

Fact Sheet

Ecosystem Restoration Measures

Option: Improve Hydrology and Complement Flood Risk Management Efforts

Description: Improve stream flow through removal of obstructions (e.g., dams, undersized culverts, etc.); re-establish hydrologic connection to the floodplain, including floodplain wetlands.

Example(s): Montgomery County in Maryland implemented a study to address stream degradation problems in the Lower Paint Branch watershed. The study included stream condition assessment, prioritization, and preparation of a concept stream restoration plan, and identification of stormwater management opportunities to address riparian and aquatic conditions of the Good Hope Tributary, Left Fork tributary, and the Lower Paint Branch watersheds. The study focused on assessing stream stability, identifying and developing methods to control stormwater flows, retrofitting outfall structures, stabilizing streambanks, and enhancing riparian and aquatic habitat conditions. Over 10 miles of streams were studied.

Benefits: Restoration of natural flow regimes to streams; improved aquatic habitat; increased flood storage capacity; elimination of dam failure risks; improved water quality; potential for enhanced wildlife habitat; reduced erosion.

Challenges: Identification of suitable locations for implementation; funding sources are limited; existing development may preclude connectivity of floodplain and habitats.

