



The Watershed Warble

A report on the activities of the Little Miami River Partnership

Vision

Connecting People and Resources to Promote a Healthy Little Miami River Watershed.

Mission

Promote a Healthy Little Miami River Watershed through Collaboration, Planning, Education and Action.

Little Miami River Watershed Photo Contest

The LMRP has created what could become one of the most exciting and well known photo contests in the Midwest! In April we launched what we hope will become an annual, year long photo contest on the Little Miami River watershed! We have secured over \$1,700.00 worth of cash prizes for a dozen first prizes, PLUS professional-level gallery displays for multiple months at the Dayton Art Institute AND the Cincinnati Museum Center. This exciting competition should bring great exposure to our rivers! A brochure about the contest plus more details and maps can be found at our website: www.littlemiamiriver.org.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Strong interest has developed in pursuing a CREP for the Little Miami River Watershed. This project could bring over 40 million dollars worth of agricultural/riparian area conservation practices and easements to the Little Miami River watershed. Two exploratory meetings have already been held, one with all interested implementers of the project. These implementers were primarily SWCD, NRCS, and FSA personnel, with a few important non-profit, land-trusts. Support for the project was overwhelmingly positive. LMRP is in the process of coordinating with Green County Sanitary Engineering and Malcolm-Pirnie the next meeting, which will be for waste water treatment plant operators. An analysis of workload for the application process has been developed and a work load analysis for impacts on implementers is in the process of being developed.

Lower Little Miami Watershed Action Plan

The Lower Little Miami River Watershed Action Plan has nearly finished. After consultation with ODNR, some of the plans actions will have to be rewritten, but that should not take long to do. One more public meeting will be held in the summer or fall to gain public support and comments and then the plan will be submitted to ODNR by the end of 2007.

Lower Little Miami River TMDL

The Ohio EPA has started a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis for the Lower Little Miami River watershed. That watershed includes all of the drainage area below the confluence of the Little Miami River with Caesar's Creek, including all of Todd's Fork watershed, but not the East Fork's watershed. LMRP has reached an agreement with the Ohio EPA to host and facilitate the public meeting process for this 3-4 year project. This is an effort to create a positive, professional atmosphere for all concerned parties to be able work together on this process rather than against one another. Meetings have already been held on the projects development with non-profit environmental groups and waste water treatment plant operators. Another meeting is to be scheduled for early summer for all point source discharge industries to introduce them to the TMDL process.

Fall Watershed Festival

A contract has been signed with the Upper Little Miami/Caesar Creek 319 Joint Board to plan and oversee the 4th Annual Little Miami River watershed Festival. This family oriented festival is planned for October 20th, 2007. Over the past few years hundreds of people have learned about the watershed while having Fall fun! LMRP looks forward to continuing this festival!

The Watershed Warble, continued

Todd's Fork Project

LMRP assisted two land owners on the mainstem of the Todd's Fork, in Clinton County, with a river-erosion issue. After negotiations, both land owners have agreed to provide permanent easements to over 28 acres of riparian land along 1.3 miles of the Todd's Fork. Over 4 acres of land will be replanted to riparian trees. This project was written up as an OEPA 319 Grant and submitted in April for approval. We will find out next year if this exciting project will be funded.

Warren County Parks

LMRP has been working with the Warren County Park Board over the past few months to identify and prioritize locations for future parks in Warren County. We are also providing assistance in identifying possible funding sources.

LMRP Annual Meeting

Over 40 people came together in January to celebrate LMRP's 2006 successes and look forward to 2007. People heard about the future of LMRP and voted in a new set of Board members. Then they ate well and listened to some excellent Blue-Grass music.

