

FACT SHEET

Clover Groff Stream Restoration---Phase 3 OEPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program

November 2015 Commission

**Submitted by:
Brad Westall/Planning and Design**

To authorize the Director to sign a sponsorship agreement with the City of Akron to implement a stream restoration project funded by the Ohio EPA.

The project will occur on CRPD parklands along West Broad Street, on the city's far west side, along the Clover Groff Ditch. All of the project funding will come from the Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program, which has funded two prior stream restoration projects on this same watercourse.

COMMISSION REPORT

Clover Groff Ditch is one of the Big Darby's most polluted tributaries. The final design and permitting process will be complete this year with construction of stream improvements to happen in 2016. The impact of the restoration will be improved ecological conditions and water quality throughout the Big Darby watershed, a nationally recognized scenic river.

The Department of Recreation and Parks secured \$1.7 million in Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship funds to pay for design and construction of the project.

This is the third phase of improvements to Clover Groff and covers approximately 2/3 mile. Once complete, the three phases of improvement will have restored over forty percent of Glover Groff Run.

"Environmental stewardship, including water quality, is an important function of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. We are proud of the role we play in protecting and preserving water and land for our residents. Protecting these resources is vital for the health and wellness of our community", said Director Tony Collins.

EXHIBITS----See Attached

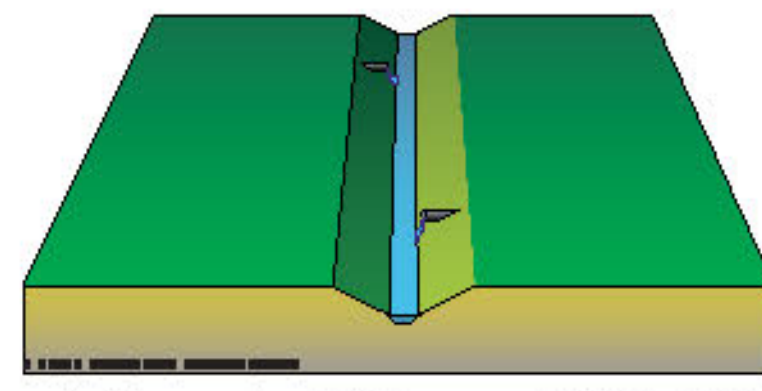
Primary Stream Restoration Corridor
4,200 l.f. ~ 0.8 miles
Secondary Ditch = 706 l.f.
Total Restoration Length = 6,124 l.f.



Clover Groff / Hellbranch Run Stream Restoration Project



Existing Conditions



Entrenched Channel "Ditch"

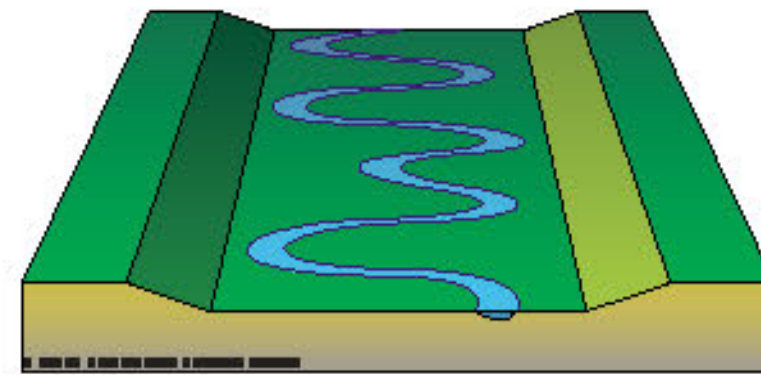
PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES

- channelized "ditch" shape
- vertical banks, high flood plain, difficult to maintain
- higher water temperatures and algae blooms
- poor water quality and ability to process pollutants
- poor habitat and for fish and wildlife



Proposed Conditions

The 'Proposed Conditions' illustration below closely depicts the character and geometry of the stream restoration design and the components utilized by the project. The illustration should not be interpreted as an exact representation of the final design.



