

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 1/18/2024

“Harroun Park River Bank Improvements”

For those of you who walk or bike the Sylvania River Trail through Harroun Park, you have likely seen the construction along the streambanks. Officially known as “Harroun River Trail Stream Restoration Project Phase 2”, construction began last November.

This Phase 2 project is a continuation of the Phase 1 project completed in May, 2021. Phase 1 focused on Ten Mile Creek west of the pedestrian footbridge near the SOMO Flats apartment complex. That Phase 1 project successfully stabilized 280 linear feet of streambanks with the addition of soil lifts and native vegetation, and the installation of in-stream rock structures to redirect water flow away from the banks and improve the aquatic habitat. The Phase 1 project was funded by a \$600,000 grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

The Phase 2 project begins where the Phase 1 project left off, and will stabilize an additional 1,000 feet of streambank and install in-stream improvements east towards Harroun Road. That includes the confluence with the North Branch where Ten Mile Creek becomes the Ottawa River. The total Phase 2 project cost is \$884,669, also chiefly funded by a GLRI grant.

This section of the Ottawa River has been experiencing significant streambank collapse. Those banks will be restored and stabilized using a combination of rock vanes with soil lifts that are enhanced with native brushy vegetation. The streambank and in-channel improvements are designed to restore and improve natural plunge pools that provide deeper water for fish species. Rock riffle restoration between these pools, in conjunction with the rock vanes, provide an environment to support other aquatic species.

As with Phase 1, this project will not only improve the health of the Ten Mile Creek/Ottawa River system for aquatic species, but also provide sediment and nutrient reduction efforts needed to meet regional goals in combating harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

Project construction has been suspended through the winter months until Spring, 2024. Please be aware that this section of the River Trail in Harroun Park will need to be closed at times to safely allow reconstruction operations to continue. Construction work is scheduled to be completed by May, 2024. Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

