

Bath Creek Restoration

2009

Bath Township from 2005 through 2010 has had an opportunity to enhance the water quality of one of the two streams within the Bath Nature Preserve (See Map1).

Bath Creek – This area was ditched beginning in 1882 to help improve the drainage from standing water for agricultural reasons. In 2005 the stream and the adjacent floodplain were ranked “poor” by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic habitat due to the trenched stream the muck substrates and the lack of riparian canopy.

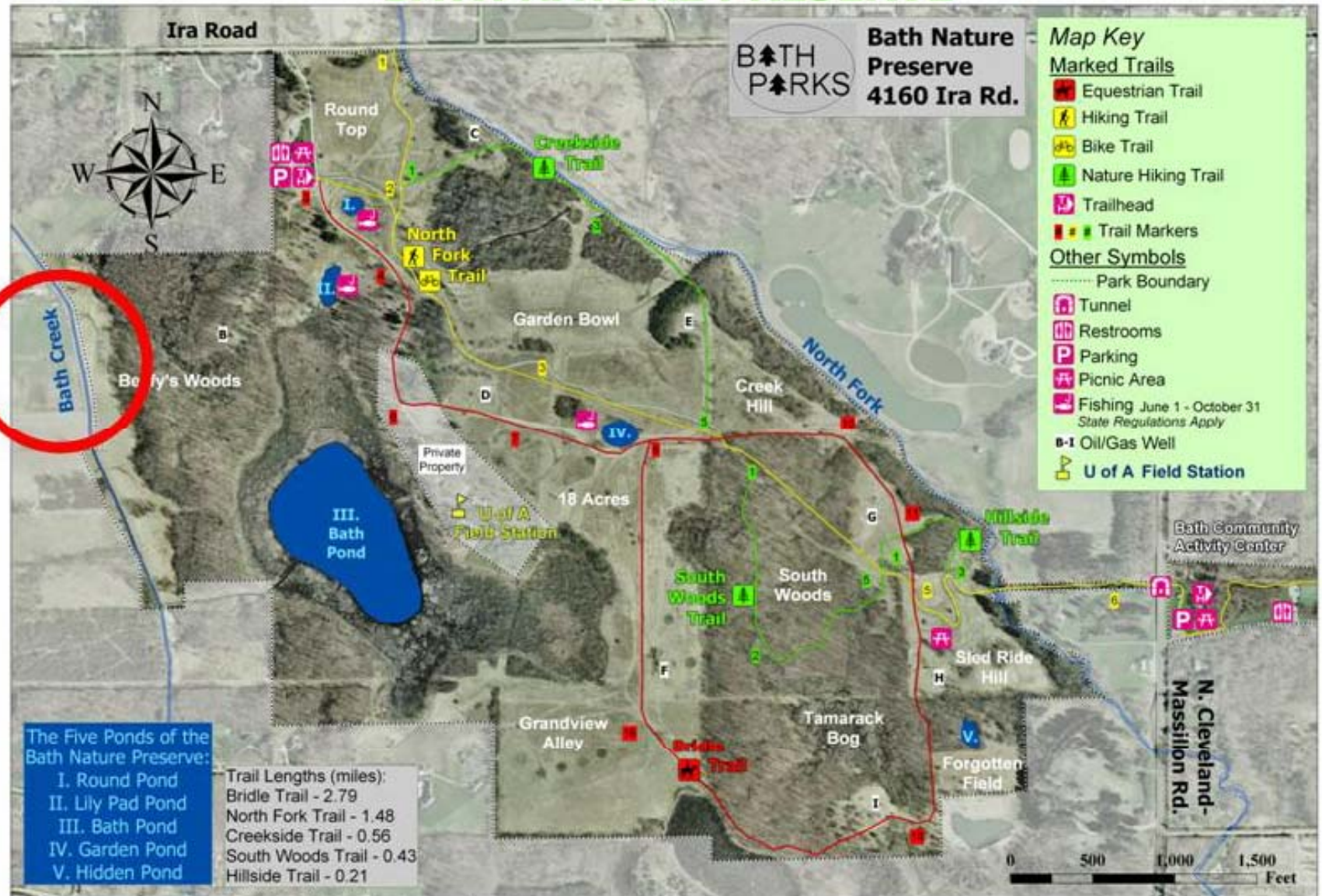
Today, Bath Creek has had extensive stream restoration. What was a 1700 linear foot straight line ditched has become a meandering 2500 linear foot stream. A sand and gravel substrate was added within certain areas of the channel to increase the dissolved oxygen supply through riffles and pools. This gravel substrate also allows for proper bedding for macro invertebrates such as stone fly larvae and water pennies. In addition, 5,200 bare root shrubs have been planted along the new stream channel creating a riparian canopy, eventually creating cooler water temperatures.

