

Pennsylvania Projects in the Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Database

sorted by project phase
as of January 1, 2009

RESTORATION / REHABILITATION / CREATION / ENHANCEMENT / PROTECTION PROJECTS

Project ID: 101

Project Name: Riparian and Habitat Restoration in Four Mile Creek

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: Four Mile Creek watershed is located east of the City of Erie in Lawrence Park Township, Wesleyville Borough, Harborcreek Township and Greene Township in Erie County, PA.

Abstract: Identify areas in the watershed where riparian and/or habitat restoration is needed to improve water quality and address stream impairments. Identify specific projects and implement those projects. The upper watershed is relatively undeveloped until the Penn State-Erie /Behrend Campus where parking lots and storm runoff affect banks along Four Mile Creek. Penn State Erie is comprised of 725 acres of public access where recreation typically takes place. Because Four Mile Creek flows through the campus, public access would be available for fishing and other recreational opportunities. South and north of the Penn State-Erie property, two landfills (1 permitted, 1 unpermitted) are located on the west banks of Four Mile Creek. A series of natural waterfalls and dams are located on the Penn State-Erie property. The lower watershed is densely populated and subject to streambank erosion. Three public parks are located in Lawrence Park, Wesleyville and Harborcreek. A series of railroad crossings span the creek north of Route 20 and the construction of those spans affects fish passage. General Electric Company owns property on the west bank of Four Mile Creek, north of Route 20. Locomotive ballast is scattered north of Route 20 at various locations. It was thought that this locomotive ballast was used to stabilize the creek banks previously, but it has deteriorated and moved downstream. The lower end of the Four Mile Creek watershed, north of Route 5, is surrounded by a golf course. A natural waterfall and a man-made dam are also located north of Route 5. Lawrence Park Twp. recently acquired a grant to install 2 fish ladders at the locations north of Route 5, to allow for fish passage into the upper watershed and eventually onto Penn State-Erie property, Several other projects are proposed along the entire watershed to stabilize the banks and increase fish passage.

Contact: David Skellie, dus18@psu.edu

Project ID: 12

Project Name: Fourmile Creek Fish Passage Project

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: The existing fish barriers proposed for removal are within 1/2 mile upstream of the Lake Erie mouth of Fourmile Creek. Removal of the barriers will enable fish passage further upstream, approximately 1.5 miles. Completion of this project will allow other projects being considered further upstream to expand fish passage even further upstream.

Abstract: This project involves the improvement of fish passage on Fourmile Creek. The project is one piece of a greater effort to restore Fourmile Creek. Upstream efforts include the removing of industrial debris, removing additional man-made barriers, and improving stormwater. State and federal funding for the project has been applied for and the project is awaiting funding decisions.

Contact: Scott Carney, rscarney@state.pa.us

Project ID: 130

Project Name: Riparian and Habitat Restoration on Walnut Creek

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: The Walnut Creek Watershed is located in Erie County, Pennsylvania. By traveling north on Interstate Route 79, west on U.S. Route 20, and north on Manchester Road, one can reach the mouth of the watershed at its confluence with Lake Erie. The watershed drains in a northwesterly direction from the headwaters in Greene and Summit Townships, through Millcreek and McKean Townships, to Lake Erie at Manchester Beach, Fairview Township. The Walnut Creek watershed includes 83.4 stream miles and drains a 38.2 square mile watershed area. The southeast boundary of the watershed borders the Upper French Creek watershed and constitutes a sub-continental divide between water flow to the Great Lakes and water flow to the Gulf of Mexico. Walnut Creek watershed has been further divided in to five sub-watersheds. These sub-watersheds are numbered one (1) through five (5), from West to East with Sub-Watershed two (2) corresponding to the southerly Bear Run drainage. The southwestern tributaries to the main stem of Walnut Creek are named locally as Bear Run and Thomas Run, west to east, respectively. The Bear Run drainage constitutes the southwesterly of the five sub-watersheds.

Abstract: Identify areas in the watershed where riparian and/or habitat restoration and stormwater management are needed to improve water quality and address stream impairments. Identify specific projects and implement them.

