

**Clear Creek Habitat Improvement Phase II
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Coldwater Conservation Implementation Project**

Public Meeting

The public meeting to overview the progress accomplished during Phase I of construction and that remaining to be constructed during Phase II was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at the project site at Clear Creek State Park. The meeting was attended by 17 members of the public and project partners representing Iron Furnace Trout Unlimited (IFTU), Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD), PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC).



Before Phase I repair & Phase II construction



After Phase II Clear Creek habitat complete

Project summary

During August 16–18 and September 7–8, 2021, WPC, DCNR, and PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) staff, along with assistance from IFTU and JCCD completed restoration of Phase I and simultaneously improved an additional 100 feet of habitat to complete Phase II of the Clear Creek Habitat Improvement project. After partial completion of 200 feet of habitat improvements and stream restoration work was completed during Phase I in 2020, unexpected site conditions following the removal of the gabion dam at the project site necessitated additional materials and work to fully restore the side channel and main channel. Project partners reconvened to develop additional restoration design features in March 2021, which required a new permit for Phase II construction activities that was secured prior to construction. The Phase I design was amended for Phase II to add 40 feet of log-framed cross vanes for stabilization of the entrance to the side channel, as well as add 60 feet of additional habitat structures on the main channel of Clear Creek below where Phase I ended. In total, Phase II improved 100 additional feet of habitat in Clear Creek.

Project outcomes

Additional fundraising and partner coordination resulted in the successful completion of Phases I & II of the Clear Creek Habitat Improvement Project in 2021. The stream was initially repaired during Phase I by removing a gabion dam and hazardous gabion fencing from the stream banks to restore a more-natural flow and stream characteristics to 200 feet of Clear Creek at this site. During Phase II, additional log-framed cross-vanes, root-wad deflectors, and large boulders were designed for stream bank and bed stabilization to improve an additional 100 feet of habitat and water quality of Clear Creek.

Project sustainability/next steps

The log structures, if they remain wet in the stream, are expected to persist for at least 20 years with minimal to no maintenance. Volunteers from IFTU and Clarion University continue to monitor fish populations in the creek at the site. DCNR park managers and staff will monitor the structures and report any maintenance needs to project partners for repair coordination. DCNR staff will monitor and control invasive weeds growing at the site. Project partners will continue to collaborate to address restoration and habitat improvement needs elsewhere on Clear Creek and the Clarion River at Clear Creek State Park. Partial funding has been secured by WPC for a future stream bank stabilization project on the Clarion River at the campground, which may include additional restoration to the mouth of Clear Creek near that project site.

Partners and volunteers

Permitting and overall project coordination and fundraising was facilitated by WPC and assisted by IFTU and JCCD. WPC secured two CHP to complete phases I and II of this project. WPC also provided cash match from staff travel and time to coordinate the project, as well as in-kind match from AmeriCorps staff assistance and equipment, tool, and materials used during the construction of the project. Staff from PFBC designed the project and directed DCNR staff equipment operators to oversee construction of the structures. PFBC contributed in-kind match for staff travel and time to oversee construction, as well as cash match towards the purchase of stone for the project. Construction labor was provided by all partners' staff. Due to COVID safety precautions, some partners' policies did not allow public volunteers to assist with construction projects during 2020.

Accomplishments and outputs

This project improved 100 feet of coldwater habitat on Clear Creek and establishes a more natural gradient to the stream to improve aquatic organism passage and mobility throughout the watershed.



Clear Creek main channel before restoration



Final Clear Creek main channel after Phase I & II

Lat. 41.33061
Lon. -79.09640



Clear Creek, Jefferson County		
Clear Creek State Park		
DCNR, WPC		
Fish Habitat Improvement Plan		
Stream Section, Habitat Management Division		
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission		
Drawn By:	Field Manager	Date:
Drew King	Mark Sausser	03/25/2021
Not to Scale	All Measurements Approximate	Printed