



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Lye Creek, Upper Blanchard River Hancock County, OH

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Habitat Focus Area

Project Location: Lye Creek is a major tributary of the Upper Blanchard River watershed in Hancock County, Ohio. The watershed is a 28 square mile agricultural sub-watershed of the Western Lake Erie basin.

Project Description: Lye Creek is located in a heavily agricultural area and runs over 12 miles through Hancock County, Ohio. Over the past century, Lye Creek has been heavily manipulated and eroded due to agricultural practices resulting in significant degradation of water quality, hydrologic regime, wildlife habitat and overall stream health. Ohio EPA approved an Action Plan in 2011 for Lye Creek and other tributaries of the Upper Blanchard River calling for stream improvements to reduce eutrophication due to added nitrates and phosphorus by agricultural practices. These stream improvements would reduce sedimentation in the stream due to agricultural runoff and bottom and bank erosion during increasingly frequent storm events.

Non-Federal Partner: Hancock County, Ohio

Project Benefits: This project will provide for stream improvements that will better the quality of the environment, are in the public interest, and are cost effective. Improvements and enhancements to what could be as much as eight miles of the creek will include: widening of the trapezoidal channel, restoring the floodplain for wildlife habitat, aquatic habitat improvements to the natural channel, and restoration of native vegetation. These actions will reduce the nitrates and phosphorus added to the system by agricultural practices, which is critical in mitigating harmful algal blooms in the Western Lake Erie basin.

Project Status: \$200,000 in FY12 GLRI funds has been allocated to the project to initiate signing of the FCSA and to initiate the Feasibility Study. FY13 GLRI funds will be used to complete the Feasibility Study and construct the project.



Current Conditions (Apr 2012)

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$1,900,000
Non-Federal	\$1,025,000
Total	\$2,925,000

Project Milestones	
Complete feasibility study	JUL 2014
Award construction contract	DEC 2014
Complete construction	OCT 2015

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