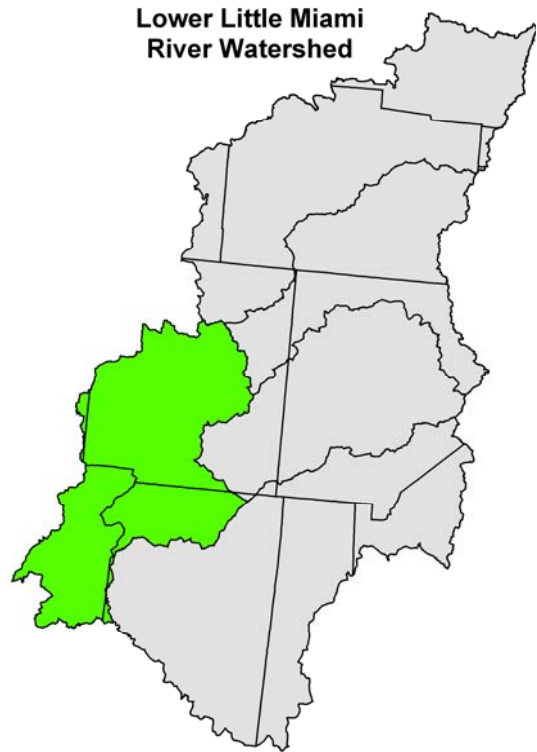
ABX Air: New Corporate Sponsor!

ABX Air has decided to become a new LMRP supporter!

The Lower Little Miami River Watershed (provided by Anne Lyon)

Saturday Stream Snapshot Program Update

The Saturday Stream Snapshot Program (SSS) held its 4th annual Data Sharing Brunch on January 13, 2007 at the Cincinnati Chapter of the Izaak Walton League Lodge. Data from the past four years was summarized and presented to 45 attendees. The major problem facing the Lower Little Miami Watershed is the increase in nutrients, primarily phosphates and nitrates. Hugh Trimble from the Southwest District Office of the Ohio EPA also gave a powerpoint presentation on the TMDL Study that is taking place in the Lower Little Miami Watershed and Todds Fork Watershed that began in March 2007. For a copy of the SSS Program power point presentation, you can contact Anne Lyon at alyon@green-acres.org or call (513) 891-4227.



The East Fork Watershed (provided by Jason Brown)

A Facelift for a Stream in the East Fork

The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and East Fork Watershed Collaborative are entering the final year on a \$335,000 Non-point Source Pollution 319 Grant from Ohio EPA for improving water quality and stream function in the Lower East Fork watershed.

Water quality in the Lower East Fork of the Little Miami has declined due to habitat alteration, flashiness, pathogens, siltation and an over-abundance of nutrients. Increased nutrients lead to algal blooms and die-offs, choking streams with decaying plant material and reducing available oxygen in the water. Siltation, or tiny particles of clay, sand, and silt, block sunlight and choke aquatic animals and plants.

The good news is that the East Fork Watershed Collaborative was formed in 2001 as a means of bringing together organizations and individuals to protect and enhance the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the East Fork Little Miami River and its tributaries. The East Fork Watershed Collaborative and its partners have chosen to enhance 1700 feet of the East Branch of Avey's Run on Cincinnati Nature Center property. The primary goals of the stream restoration project are: 1) to improve water quality in the Lower East Fork watershed by improving stream and riparian function of this headwater stream; and 2) to enhance stream and riparian habitat consistent with the educational mission of the Cincinnati Nature Center.

The East Branch of Avey's Run is currently experiencing bank erosion due to channelization, downcutting, and widening (Figure 1). The sediment released from the erosion of the banks and stream bed contributes 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 will be used so that the channel can return to a stable, self-maintaining form that can transport its flow and sediment discharge without eroding or aggrading.

By relocating the stream some 500 feet to its original floodplain, we can reconnect the stream with its floodplain. This will allow floodwaters to spread out, slowing water flow and thus reducing bank and bed erosion.

