

**BATH CREEK STREAM & WETLAND/FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION**

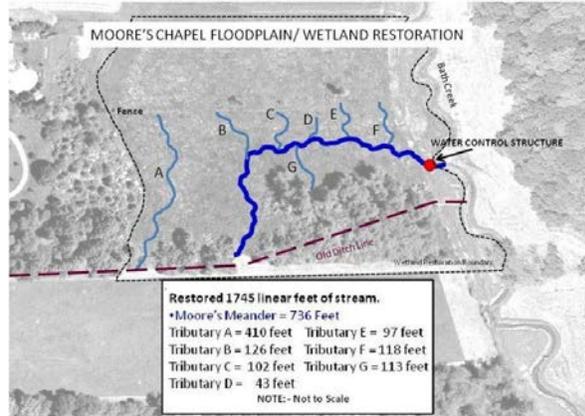
**BATH CREEK RESTORATION**

**1900** **2005** **2009**

**Bath Creek** – This area was ditched beginning in 1882 to help improve the drainage and to eliminate standing water for agricultural reasons. In 2005 the stream and the adjacent floodplain were ranked “poor” by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic habitat due to the breached stream channel, silted substrate and the lack of riparian canopy.

Today Bath Creek has had extensive stream restoration. What was a 1700 foot straight line ditch has become a meandering 2500 foot stream. A sand and gravel substrate was added within certain areas of the channel to increase the dissolved oxygen supply through riffles and pools. This gravel substrate also allows for proper bedding for macro invertebrates such as stone fly larvae and water pennies. In addition 5,200 bare root shrubs have been planted along the new stream channel creating riparian canopy eventually creating cooler water temperatures.

This project was achieved through multiple steps: **First** - it was recommended in the NEPCO (Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning & Development Organization) Yellow Creek Watershed Action Plan. **Second** - the Friends of Yellow Creek chose this project out of the 70 target areas from the NEPCO plan. **Third** - Oxbow Stream and Restoration Inc. performed as both contractor and contacting agent for the project. **Fourth** - Bath Township and the adjacent neighbors sought the goal of improving the water quality of Bath Creek. **Fifth** - This project was financed in part or totally through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, a nonpoint Source Program Grant, was secured. **Sixth** - the township is responsible through an in-kind contribution of \$31,852.00 and **Seventh** the University of Akron is conducting both pre and post construction monitoring of the stream.



**Category – Natural Resources & Conservation**

**FIRST PLACE**

**Bath Township – Bath Creek Stream and Wetland/Floodplain Restoration**