

THE RESTORATION PROCESS



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The Park District of Highland Park

This project is possible thanks to our partners:



The City of Highland Park



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative



Gary Borger Chapter of Trout Unlimited

For more information, visit www.pdhp.org/hpravines

PROTECTING OUR GREAT LAKE

In 2010, the Park District of Highland Park received funding from the United States EPA to aid in restoration of fish habitat. This initiative brought many members of the community together to work in the ravines. Together, we made it possible for fish to move into the ravine stream from Lake Michigan during spring migration and find places to lay their eggs in the streams. We continue to monitor water quality, renew stream features, clean up trash and educate our residents about the function and value of the lake and its tributary streams.

Taking stewardship of the ravines, lakefront and the plants and animals they support ensures they will continue to thrive as part of what makes Highland Park a beautiful place to live.



FISH WANT TO USE OUR STREAMS

Up and down the shoreline, there are manmade structures that make it hard for fish to use their historic homes. Here at Ravine Drive, the Park District of Highland Park worked with the North Shore Sanitary District and the City of Highland Park to lower barriers to fish passage and create pools and shelter where they could rest before moving upstream.

Since this restoration project began in 2010, the Park District has documented several species of Lake Michigan fish using the ravine stream for food,

shelter and spawning.

In July 2011, scientists from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found young Lake Chub, White Sucker, Rainbow Trout and also adult Longnose Dace (an Illinois Species in Greatest Need of Conservation) here in the restored outfall.

The wall was lowered so that fish can make their way upstream.



This steel wall is an example of a manmade structure that blocks fish passage.

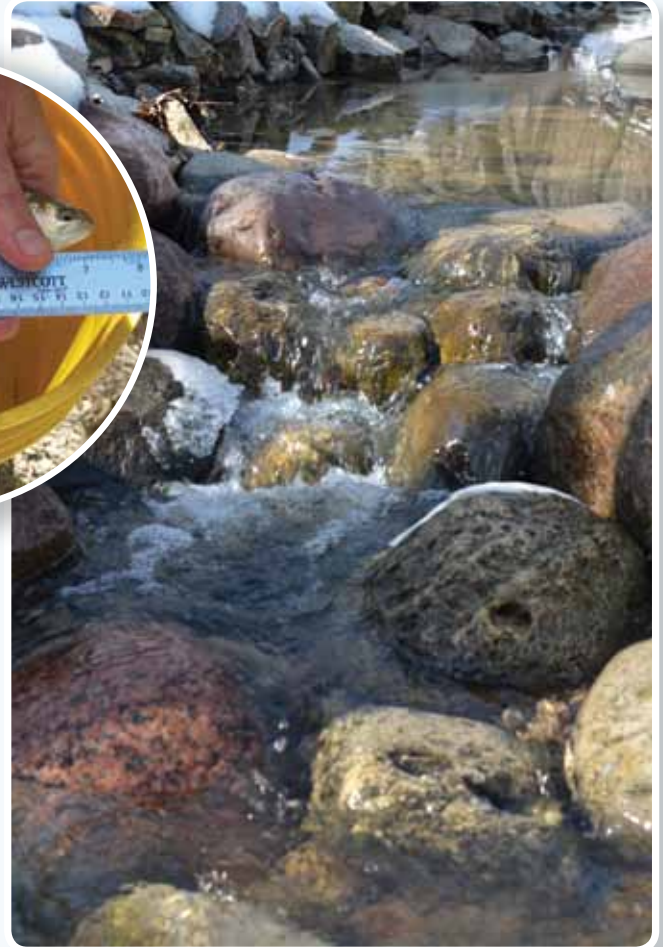


IT TAKES ENERGY TO SWIM UPSTREAM

Pools are natural places for fish to rest and hide from predators. We built ours with ladders that allow fish to move upstream more easily, from pool to pool.

Rock overhangs were constructed above the pools to provide additional places to hide.

These are designed to mimic natural cover such as tree roots that hang over the streambanks.



Fish Ladder

CHANGING THE CHANNEL

Streams are naturally narrow and meandering with varied flow and depth. Urban streams become broad, straight and uniformly shallow due to erosion. A key part of restoration has been renewing stream structure so the flow is deeper, varied and better directed.



We added cobbles and small stones some fish use to build nests. By using stones from the beach, we made the process sustainable.

Volunteers from Trout Unlimited help us maintain the stream.

HOW SUSTAINABLE ARE OUR EFFORTS?



Streams are dynamic systems that change daily, seasonally and annually. Part of our work is documenting these cycles. We want to make sure the restoration we do now will function in the future. We need to understand how the structures we build (pools, riffles, shelters and passageways) adapt to fluctuating flows. In part, our success will depend on identifying and addressing issues in the watershed as a whole.



Water quality monitoring provides feedback on our progress. We also monitor living creatures, like aquatic insects and fish.

HOW CAN I HELP?

THERE ARE MANY WAYS
YOU CAN GET INVOLVED
TO SUPPORT THE RAVINES:

- [Volunteer](#) with PDHP Natural Areas to help with restoration and education efforts, or organize your own group to do a neighborhood cleanup.
- Limit or eliminate the use of lawn chemicals, road salts and pesticides on your property.
- Store rainfall in convenient rain barrels and use it to refresh your garden in drier times.
- Use [native plants](#) in your landscape and keep lawns (and lawn sprinklers) away from ravine edges.
- Secure recyclables such as plastic bottles and bags so they don't blow away.
- Make a habit of picking up litter in your neighborhood.

Visit www.pdhp.org/hpravines for more information!



Park District of Highland Park

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