

Kokosing River Restoration Project FAQs



What is the goal of this project?

The goal of this project is to improve river bank stability as well as the habitat along the Kokosing River corridor and to minimize pollution entering the water. It will tackle areas along the river that have been subject to habitat degradation and erosion.

When is the project expected to be finished?

The project, which began early in March, is expected to wrap this summer, 2021. In the fall there will likely be additional phases of work

How is the project being funded?

The project is being funded by:

- *The City of Mount Vernon's Stormwater Utility*
- *The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District*
- *An Ohio EPA Clean Water Act grant*

The project is a collaborative effort between:

- *ODNR Scenic rivers Program*
- *The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District*
- *US Army Corps of Engineers*
- *Shade tree and Beautification Commission*
- *Ariel Foundation and the Foundation Park Conservancy*
- *US EPA*
- *Ohio EPA*
- *Mount Vernon Stormwater Utility*

What will the three phases of the restoration project entail?

The project has three phases:

1. *West Lake*
2. *Norton Street*
3. *Phillips Drive*

They will entail restoring about 125 feet of severely unstable river bank, 500 feet of riparian areas and create a 5-year event floodplain connection, utilize natural channel design techniques to restore about 700 feet of river bank to disconnect the back water channel, and restore about 800 feet of failing and unstable streambank and riparian areas.

Where will this project take place?

This Project will address our Kokosing River Corridor focusing specifically on the area along Ariel Foundation Park and Phillips Drive. It has been broken down into three parts to address the unique needs of three different areas: West Lake, Norton Street and Phillips Drive.

“These projects will improve stream habitats to support healthier fish populations, reduce downstream flooding, protect city infrastructure, and improve views and access points for residents to the river downtown.”

-Heather Doherty, Central Ohio Scenic River Manager, ODNR

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Why is the Kokosing River designated as a State Scenic River?

The Kokosing river gained this designation as a State Scenic river on November 4th, 1997. It gained this title due to it being considered one of the most diverse and healthy streams in Ohio. When a waterway is considered a state scenic river, it means that it is protected and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Scenic River Program will work with the local agencies and businesses around the scenic rivers to ensure the protection of the aquatic resources and terrestrial communities dependent on healthy riparian habitats as well as education about the river and habitats for locals.

Are there ways for residents to get involved in river protection?

Each year there is a river clean up event scheduled in the fall. This has been a very successful event each year to help keep our waterways clean. Watch your local news sources for more information this coming fall!

*If you are out and enjoying the Kokosing River keep in mind the saying “**leave it better than you found it**” and work to keep your area clean and clean up any additional trash or objects found to do your part to leave our waterways better than you found them.*

How will this project impact me as a resident of Mount Vernon?

The entire project will help ensure that our Kokosing River will continue to be enjoyed by anyone who comes to work, play, and adventure in the community

How is the project going so far?

Phase 3, Phillips Drive, has began and will restore approximately 800 linear feet of failing and unstable river bank. Starting on March 11th multiple large sandstone blocks were installed from along the river to improve the habitat and river bank stability



 The City of Mount Vernon, Ohio

 @CityMV1805

This product or publication was financed in part or totally through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

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