

Elk Creek--Addressing Stream Corridor Management in America 's Heartland through Science and Successful Partnerships

Impacts to streams and rivers in the Midwest include increased delivery rates of sediments and nutrients, often resulting from intensive agricultural land use. In order to address both non-point source pollution, impacts on aquatic wildlife and recreation, and potential economic factors surrounding management of stream corridors in northeastern Iowa, a partnership between land owners, government agencies, and research-based groups was created to reverse stream degradation in the Elk Creek watershed. Initial results from this five year project indicate active land owner participation coupled with management of both terrestrial and aquatic components of stream corridors may result in more comprehensive management of small streams and rivers.



Where is this project located?

The Elk Creek watershed is located in Delaware County, northeastern Iowa, USA.

When and why was this project initiated?

The Elk Creek watershed project was initiated in 1999 after Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 funds were acquired by the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District. This project was initiated to address non-point source pollution effects on a trout fishery. This project was completed in 2005.

What types of activities were performed?

Restoration activities performed included installation of various agricultural best management practices, stream corridor livestock fencing, instream habitat improvements, installation of fish lunger structures, and stream bank regarding. Pre-project and post-project monitoring of restoration activities effects included fish community sampling and visual observations of instream habitat changes throughout the project duration.

Why is this a notable project?

The active participation of land owners enabled restoration activities to target both causes of stream degradation within the watershed and instream effects on fish communities. Knowledge gained from this project included recognition of recreational and economic factors important to stakeholders that may guide future stream corridor management projects within the Midwest .

For more information on this project, please contact:

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