Natural Channel Design

PRIMARY ATTRIBUTES

- meandering "naturalized" stream channel
- shallow sloping banks, lowered floodplain, stable geometry
- native trees and shrubs planted along banks
- improved water quality and pollutant processing
- better habitat for fish and wildlife



Decreased Slope Adjacent To Private Property

Native Plant Material: Grasses, Trees and Sedges

Meandering Stream Channel

Riffle-Pool Sequences and In-Stream Features

Western Slope Up To Adjacent Field

Streamway/Floodplain Created and Stream Channel Moved to the West

**OHIO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND
WATER RESOURCE RESTORATION SPONSOR PROGRAM
SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT**

by and between

**the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and the City of Akron
for the**

Clover Groff/Hellbranch Run Stream Restoration PROJECT WR390274-0163

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has created the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (“WPCLF”) pursuant to O.R.C. 6111.036 to provide financial assistance for water resource protection and improvement actions; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (“Ohio EPA”) has created the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (“WRRSP”) within the WPCLF for the effective perpetual protection and maintenance of Ohio’s high quality aquatic ecosystem resources; and

WHEREAS, an applicant applying to the WPCLF for financing of a water quality improvement project may also sponsor a qualifying WRRSP project to be undertaken by itself, or by an entity with the ability to implement the WRRSP project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Akron (“Sponsor”) has applied for funding from the WPCLF for project number CS390095-0090 and has also requested to sponsor the Clover Groff/Hellbranch Run Stream Restoration WRRSP project WR390274-0163 (“Project”) as part of that WPCLF loan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (“Implementer”) has agreed to undertake the implementation of the WRRSP Project which is further described in the Ohio EPA-approved final Restoration and Protection Plan (“Plan”);

WHEREAS, the Sponsor and the Implementer have the common purpose of completing the WRRSP Project in accordance with the Plan to protect and improve water resources within the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Implementer will be a party to the environmental covenant (“Covenant”) to be developed under O.R.C. Sections 5301.80 – 5301.92 to document the activity and use limitations imposed upon the property associated with the WRRSP Project as a condition of WPCLF assistance.

THEREFORE, the Sponsor and the Implementer agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this WRRSP Sponsorship Agreement.

SECTION I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Pursuant to the intent of the WRRSP, the Sponsor and the Implementer agree that the essence of this agreement is for the parties to carry out their respective responsibilities in perpetuity for the planning, implementation, management, preservation, and maintenance of the WRRSP Project and its associated water resources in accordance with the Plan and the Covenant.

B. The parties acknowledge that a failure to implement the terms of this Agreement, the Plan, or the Covenant may be determined by the Ohio EPA to be an instance of default by the Sponsor on its WPCLF Loan Agreement. The Sponsor and the Implementer further acknowledge that remedies provided under the WPCLF Loan Agreement may be invoked by the Ohio EPA against the Sponsor for unresolved instances of default. The Implementer acknowledges that the Ohio EPA shall seek to resolve any failure to conform to the provisions of the Covenant or failure to implement the Plan first by seeking remedy directly from the Implementer before taking action against the Sponsor.

C. The parties acknowledge that, if the Ohio EPA determines that the Implementer has failed to conform to the provisions of the Covenant or to implement the Plan it may declare such failure an event of default and shall provide the Implementer and Sponsor with written notice of such event of default. If the Implementer fails to cure such default in a timely manner, the Sponsor shall have the right to take all steps necessary to cure the default in order to avoid the Ohio EPA's invoking remedies against the Sponsor for unresolved instances of default under the WPCLF Loan Agreement.

SECTION II. WRRSP PAYMENT REQUESTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

All requests for disbursement of funds for eligible expenses to implement the WRRSP Project shall be submitted on the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund WRRSP Disbursement Request form provided by the Ohio EPA. The Implementer and the Sponsor agree to review all disbursement requests to ensure that they are appropriate expenses within the scope of the WRRSP Project.

