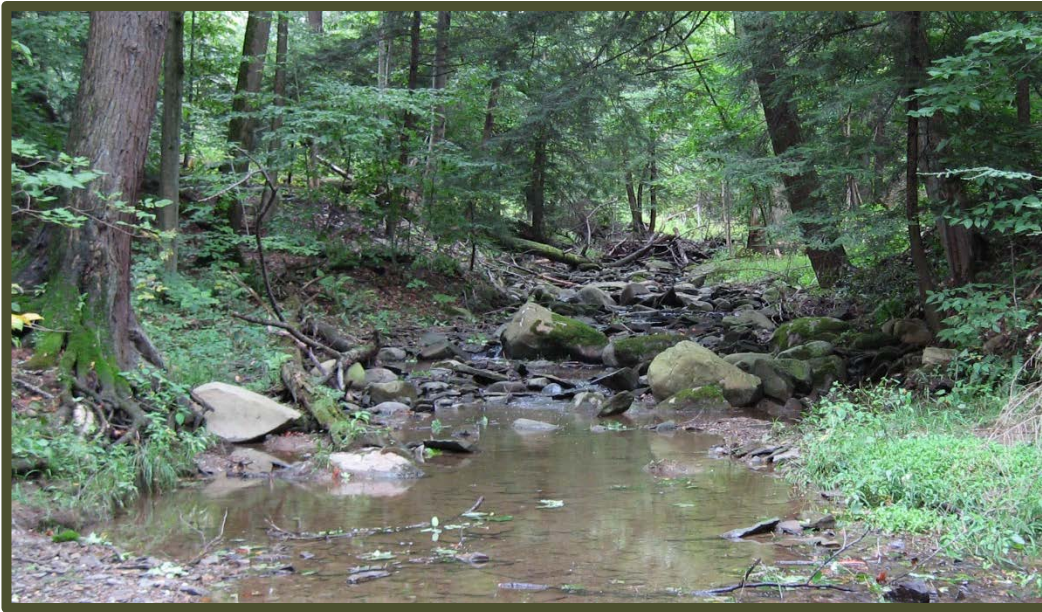


Coldwater Stream Protection and Reforestation

Orchard Hills Park, Geauga Park District



Formerly a 237-acre golf course in Chester Township, Orchard Hills Park was purchased in 2008 by Geauga Park District. Efforts are underway to return the property to its natural state and maintain as a public park. Projects included restoration of headwater streams through dam removal, daylighting of formerly culverted streams, and bioengineering approaches to stabilize streambanks. In 2019, Geauga Park District received a \$72,000 grant from the USFS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to further these restoration goals and plant 2,473 native trees and shrubs. This project will maintain cold temperatures in headwater streams of Caves Creek, a coldwater tributary to the State Scenic Chagrin River, and facilitate the long-term return or recovery of a large, mature, native forest ecosystem.



WHITE OAK

Quercus alba

A tree with a wide spreading canopy, beautifully colored leaves in the fall, and relatively large and abundant acorns

SHAGBARK HICKORY

Carya ovata

A slow-growing tree with uniquely shaggy bark and sweet and large nuts that are enjoyed by squirrels



EASTERN REDBUD

Cercis canadensis

An ornamental, usually multi-trunk tree that boasts lavender-pink flowers that bloom before the foliage emerges

BUTTONBUSH

Cephalanthus occidentalis

A shrub found primarily in wet areas with conspicuous white spherical flowers with needle-like projections



By planting 2,473 native trees and shrubs, this project will reduce 46,072 gallons of stormwater runoff each year and help local wildlife thrive.



Native Trees and Shrubs Provide Many Benefits:

- ❖ *Promote the infiltration of rainwater into the soil, enhancing groundwater recharge.*
- ❖ *Attract butterflies, birds, and other wildlife by providing habitat and food.*
- ❖ *Reduce pollutants by taking up nutrients through their roots, help stabilize streambanks, and keep stream temperatures cool for wildlife.*



GEAUGA PARK
DISTRICT



CHAGRIN
RIVER
WATERSHED
PARTNERS



This project was financed in part through a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through the USDA Forest Service.