Sulphur Springs Headwater Wetland Restoration

Cleveland Metroparks worked with Chagrin River Watershed Partners at South Chagrin Reservation to restore headwater stream and wetlands to Sulphur Springs, a coldwater tributary to the Chagrin River. The site was formerly a grass airfield landing strip where the forest was cleared, wetlands were drained and filled and the stream was buried in a pipe. To restore the habitat and hydrology, the stream was daylighted, wetland pockets were created and native trees, shrubs, and wetland vegetation were planted throughout the clearing. This project improves water quality and forest connectivity through restoration of sensitive coldwater stream and wetland habitat in the Chagrin River watershed.

Before: cleared landing strip

After: daylighted stream and native plantings

As the trees and shrubs planted along the restored stream mature, they will provide much needed shading and keep the water cool.

This project permanently protects the primary headwater reaches of Sulphur Springs and restores valuable wetland and headwater stream habitat.

Sulphur springs is a coldwater habitat tributary to the Chagrin River. Coldwater habitat streams are high quality, groundwater fed streams that harbor sensitive fish species such as longnose dace and native Ohio brook trout. The Chagrin River watershed contains more coldwater habitat streams than any other watershed in the state of Ohio. Protection and restoration of these unique streams is a high priority.

These wetland pockets provide important habitat for amphibians. Native frogs have already started laying eggs here.

The wetlands also improve flood control, helping mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff from surrounding development.

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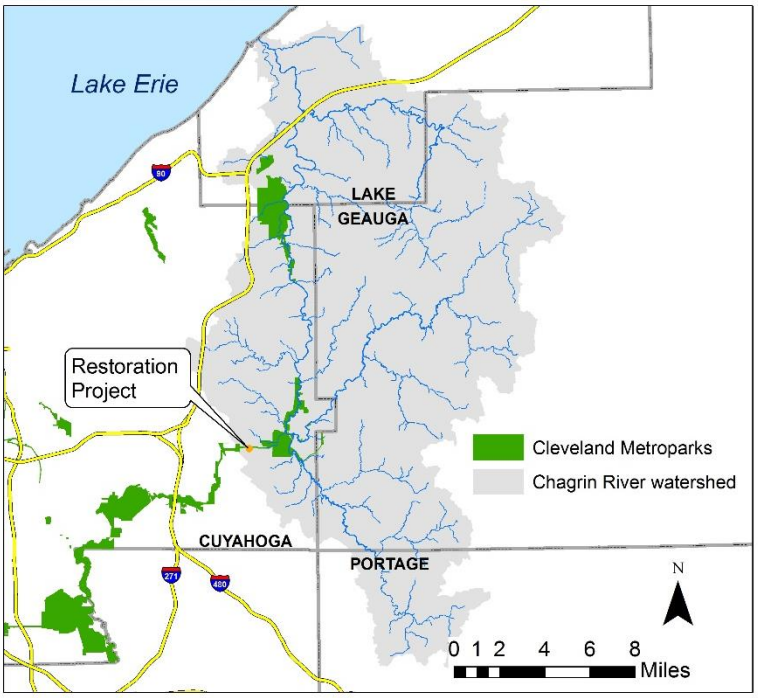
The return of the forest

The area surrounding the airfield is a mature forest of 90-110-year-old shagbark hickory, bitternut hickory, sugar maple, and American beech as well as over 3 acres of high-quality wetlands and headwater stream.




Headwater stream


Yellow trout lily

Over time, the project area will begin to blend seamlessly with the surrounding high-quality forests and wetland areas.


Spicebush


Mature hardwood forest


Spring beauty


Cutleaf toothwort

CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS

Cleveland Metroparks

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

This product or publication was financed in part or totally through a grant from the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. The contents and views, including any opinions, findings, or conclusions or recommendations, contained in this product or publication are those of the authors and have not been subject to any State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency or United States Environmental Agency peer or administrative review and may not necessarily reflect the view of either Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred.