

# Riverfront Restoration

Project Partners:



Defiance County  
Metro Parks Board

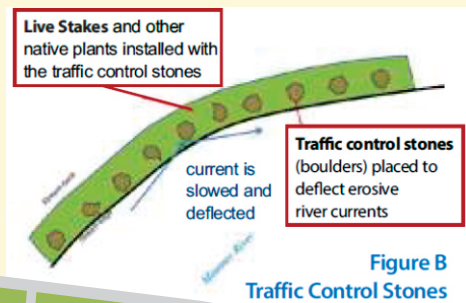
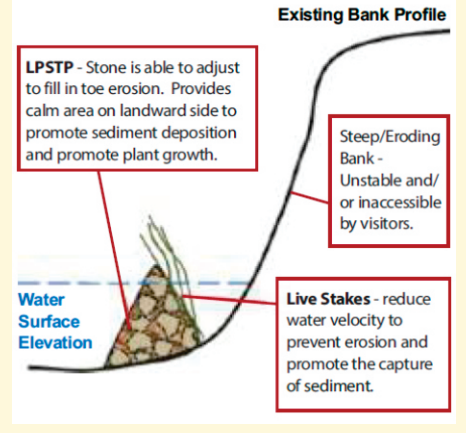


## Sediment reduction

The primary goal of this project, per the funding agencies—Ohio and US EPA—is to achieve water quality improvement by reducing sediment.

The property owners—City of Defiance and the Defiance County Metro Parks Board—also have a vested interest in keeping the soil in place; it will protect utilities and investments that have been made over the years in infrastructure. Added benefits of the project will include reduced maintenance requirements and improved visibility!

Figure A  
Stone Toe Protection



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# Maumee River Streambank Stabilization & Water Quality Improvement Practices Phase Two

## Riparian Buffers

A riparian zone is the area adjacent to a stream or river (*in plain English, it's the riverbank*). Plant habitats along streams and riverbanks are considered “riparian vegetation.” The typical riparian area is host to a diverse mix of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowering plants.

A healthy riparian zone has mature trees with roots to hold soil in place. This forested area functions as a buffer to protect water quality by preventing erosion.

### How To Create A Riparian Buffer:

- ① Stabilize riverbank with rocks or “hard armoring” if needed.
- ② Remove undesirable vegetation —Ohio has outlawed sale of some invasive species.
- ③ Replant desirable vegetation —native, deep-rooted plants will hold soils in place.

## Invasive Plant Management

Invasive plant species can wreck the balance of an ecosystem, eliminating native plants by taking available space, shading them to steal sunlight, and absorbing water with aggressive roots. Over eight species of invasive plants have been removed at Pontiac Park.

## Biodiversity at the Confluence

The term *biodiversity* is a combination of the words *biological* and *diversity* and is defined as the variety of life on Earth. Native plants and restored ecosystems support increased biodiversity by creating places for plants, animals, fungi, and micro-organisms to grow and by laying the foundation for complex ecological relationships such as food chains. Below are some species that depend on the landscape at the confluence of the rivers.



**Bald Eagle**

Photo: Adobe Stock



**Eastern Redbud**

Photo: Adobe Stock



**Monarch Butterfly**

Photo: Adobe Stock



**Midland Painted Turtle**

Photo: Brian Lasenby



**American Sycamore**

Photo: Jennifer English



**Great Blue Heron**

Photo: Gregory Johnston