Contact: Ron Lybrook, rlybrook@state.pa.us

Project ID: 133

Project Name: Riparian and Habitat Restoration in Trout Run, Godfrey Run and adjacent unnamed tributary

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: Project includes watershed areas of Trout Run and the two adjacent tributaries to the west in Erie County, PA.

Abstract: Identify areas in the watershed where riparian and/or habitat restoration is needed to improve water quality and address stream impairments. Identify specific projects and implement. Use modeling to predict non-point source pollution reduction through implementation of BMPs.

Contact: amyjosmith@erieconservation.com

Project ID: 177

Project Name: Riparian and Habitat Restoration on Cascade Creek

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: The northern part of Cascade Creek at Frontier Park within the City of Erie, Erie County, PA.

Abstract: Identify areas in the watershed where riparian and/or habitat restoration and stormwater management are needed to improve water quality and address stream impairments. Identify specific projects and implement them. Use modeling to predict non-point source pollution reduction through implementation of BMPs.

Contact: amyjosmith@erieconservation.com

Project ID: 212

Project Name: Gull Point – PA (Sec 1135)

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: Gull point is part of Presque Isle State Park which is located along the Lake Erie in the City of Erie, Erie County, PA. Gull Point is at the northeastern point of the park.

Abstract: Project is required to minimize erosion within the project area and to promote continued growth of Gull Point at a rate that occurred prior to any human intervention. Natural rate of accretion was determined to be 0.4 acres per year. Since completion of the breakwaters, growth rate has averaged 0.23 acres per year. In order to ensure this growth, a portion of the annual nourishment or sand obtained from other areas of the park has been placed at Gull Point. Proposed project would promote growth of Gull Point and would also prevent further endangerment or harm to the fragile ecosystem. Home to several endangered species. Provides secluded breeding, nesting and resting habitat for the Piping Plover, a federally endangered species on the Great Lakes

Contact: laura.v.ortiz@usace.army.mil

Project ID: 376

Project Name: Lake Plain Forested Wetland Biological Diversity Area

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: The Lake Plain Forested Wetland Biological Diversity Area is located in Springfield Township in western Erie County. The edge of the closest parcel proposed for acquisition is approximately 500 feet from the Lake Erie Shoreline. The closest edge of the actual designated Biological Diversity Area is approximately 2100 feet from the Lake Erie Shoreline. The entire proposed project lies within the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Area. The proposed project is adjacent to Raccoon Creek Park (Springfield Twp park) and State Game Land 314, which extends to the Ohio border.

Abstract: The Lake Plain Forested Wetland Biological Diversity Area was originally identified and delineated in the 1993 Erie County Natural Areas Inventory. The delineated biodiversity area (BDA) is approximately 325 acres in size. NWI delineates 173 acres of wetland (168 acres forested) within the 325-acre BDA. The actual wetland acreage is probably larger (known problems with interpretation of aerial photography for forested wetlands). The designated BDA is adjacent to Raccoon Creek and provides forested buffers to the steep ravines of Raccoon Creek and two unnamed tributaries to Raccoon Creek. The actual privately owned parcels which contain this BDA and make up this proposed project total 238 acres (7 parcels, 5 owners). The parcels are almost completely forested with a little scrub/shrub and an acre of open water. According to NWI 114 acres of wetland are contained within these parcels, the actual wetland acreage is larger. There are currently no structures located on the 7 proposed parcels. Approximately 24% of the 325-acre BDA has been publicly acquired and is a part of State Game Land 314. State Game Land 314 totals approximately 3,150 acres. The remainder of the BDA remains privately owned. Since the BDA was designated in 1993, impacts on private property have given the foothold for invasive species to establish a presence within the BDA. At present, the majority of the private parcels that make up the BDA remain in a mostly intact natural state. Due west of the proposed project a largely undeveloped municipal park (Raccoon Creek Park) protects Raccoon Creek proper. This project focuses on acquisition, real or easement, of the remaining privately owned parcels. State Game Land 314 is a designated Audubon Important Bird Area and is managed as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. American Woodcock is a management priority, but the mix of forest, scrub-shrub and wetland along the Lake Shore is critical for migratory species. State threatened and endangered flora and fauna are present in both the existing game land and the BDA. At a minimum federally protected species utilize the habitat during migration.