Disbursement requests shall first be reviewed and approved by the Implementer, which shall then submit them to the Sponsor. The Sponsor shall review and approve the disbursement requests and submit them to the Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, with a completed copy of the accompanying disbursement request form. The Ohio EPA will review and approve disbursement requests for eligibility and reasonableness, based on conformance with the items identified in Exhibit 1A of the WPCLF Loan Agreement between the Sponsor and the Ohio EPA, which is attached to and made part of this Agreement as Exhibit 1A. Upon Ohio EPA's approval of the disbursement requests, the Ohio Water Development Authority is authorized disburse funds directly to the Implementer or an escrow agent designated by the Sponsor.

SECTION III. WRRSP PROJECT SCHEDULE

The Implementer agrees that it shall not begin implementation of the WRRSP Project prior to the completion of all necessary approvals by the Ohio EPA and the execution of the WPCLF Loan Agreement by all parties, or alternatively, prior to the receipt of approval from the Ohio EPA to do so. All actions to implement the WRRSP Project that are called for under the loan agreement or in the Plan shall be completed by the Performance Certification Date identified on Exhibit 1 of the Sponsor's WPCLF Loan Agreement.

SECTION IV. OBLIGATION TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE WRRSP PROJECT

The Sponsor and Implementer recognize the value of the area associated with the WRRSP Project as an aquatic ecosystem resource, as well as its value as a scenic, natural, and aesthetic resource. Upon completion, the WRRSP Project will contribute to the physical, biological, and chemical integrity of the water quality of the Big Darby Creek watershed. These and other conservation values associated with the WRRSP Project have been documented in the Plan as approved by the Ohio EPA, and included in the Covenant.

The parties agree that the Plan and the Covenant constitute the basis for subsequent actions by the Implementer under this Agreement, and are incorporated herein by reference. Without limitation, the Plan is intended to serve as an objective information baseline for monitoring perpetual conformance with the Covenant. The Sponsor and the Implementer agree that the perpetual protection and maintenance of the WRRSP Project shall be carried out in accordance with the responsibilities identified in the Plan and the Covenant.

SECTION V. INDEPENDENCE OF PARTIES

The Sponsor and the Implementer are independent parties and neither of the parties shall be considered an agent for the other party.

SECTION VI. TERMINATION

A. The Sponsor and the Implementer shall work together under this Agreement to complete the WRRSP Project in accordance with the Plan. However, the Sponsor and the Implementer specifically retain the right to terminate this Agreement for any reason with written notice to the other party not less than five (5) days prior to the date that the Sponsor enters into the WPCLF Loan Agreement.

B. If the Ohio EPA does not award WPCLF assistance for the WRRSP Project, either the Sponsor or the Implementer may terminate this Agreement.

SECTION VII. DEFAULT

In the event of default by any party under this Agreement, the non-defaulting party will have all remedies available to it at law or in equity, including right of termination, injunctive relief and the right to specific performance. No party shall be deemed to be in default of this Agreement unless and until the other party has provided written notice to the defaulting party specifying the default and (a) in the case of a monetary default, the defaulting party fails to cure the default within fifteen (15) days of notice; or (b) in the case of any other type of default, the defaulting party fails to cure the default within thirty (30) days of notice, or fails to commence and diligently prosecute such cure to completion if such cure cannot, with reasonable diligence, be completed with such thirty-day (30) period.

SECTION VIII. NOTICE

Any document or communication required by this Agreement shall be submitted to:

Sponsor

Jeff Fusco, Mayor
City of Akron
166 South High Street, Room 200
Akron, Ohio 44308

Implementer

Tony Collins, Director
City of Columbus, Recreation and Parks Department
1111 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ohio EPA

Chief
Ohio EPA DEFA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

SECTION IX. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

In performing their obligations hereunder, the parties hereto will comply with all applicable federal, state, and municipal laws.

IT IS SO AGREED:

City of Akron (Sponsor)

By: _____

Name: Jeff Fusco

Title: Mayor

Date: _____

Approved as to form and correctness:

Patricia Ambrose Rubright
Director of Law

**City of Columbus, Recreation and Parks
Department (Implementer)**

By: _____

Name: Tony Collins

Title: Director

Date: _____

Approved as to Form
