



## Changes coming to area in front of Bain Park Cabin

Written by [Kevin Kelley](#) on October 30, 2014 — [Leave a Comment](#)

**By Kevin Kelley**

*Fairview Park*

A portion of the field in front of Bain Park Cabin will look different a year from now, thanks to a \$66,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. A small floodplain will be created at the bend of Coe Creek that's directly in front of the historic structure.

The Coe Creek Streambank Restoration Project will reduce the slope of the creek bank near Bain Park Cabin to reduce the rate of erosion. The project will also restore 170 linear feet of the creek's banks. Two hundred trees and shrubs will be planted across one-third of an acre as well.

Members of the public received an in-depth explanation of the project Oct. 22 during the quarterly meeting of the Rocky River Watershed Council, a nonprofit organization of residents concerned about environmental issues.

Before the meeting, which took place in Bain Park Cabin, attendees toured the area where work will begin next month.

Jared Bartley, the Rocky River watershed coordinator for the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, explained that the project's goal is to reduce the force of water rushing around the bend at Bain Park Cabin. This will reduce erosion and the amount of sediment heading downstream.

Bartley noted the Coe Creek project is largely for demonstration purposes.

"This isn't to alleviate flooding," he told area residents. However, he added that the project will show how rainwater from heavy storms can be stored in a floodplain.

The project will bring about permanent changes to a small section of Bain Park, explained John Kusnier, of Davey Resource Group, the project's prime contractor.

"This is going to look different," Kusnier told residents touring the project area. "It's going to look more natural and less manicured than it does now."

Following the tour, four Fairview High School students from Colleen Sliwinski's environmental science classes presented their findings from a Sept. 17 field trip to Coe Creek they took with Bartley and other Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District employees.

In searching Coe Creek for macroinvertebrates – creatures without backbones that can be seen without a microscope – the students reported finding mostly pollution-tolerant species.

“We found a lot of leeches,” student Josh Szoradi said. That means the water quality can best be described as at the upper level of poor, Sliwinski explained.

Fairview High art students will assist the environmental sciences students in creating signs explaining the project that will be posted in Bain Park.

Sliwinski and her students said they hope the project will draw residents' attention to Coe Creek, and therefore to water quality issues.

“People should know it's there,” Szoradi said.

The Fairview Park Green Team, a group of residents dedicated to sustainability issues, has formed a “stream team” subgroup to serve as stewards of Coe Creek.

Matt Hrubey, the city's development administrator who serves as the Green Team's coordinator, said its members also want residents to pay attention to the stream's health.

“The first step is awareness – bringing issues to the attention of people who can solve the problems,” Hrubey said of the stream team's work.

Hrubey is also seeking residents to help plant trees in Bain Park as part of the project. Volunteers will meet at Bain Park from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 1 to plant trees along Coe Creek, between Bain Park Cabin and the gazebo. For more information, contact Hrubey at 440-356-4499.

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