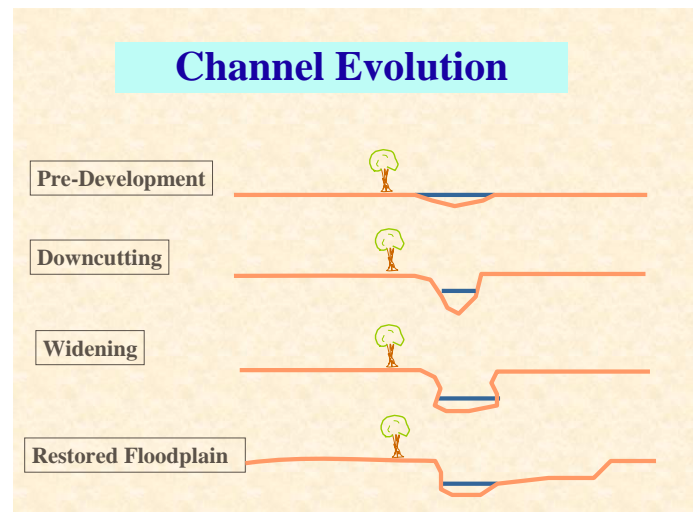
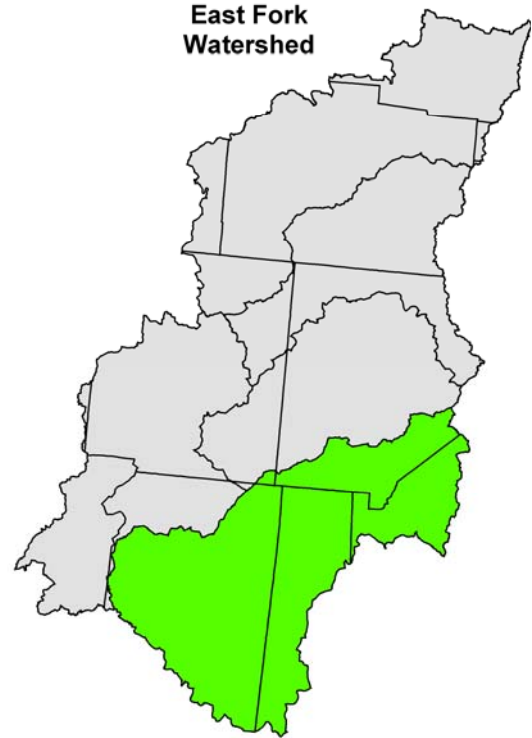


Figure 1

The eroding banks along the downstream 1200 feet of the stream will be stabilized, and the channel elevation will be raised by excavating pools and building up riffles by installing log and/or rock cross vanes (Figure 2). This will prevent future downcutting and (by raising the channel) allow floodwaters to access to the floodplain where waters can settle out their sediments rather than flushing them downstream. While log vanes and rock cross vanes are used to stabilize outside meander bends, they have added benefits of habitat creation.

The East Fork Watershed, continued (provided by Jason Brown)

They create calmer pools that provide the necessary depth for fish and other aquatic animals to thrive, and they provide cover over those deep pools. They also provide surfaces for macroinvertebrates and other insects to thrive.

For further details concerning the Avey's Run Stream Restoration Project contact Jason K. Brown, East Fork Watershed Coordinator, at (513) 732-7075 or visit us on the web at eastforkwatershed.org.

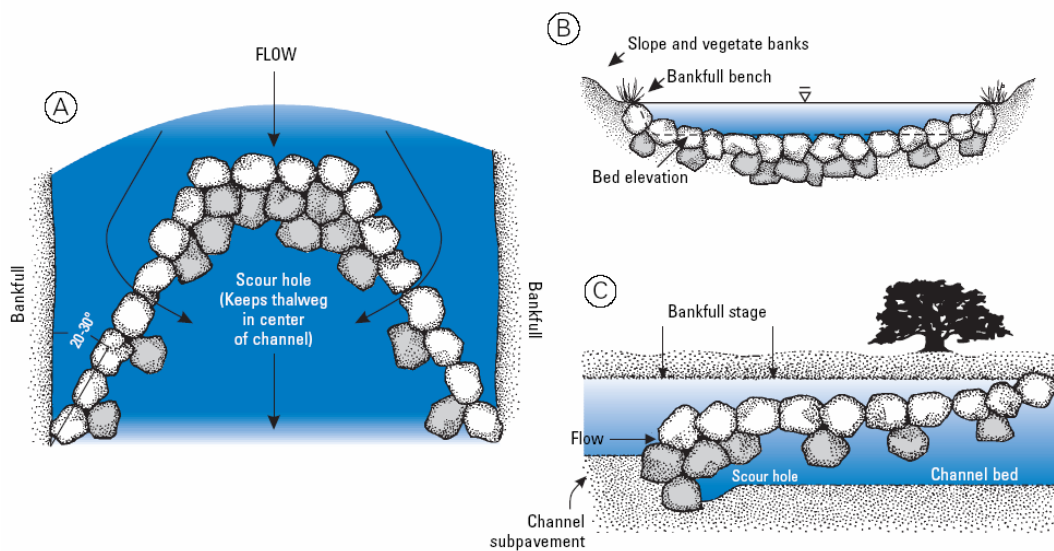


Figure 2: (a) Plan view, (b) Cross-section, and (c) Profile views of cross vane

Upcoming Events

(provided by Anne Lyon)

