

# Restored Floodplain: A Case Study

## Blanchard River Watershed Hancock County, Ohio



Restored floodplains and constructed infiltration areas are a best management practice to alleviate flooding, retain sediments and nutrients, and support wildlife habitat. In a landscape dominated by agriculture production, constructed and restored infiltration areas usually are places along rivers and streams, frequently flooded bottom ground, or areas where production is poor that are set aside for the purpose of storing floodwaters and reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus that reaches streams and rivers.

We re-graded 3 acres to capture surface and subsurface water runoff and create a space for flood storage when the Blanchard River tops its banks. We planted 15 acres with 2,000 native trees, shrubs and ground cover. The native vegetation will create habitat, provide roots to help filter and clean the flood water, and offer year-round beauty for those passing by. Hancock County Commissioners own the property and wanted to demonstrate how restored floodplains, native vegetation and agricultural production can all fit into the landscape to provide clean water for both residents and for the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed. Partners will use the highly visible site for outreach and as a living laboratory for students.

Partners on this project include the Hancock County Commissioners, The Nature Conservancy, Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, and Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District. An Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Grant, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and The Nature Conservancy provided funding for implementation of the project. Hull & Associates performed the engineering and design. Mark Haynes Construction, Inc. performed the excavation and site seeding. Williams Forestry & Associates provided and planted the native shrubs and trees along with 124 hours of local volunteer time. For more information about this project, contact The Nature Conservancy at (419)782-0652.



Hancock Soil & Water  
Conservation District



## Restored Floodplain: A Case Study

### Blanchard River

### Hancock County, OH

#### Site Physical Characteristics

- Land use: Farm field in corn-soybean rotation

#### Project Scope

- Total constructed project area, 15 acres
- Infiltration/water storage area, 3 acres

#### Project Costs

**Total Project Costs: \$206,496**

**Earthwork: \$95,921**

- Mobilization
- Earthwork, Cut and Fill (13,520 cu.yd.)
- Restoration Area Disking (15.2 acres)
- Rock Construction Entrance
- Inlet Protection
- Straw Wattle (6,855 linear ft)

**Trees and Shrubs: \$40,940**

- Native trees/shrubs, 2,000 one-gallon containerized  
225 Smooth alder, 225 Black chokeberry, 225 Buttonbush, 225 Silky dogwood, 225 Red-osier dogwood, 225 Ninebark, 225 Black Willow, 225 Elderberry, 200 Swamp Rose

**Seed: \$58,454**

- Northeast Ohio Meadow Mix, 5 acres
- Ohio Floodplain II Mix, 10.2 acres
- Erosion control annual mix
- Seeding/Mulching Labor

**Engineering and design: \$11,181**

\*\*Blanchard River Watershed Partners, residents, and Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District provided additional technical assistance and volunteer time on the project



*Before Construction*



*During Construction*



*After Construction*



The Western Lake Erie Basin  
Agriculture Project Office  
210 Clinton Street  
Defiance, OH 43512  
nature.org/ohio



This publication was financed in part or totally through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency under the provisions of the U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The contents and views, including any opinions, findings, or conclusions or recommendations, contained in this publication are those of the authors and have not been subject to any Ohio Environmental Protection Agency peer or administrative review and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred.