



\$66K EPA grant to stem erosion along Coe Creek

Written by [Kevin Kelley](#) on August 26, 2014 — [Leave a Comment](#)

By Kevin Kelley

Fairview Park

A \$66,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will enable the city of Fairview Park to stem erosion along Coe Creek in Bain Park.

The Coe Creek Streambank Restoration Project involves restoring 170 linear feet of the creek's banks. Two hundred trees and shrubs will be planted across one-third of an acre as well.

At a special Aug. 13 meeting, City Council passed an ordinance allowing the city to hire a qualified contractor to execute elements of the project. The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District is providing the city with technical assistance for the project, which will be administered by the city's recreation department.

According to the city's grant application to the Ohio EPA, the section of Coe Creek within Bain Park has been eroding at a rate of more than one foot each year.

"This erosion has led to a loss of recreational space, undercutting of streamside trees, and increased instability adjacent to the culvert at the downstream end of the reach," the application stated.

Reduction of pollution is also a goal of the anti-erosion project. Current estimates indicate the erosion sends 18 tons of sediment, 29 pounds of nitrogen and 11 pounds of phosphorous annually into Coe Creek, which, in turn, flows into the Rocky River. The Rocky River flows into Lake Erie, the source of drinking water for Northeast Ohioans.

Matt Hrubey, the city's development administrator, said erosion of Coe Creek is the worst within Bain Park because it curves there. Fast flowing water through the curves causes significant erosion, he said.

Hrubey said the goal of the project is to improve water quality, not improve stormwater flow.

The plan is to complete the project by Thanksgiving, Hrubey said.

Colleen Sliwinski's environmental science students from Fairview High School will participate in the project, which will serve as a hands-on scientific field case study for them.

In addition to having scientists from the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District speak to her class, Sliwinski plans on having students visit the creek to take water and soil samples. Students will also create a sign that will explain the benefits of the project.

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