

## PROTECTING DARBY CREEK

**STATE PROGRAM:** Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT:** Hidden Creek Ltd.

**ASSISTANCE AMOUNT:** \$575,000

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Recently, the Ohio State Revolving Fund provided a low interest loan to a homebuilder to construct a variety of preventive nonpoint source measures to protect the Darby Creek, which is one of the highest quality watersheds in the State. The Darby Creek is recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Nature Conservancy, and many others as a "national treasure." It is one of the five best warm water river habitats in the continental U.S. and the last refuge of many threatened or endangered species.

The project includes a wide variety of structural and non-structural best management practices intended to protect approximately 1.5 miles of this high quality watershed from potential runoff from a new housing development. The developer has designed a comprehensive system of best management practices with the idea of protecting water quality and the surrounding habitat during and after construction of the homes. The project includes construction of sediment and storm water retention lakes, grassed waterways for storm water treatment, restoration of the wooded stream corridor, and the establishment of emergent wetland habitat. Additionally, the project includes a 200 acre conservation easement to protect the most environmentally sensitive areas. The conservation easement contains conditions, covenants, deed restrictions and regulations which protect the entire area. The project also contains an environmental education component for homeowners and housing contractors. This \$575,000 project is part of the Nonpoint Source Program (CWA §319).

To read more about this case study, please visit [https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2015-10/documents/2002\\_05\\_23\\_cwfinance\\_cwsrf\\_wetcase.pdf](https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2015-10/documents/2002_05_23_cwfinance_cwsrf_wetcase.pdf).