosion due to channelization, downcutting, and widening. The sediment released from the erosion of the banks and stream bed contributed to downstream siltation, as well as harmful increases in nutrients in the water. In order to reduce erosion and downstream siltation, and thus improve water quality, natural channel design techniques have been used on a 1600 foot section of the stream so the channel can return to a stable, self-maintaining form that can transport its flow and sediment discharge without eroding or aggrading. Below are photos of the Avey's Run project.



Educational displays are being installed at the site and at the Cincinnati Nature Center Visitor Center to highlight the project and stream restoration techniques. Clermont SWCD and the East Fork Watershed Collaborative would like to thank the Ohio EPA for sponsoring this project with 319 Grant funding, the Cincinnati Nature Center for allowing this project to occur on their land and all of the partners that worked together to implement this project. Thank you all!

15th Annual East Fork River Sweep

The clouds opened up and the rain stayed away on Saturday, April 28, for a spring cleaning in the East Fork watershed. Nearly 250 volunteers turned out for the 15th Annual East Fork River Sweep, including families, area students, scout troops, 4-H clubs, local businesses and the Batavia Rotary Club. Hard working crews cleaned up over 10 miles of streambank and shoreline at Sycamore Park in Batavia, Valley View in Milford, East Fork State Park and Stonelick State Park, collecting 240 bags of trash, 193 tires, 7 empty Haz Mat drums, plastic pool, camper trailer frame, 2 box spring mattresses, children's rocking horse, 3 metal drums, a kitchen sink and other miscellaneous debris. To view photo highlights of this event, visit eastfork-watershed.org and click on "River Sweep."



BoatUS Foundation Clean Water Grant

In Spring 2007 the East Fork Watershed Collaborative and Little Miami River Partnership (LMRP) received a \$2,000 grant from the BoatUS Foundation to implement an East Fork Marine Debris Education Campaign.

The campaign will focus on boater education about marine debris (e.g., what are marine debris, how do they get into our waterways, and what can we do to prevent marine debris). The grant funds will be used to; develop a marine debris educational brochure, design and build two education kiosks to be installed along two boat ramps at East Fork Lake State Park, and to purchase ten (10) do not litter signs to be installed at boat ramps at East Fork Lake and Stonelick Lake in Clermont County.