This project was achieved through multiple steps: **First** - it was recommended in the NEFCO (Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning & Development Organization) Yellow Creek Watershed Action Plan, **Second** - the Friends of Yellow Creek chose this project out of the 70 target areas from the NEFCO plan, **Third**- Oxbow Stream and Restoration Inc. performed as both contractor and contacting agent for the project, **Fourth** – Bath Township and the adjacent neighbors sought the goal of improving the water quality of Bath Creek, **Fifth** - This project was financed in part or totally through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act **Sixth** - the township is responsible through an in kind contribution of \$31,852.00 and **Seventh** - the University of Akron is conducting both pre and post construction monitoring of the stream.

Please enjoy the following photos using Map 2, you can follow the progress of the project by referring to the construction stations numbered 115+00 – 133+00.

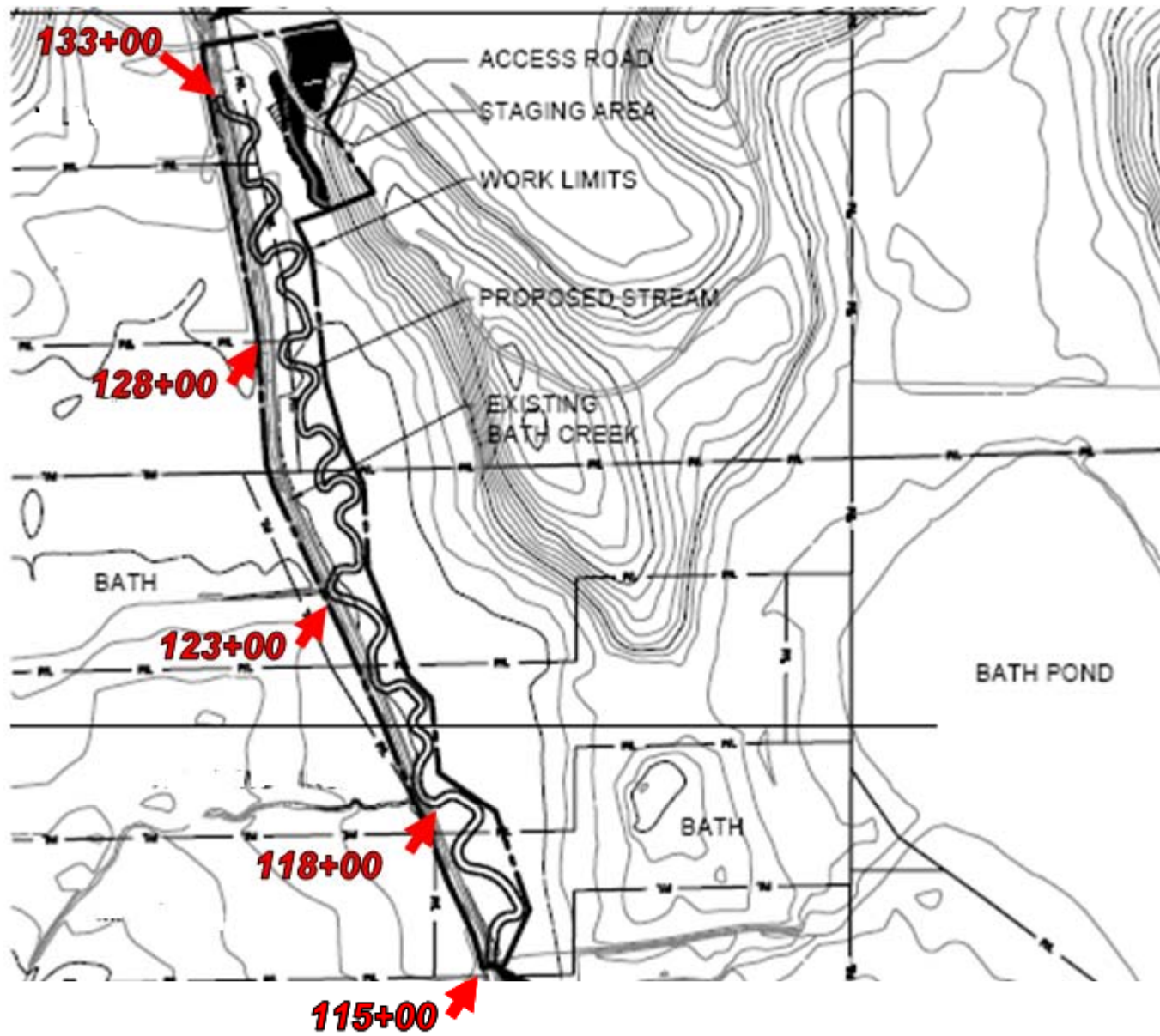
BATH NATURE PRESERVE

Map 1



This map is for informational use only. No representation is made or warranty given as to its content.
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 Data Source: Summit County GIS data. Prepared by the Bath Township Parks Department, January 2007.

Map 2



BEFORE



Pre-Construction Meeting



Original starting point
changed 118+11



Straw waddles



114+65 Shadow



115+00 Culvert D



115+00 Riffles



116+00 - 117+00 Rough Cut



116+00 Corrected Riffles



116+00 Meander A



116+00 Riffles New Grass



117+00-118+00 Wetland



117+00 & 118+00 Meander



117+00 B Riffles



117+00 Trib. B



117+00 Tributary B



120+00 BM#3 S Meander 2



122+00 Tributary A



123+00 -125+00 Spoils



125+11 View North



128+00 Drainage Swale