WATER QUALITY 2007 SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

2007 Splash "Connections" Teacher Training Workshops

Looking for fun, creative, hands-on science activities that are already correlated to Ohio's Academic Content Standards. Greenacres Foundation, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Hamilton County Stormwater District and the University of Cincinnati Center for Economic Education are offering separate day-long workshops:

Tues 6/19/07: Water, Weather, Wildlife, & Food chains (gr. 3-5)

Wed 6/20/07: Diversity, Weather, Earth Systems & Change (gr. 6-8)

Thurs 6/21/07: Human Impacts, Data Interpretation, Maps & Technology (gr. 9-12)

Fri 6/22/07: Monitoring Streams, Ponds, Lakes & Wetlands (gr. 3-12)

Each one-day workshop is free to Hamilton County Teachers and cost \$10 for all others. Registration includes resource materials, activity supplies, and snacks. Reduced price UC Graduate Credit is available for \$185 per hour. Contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or alyon@green-acres.org for more information.

Saturday Stream Snapshot (SSS) Citizen Monitoring Program - Come join the fun!

Volunteers needed collect samples, transport samples to the lab, analyze samples, and enter data into a database. 2007 SSS are: 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 10/13 and 11/10. Every Saturday at 9:30 a.m., we train new volunteers and give tours of the lab. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or alyon@green-acres.org.

Citizen Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index Training

Citizen Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Trainings (CQHEI) will be held 8/11 at 3 p.m. at Greenacres River Lab, 211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH. Participants will learn how to assess stream habitat and learn how to complete Ohio EPA's Citizen Habitat Evaluation Index (CQHEI). This survey looks at whether or not a stream can support fish. Ohio EPA finds this information very valuable and it is a quick and easy way for you to monitor a stream without getting wet! For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or alyon@green-acres.org

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Training

Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Trainings will be offered 6/9 and 8/11 at 2:00 p.m. at Greenacres River Lab, 211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH. Participants will learn to collect and identify stream life using the Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams (SOS) Method. All equipment and supplies will be provided. Suitable for participants ages 6 and older accompanied by an adult. Participants will get wet so bring a change of clothing for after! . For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or alyon@green-acres.org.

2007 Little Miami River Challenge

Little Miami Scenic River Challenge Cleanups will be held Saturdays this summer. For details contact, Izaak Walton League (513) 683-7233 or www.cinci.iwla.org.

Ohio River Sweep 2007

2007 River Sweep is Saturday 6/16 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information about the Sweep, call the Ohio River Sweep Hotline: 1-800-359-3977.

Upcoming Events, continued

(provided by Anne Lyon)

Paddlefest 2007

Kids Extreme Expo at Paddlefest will be held on Friday July 13, 2007 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Groups of 8 or more need to register in advance. For more information contact Gia Giammarinaro at (513) 543-8157. Ohio River Music Arts & Outdoor Festival will be held at Paddlefest July 13, 2007 from 3 p.m. – Midnight. The Paddlefest Float Trip and Races, will be held July 14, 2007 with registration and check-in beginning at 7 a.m. For more information on the festival or float trip/races call (513) 588-6936.

Family Fishing at Greenacres

Greenacres and the Cincinnati Chapter of the Izaak Walton League will host a Family Fishing Program at Greenacres Pond 7/21/07 from 1-3 p.m. Poles, bait, and light refreshments are provided. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at (513) 891-4227 or alyon@green-acres.org. Advance registration required.

2007 Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE) Resources Fair at the Cincinnati Zoo

The Resources Fair will be held 9/11 at the Cincinnati Zoo from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at 891-4227 or alyon@green-acres.org.

Great Outdoor Weekend 2007

The 4th annual Great Outdoor Weekend will be held 9/29 and 30/07. Greenacres will be coordinating activities at the Izaak Walton League Lodge Saturday 9/29 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, contact Anne Lyon at 891-4227 or alyon@green-acres.org.