

Griswold Creek Restoration Project

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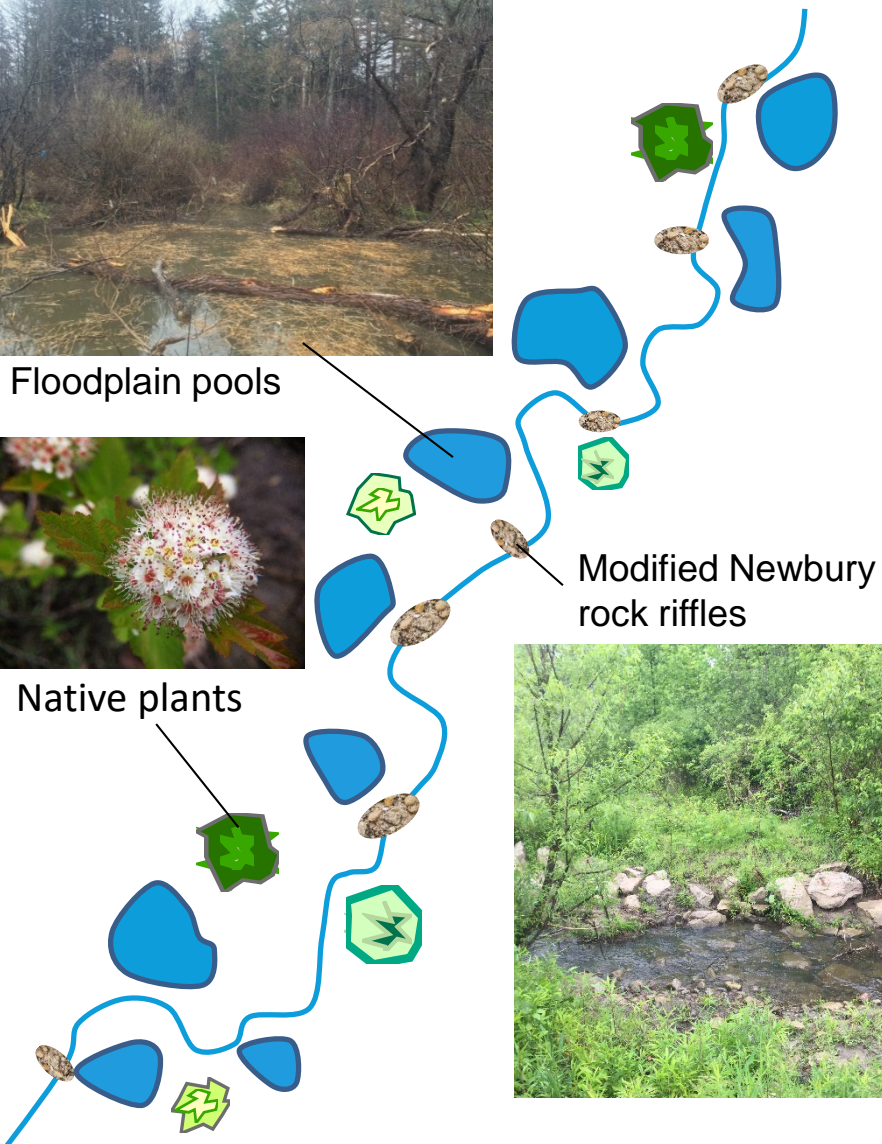
Griswold Creek is a coldwater tributary to the State Scenic Chagrin River and drains about 7.2 square miles. It is home to sensitive fish like the Redside dace (a declining fish species in Ohio) and aquatic insects like filtering hydropsychid caddisflies. Starting in Geauga County, it flows through Chester and Russell Townships and enters the Chagrin River mainstem in Hunting Valley in Cuyahoga County. Changes in the Griswold Creek watershed – such as more stormwater runoff from increased roads, driveways, and rooftops – have degraded stream habitat. Increases in stormwater flows caused the stream to increase its velocity and erode away the channel bottom. This causes streambank erosion, siltation, and loss of floodplain connection. With assistance from Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc., Geauga Park District received a \$260,765 grant from the Ohio EPA through the U.S. EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project to restore 1,354 linear feet of this stream and improve floodplain habitat. The project resulted in 1,448 linear feet of restored habitat.



Floodplain pools



Native plants



Modified Newbury
rock riffles



Floodplain connection restored!

The contractor installed rock riffle structures to raise water elevations in the stream and increase the stream's connection with the floodplain. The riffle structures help naturally build up the channel by enhancing sediment deposition. These structures also help increase habitat complexity, creating areas with faster moving, more oxygenated water favored by many aquatic insects and small fish. The contractor also excavated floodplain pools for amphibian habitat, controlled non-native invasive species like reed canary grass and Phragmites, and installed a diversity of native plants like oak trees, willows, and dogwoods to help anchor the soil and provide shade.



This project was financed in part through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency under the provisions of the US EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.