Contact: Kevin Hess, khess@state.pa.us

Project ID: 391

Project Name: Conneaut Creek Headwaters Protection

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: Areas surrounding State Game Land 101 in Crawford and Erie counties, Pennsylvania. The area is just east of the Ohio state border and opportunities exist to coordinate with Ohio on open space protection across the border. The area is not within Pennsylvania's Coastal Zone Management Area.

Abstract: This conceptual project involves protection of high quality habitat within the headwaters of Conneaut Creek. The area consists of a matrix of forested and emergent wetlands and forested uplands on a flat terrain partially protected by State Game Land #101, which straddles Erie and Crawford Counties. This area was one of two areas within Pennsylvania identified in the Nature Conservancy's Blueprint for the Great Lakes (the other being Presque Isle). Reconnaissance in spring of 2007 indicated new construction around the perimeter of the State Game Land and phragmites in the disturbed areas surrounding the existing gameland. No invasive species were noted in the one emergent wetland that was visited, the forested uplands and wetlands seem to provide a buffer of protection to the interior emergent wetlands. This conceptual project involves acquisition, real or easement, of larger private parcels surrounding the existing gameland. Little is known about current owner interest, but parcels were prioritized based on size, location, the absence of existing structures, and potential habitat value.

Contact: Kevin Hess, khess@state.pa.us

Project ID: 393

Project Name: Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad forested Wetland Acquisition Project

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: The proposed conceptual project is located in western Erie County, PA, immediately adjacent to Interstate 90. The majority of parcels are located immediately south of I-90. The parcels extend to the Ohio state line.

Abstract: This project is in a conceptual state and involves potential acquisition or easement. We have identified 30 individual parcels owned by Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad totaling 771 acres. Of these 771 acres, NWI has delineated 297 acres of wetland, 268 acres of which are forested wetland. These lands remain largely undeveloped and appear to be currently unutilized. Located just south of State Game Land 314, this is an opportunity for habitat connectivity. Also note the significance of the large percentage of forested wetland.

Contact: Kevin Hess, khess@state.pa.us

Monitoring / Management / Research / Education Activities

Project ID: 299 ****RECLASSIFY AS OTHER PROJECT TYPE****

Project Name: Development of biological control of invasive *Phragmites australis*

Project Phase: Design Completed

Location: Nationwide, not restricted to Great Lakes Region

Abstract: Introduced *Phragmites australis* is one of the most serious wetland invader in North America. Failure of chemical, physical or mechanical means to control populations resulted in the initiation of research to assess the feasibility of biological control. Since 1998, work in Europe and North America has identified several promising stem-mining moths species as potential biological control agents. Preliminary host specificity tests have indicated that these species have a strong preference for the invasive *Phragmites* genotypes and do not appear a threat to endemic North America subspecies *Phragmites australis americanus*. Before any introductions occur, these preliminary data need to be supported by more extensive testing of different genotypes of the endemic subspecies plus testing of other native plant species and a stakeholder survey. This work is currently ongoing at Cornell University, University of Rhode Island and with support by CABI Bioscience Switzerland.

Contact: Bernd Blossey, bb22@cornell.edu

Project ID: 240

Project Name: Biological control of invasive *Phragmites australis*

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: This study will occur throughout the Great Lakes region and North America.

Abstract: Invasive introduced genotypes of the grass *Phragmites australis* continue their invasions throughout the Great Lakes watershed. Associated with the invasion are reductions in biodiversity with particular negative impacts on native plants, birds and amphibians. Current control methodologies (largely herbicide) are unable to control the plant long-term or prevent future expansion. Implementation of biological control is anticipated to reduce the invasiveness of *P. Australis* and restore diverse native communities, but long-term information about the local food webs of the Great Lakes region must be collected before control agents are released.

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