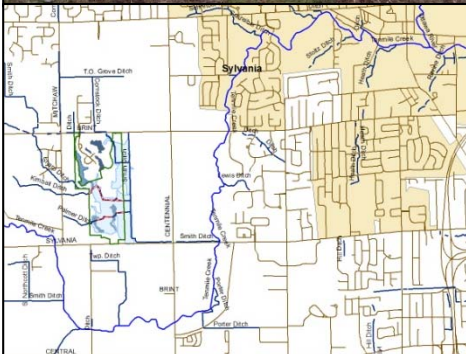


# Restoring Sylvan Prairie Park Smith Ditch Restoration

*Fact Sheet*

October 2012



In 2011, The Olander Park System (TOPS) received an Ohio EPA 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control grant for its proposal to restore Smith Ditch in Sylvan Prairie Park. Partnerships were important in making this project a success. The Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District helped to oversee the project. The Lucas County Engineers' Office provided the plan design and specifications for construction. In the Fall of 2012, TOPS began the construction phase of restoring almost 3,000 linear feet of stream in Sylvan Prairie Park.

The restoration plan for Smith Ditch utilizes a self-forming channel design. This will widen the ditch from its current width of six feet at its base to 30 feet. Constructing an overwide channel will allow for the establishment of a meandering stream and functional floodplain as well as additional storm water storage. During a flood event the channel will be able to retain five times its capacity, helping to reduce flooding downstream of the site. In addition, TOPS will replace the vegetation removed from the banks during construction with native seeds, plants and shrubs to further improve riparian conditions and increase diversity.

The Sylvan Prairie Park was TOPS largest site when it opened in October 2006, in conjunction with the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail. Sylvan Prairie Park debuted as a 60-acre park, expanded by 38 acres in 2008, then another 52 in 2010, resulting in its current 150-acre layout. Prior to TOPS acquiring the property that is now Sylvan Prairie Park, it was a farm field, then a failed golf course, and was slated for residential neighborhood developments. This project is helping TOPS to achieve its commitment of rehabilitating at least 80 percent of this property into meadow and wetlands.

Eighty-four wildlife species currently utilize the Park, six of which are species of special concern in Ohio. This restoration project, along with TOPS's restoration of 80 acres of tall grass prairie and wet meadow, will add additional high quality natural habitat.



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