



Lacey Creek Streambank Restoration

Downers Grove, Illinois



In collaboration with the Village of Downers Grove; Conservation Design Forum (CDF), Confluence Consulting, and Conservation Land Stewardship (CLS) were contracted in 2000 to implement an integrated streambank stabilization and ecological restoration plan on a 1 mile stretch of Lacey Creek in Downers Grove, Illinois. A combination of bio-engineered streambank stabilization techniques, native landscape systems, and erosion control measures were employed to enhance water quality, reduce the hydrologic effects of on-site and upstream surface water runoff, improve wildlife habitat, and increase aesthetic quality throughout the riparian corridor and upland portions of the watershed.

CLS began initial construction and installation work within the Lacey Creek corridor in 2000. Restoration and management efforts are ongoing, and to date include:

- installation of erosion and sediment control structures
- bio-engineered bank stabilization – vegetated soil lifts, bank and stream channel reshaping and dechannelization
- initial seeding and planting of native plant systems within the riparian corridor, in-line wetland ponds, and upland portions of the watershed
- selective clearing of invasive woody species
- implementation of a low-input turf maintenance program
- establishment and maintenance of a recreational trail system and interpretive features
- prescribed burn management of native areas
- site stewardship, monitoring, and invasive species control
- implementation of a sustainable aquatic and emergent weed management program
- coordination of community education and volunteer stewardship programs

Client: Village of Downers Grove

Project team: Conservation Land Stewardship
Conservation Design Forum
Confluence Consulting, Inc.

Status: Construction completed in 2000
Stewardship completed in 2006

Project budget: \$550,000