



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Project Name: Otter Creek Streambank Restoration and Wetland Protection

Grant Recipient: St. Charles Park District

Project Location: St. Charles, Illinois

Project Budget: Total Project Costs - \$85,175.69 / 319 Grant Amount – Costs Unavailable

Project Summary: This project was initiated because of a blowout in the streambank at Otter Creek Bend Wetland Park located in St. Charles and owned by the St. Charles Park District. The blowout brought excess silt into the adjacent wetland and caused excess sediment in the stream. The inability to repair this condition initiated a long-term study of the geomorphological and hydrological characteristics of the creek. The purpose of the study was to assess the health and stability of the creek and prioritize for restoration those areas needing restoration. A second purpose was to develop an understanding of the historic and active geomorphic stream processes so that specific bank stabilization and stream restoration designs could be prepared. The project addressed two damaged areas identified in the study. One of these is the abovementioned blowout and the second was an area of a severely eroding streambank, which also had an accumulation of excess sediment in the stream channel. Both of these areas required the stabilization of the streambanks, the removal of excess sediment and the installation of grade control structures. This project also involved the installation of a diversion box in the second eroded bank area, with a shallow swale for occasional irrigation of the wetland. A minor part of this project also involved the removal of old berms along the banks of the creek.



Pre-construction conditions, blowout area from upstream showing sediment



Post-construction conditions, stabilized streambank