128+42 Cross Over Culvert.JPG



131+00 Historic Channel is Soil Profile.JPG



132+00 A Gravel Substrate.JPG



Join Us

October 3, 2009

10am - 2pm

FOOD

HAYRIDES

Stream Restoration Celebration



FUN

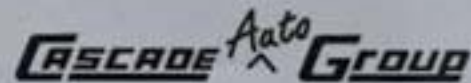
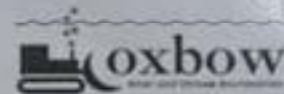


PUMPKINS

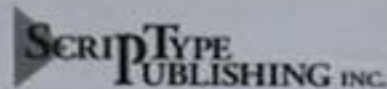
The Year of the River
Stream Restoration Celebration
& UA Field Station Open House

University
of Akron

*Thank You
to our generous sponsors!*



Rufener Farms



Bath Township Public Event for the Project



Public Event for the Project






Public Event – Hayride Tours of the Project



Field station event features fall fun

10/15/2009 - *West Side Leader*

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By Kathleen Folkerth

BATH — More than 500 people celebrated autumn with a visit to The University of Akron (UA) Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve Oct. 3. The Year of the River Stream Restoration Celebration and open house for the field station featured activities such as hayrides and pumpkin painting, according to organizers. One group of attendees is pictured at left bottom as they select pumpkins from a patch at the site. Another young participant is shown at right as he shows off his arm paintings.



Photos courtesy of Debbie McKinney

Bath community organizations also were present with information about activities in the township. Shown at right bottom is a display from Bath Community Day. A blimp balloon from the UA Department of Biology also got some attention at the event, as shown at left top. The event also featured raffles of items donated by local businesses and organizations. Those who attended also had the chance to see the stream restoration site, where an overview of the renovation of the Bath Ditch was given.

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