

Inkster Park Habitat Restoration



In partnership with:



Project Highlights:

- Create 14 acres of habitat
- Restore 500 linear feet of stream
- Create 29 habitat structures

\$3,500,000 in grant funds provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for implementation

Existing Conditions

Inkster Park is located adjacent to the Lower Rouge River in the City of Inkster. Most of the park area is routinely mowed and used for active recreation. A majority of the park is within the floodplain of the Lower Rouge River and routinely floods. The existing stream that runs through the park and into the Lower Rouge River has a straight profile which leads to erosion due to fast moving water. The culvert that should allow the tributary's water to flow beneath the park's drive is undersized and does not allow for fish passage. Much of the park's forested areas contain woody invasive species.



Existing Mowed Lawn



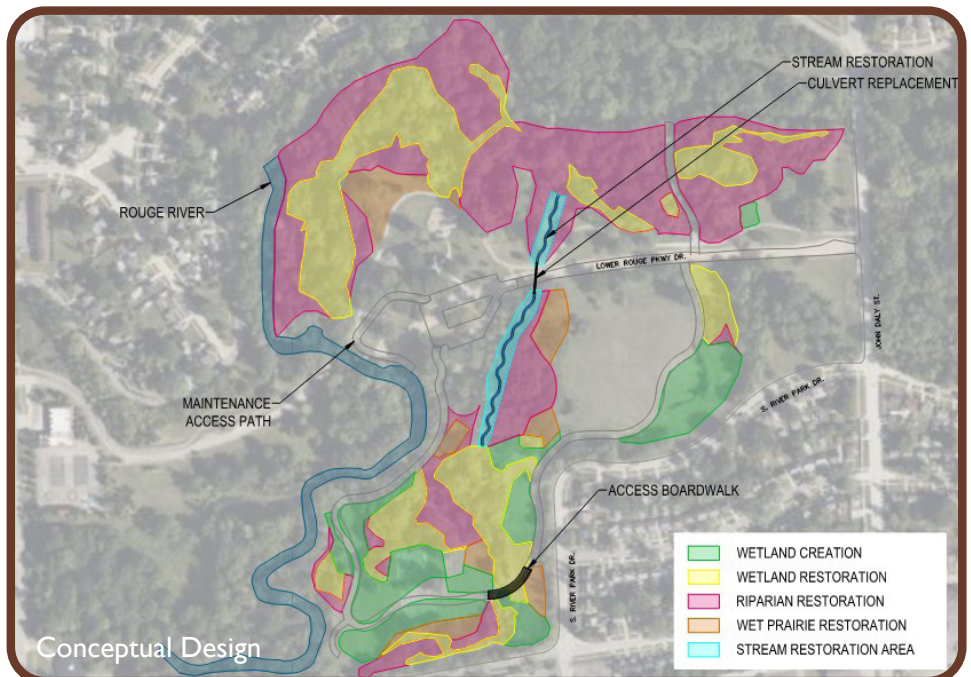
Existing Straightened Tributary



Existing Undersized Culvert

Anticipated Outcomes

The project plan proposes to create wetland and wet prairie areas. The emergent wetland will contain varying water depths and wetland plants, providing habitat for wading birds, waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic insects. The wet prairie community will contain flowering plants that provide food for pollinators. Small mammals and birds will benefit by the increased habitat diversity and cover. Selected areas of maintained lawn will be converted to habitat by planting native trees and shrubs and seeded with a native seed mix. Plugs will be planted to create plant diversity in the herbaceous layer. Additionally, a tributary that runs through the park will be stabilized and re-meandered to minimize erosion and create diverse flow regimes. The culvert under the drive will be replaced.



Inkster Park Habitat Restoration Features

Wetland Restoration

Wetlands will be created by grading depressions into the soil and planting native species including trees, shrubs, and seed mixes. Additional wetlands at Inkster park will increase the stormwater capacity on site allowing more water to be detained within the park during storm events.



Habitat Structures

Various types of habitat structures will be installed to provide specific resources for target species such as bats, amphibians, and reptiles. The habitat structures will be integrated into restored habitat areas.

Invasive Species Removal

Woody invasive species removal will be done to promote native species growth. Invasive species grow faster and out compete native species. After invasive species removal, a native seed mix will be planted.



Maintenance Route

An aggregate maintenance route will be installed to ease future vegetation monitoring and maintenance. Monitoring and maintenance will be completed to ensure that vegetation is established throughout the habitat restoration area. The route will include a low boardwalk to minimize impact to existing wetlands.

About the Alliance of Rouge Communities

The ARC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization consisting of local municipalities, counties, educational institutions and stewardship groups working together to improve the Rouge River. Founded in 2005, the ARC is funded by membership dues from local governments and supported by grants. The ARC and its partners work cooperatively to meet water quality requirements mandated by the state's stormwater permit and to restore beneficial uses, such as canoeing, fishing and other recreational activities, to the Rouge River. That means better water quality for less cost to its members!

For more information about this project and other ARC activities visit our website at: www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

This project is funded through a grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (grant numbers GL-00E02997 & GL-00E03777)

