

Michigan Areas of Concern

Project Highlight: Clinton River



Paint Creek Dam Removal and Habitat Restoration | Apr. 2011-Apr. 2012

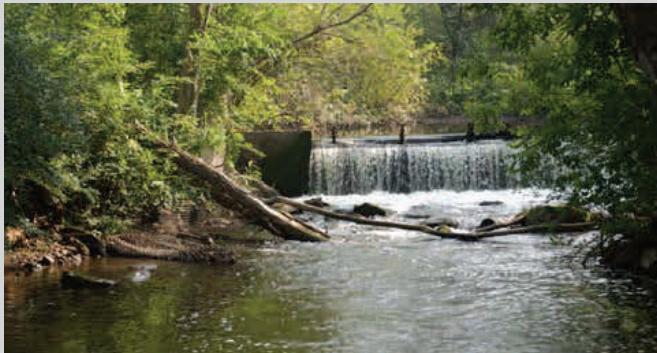
Project Type: Dam Removal/Restoration
Location: Oakland County



GLRI Funds: \$704,725
Local Match: \$20,275

Project at a Glance

The Paint Creek is a high quality cold water trout stream, a headwaters tributary to the Clinton River, and is considered by many to be the “jewel” of Southeast Michigan. The creek is home to a



population of naturally reproducing brown trout as well as rainbow trout downstream of the dam. Paint Creek tributaries also contain populations of brook trout.

This project removed a dam in place since 1840, providing fish passage and other ecological benefits. Along with the dam removal, workers installed in-stream structures such as log vanes, pools and riffles, which will help reduce sedimentation.

In addition to removing the dam, workers restored 2,000 feet of stream, providing improved habitat for fish and wildlife. This advanced the Clinton River Area of Concern toward addressing its fish and wildlife habitat and populations beneficial use impairments.

Local Perspective

“Paint Creek is one of the highest quality streams in the Lake Erie Management Unit. In addition to restoring fish passage, this project benefits the ecology of Paint Creek by re-connecting the floodplain and wetlands along the stream, as well as stabilizing the banks to prevent soil erosion.

“This project improves both water quality in Paint Creek, as well as habitat. Successful completion of this project contributes to the delisting of the Clinton River as an Area of Concern.”

- Jim Francis, DNR Fisheries biologist



The Paint Creek flows freely for the first time since 1840. The cold water river provides habitat for game fish like brown trout (inset).

Partners:



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