

Witness the renewal of Centerville Creek

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead



CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

REMOVING THE DAM POWERS STEWARDSHIP

After the dam was removed in 1996, decades of sediment, a severely degraded stream bed and an abundance of invasive plants remained. Sediment from the mill pond washed into Lake Michigan impacts fish habitat and causes algae blooms. *The Village begins restoration planning.*

STRONGER TOGETHER

With a combined focus to improve water quality and wildlife habitat, restore the creek and increase recreation, partnerships form.

A CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

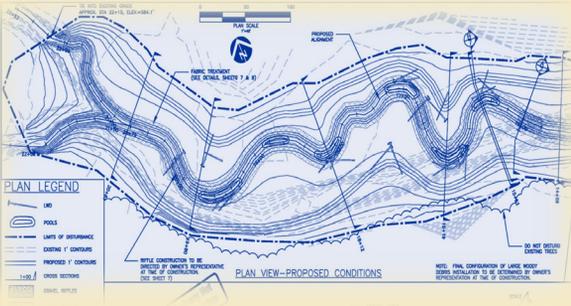
gathers many area groups to work together, ensuring the creek returns to a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Students from UW-Manitowoc sample 14 sites in the watershed each year to better understand the overall impact that various land practices have on the quality of our lakes and streams and to assess any improvements to water quality after restoration.

SEE THE DATA AT WWW.HIKA-BAY.ORG





RESTORATION DESIGN Meandering, With A Purpose

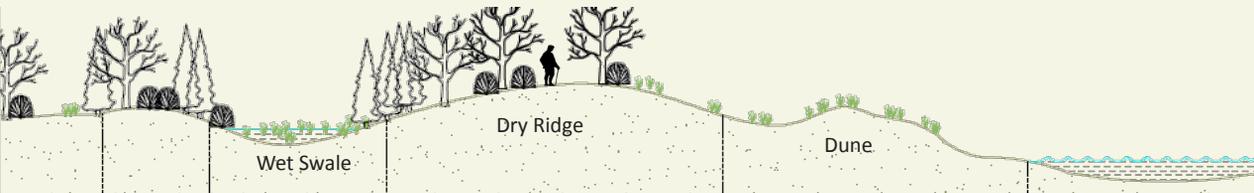
To restore Centerville Creek back to a free flowing, meandering stream with native plantings that reflect conditions prior to dam construction.

ONE PROJECT'S LEFT-OVERS? ANOTHER'S TREASURE!

Truckloads of sediment from the creek were hauled away, across the street! The ridge/swale ecosystem of Hika Shores was in need of restoration and the leftover sediment from the creek project was just the answer.



Sediment removed from the creek was repurposed just down the road at Hika Park to restore the ridge/swale habitat, rebuild a section of dunes, and create a new naturalized ridge along the roadway. Creek restoration spurred other projects and improvement efforts to include the expansion of Hika Park from 2.21 acres to 13.85 acres, construction of the pedestrian bridge over Centerville Creek, bird monitoring and many stewardship opportunities.



EXPLORE THE UNIQUE RIDGE/SWALE AND SHORELINE HABITATS OF HIKA PARK

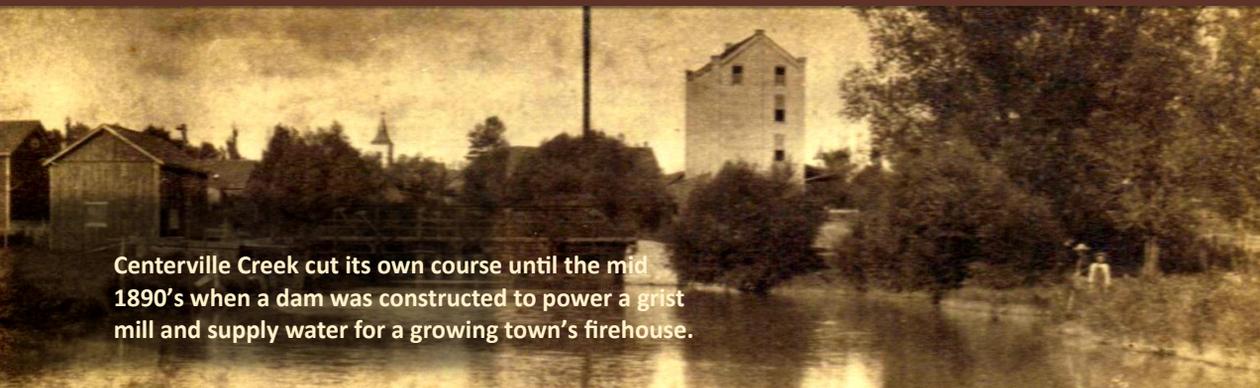
Walk to the park. Learn more about the unique ridge/swale and shoreline habitat restoration. Discover the rich diversity of plants and animals found there.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY



A Village Shaped by Water

A history of growth and restoration for a community and its creek



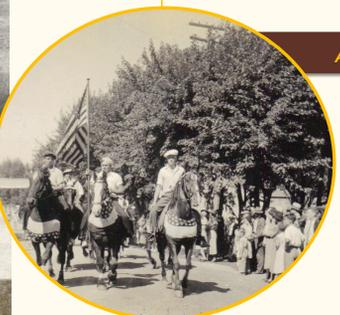
Centerville Creek cut its own course until the mid 1890's when a dam was constructed to power a grist mill and supply water for a growing town's firehouse.



OLD MILL POND

The dam created the town's first mill pond and the site became a popular gathering place for the community. The creek and mill pond gave residents a place to grow an income, cast a line for a fish dinner or skate with family on the frozen water each winter.

The wooden dam collapsed in 1906 and a concrete dam was built. Then in 1924 the dam collapsed again and for the next ten years the community struggled with how to raise funds for a new dam and another *Old Mill Pond*.



A GALA EVENT

In 1934 residents arranged a *Gala Fall Festival* to raise funds for a new dam. The festival featured a picnic, dance and parade. Forty-cents bought a ticket to the dance and twenty-five cents got a luncheon plate at the picnic.



“When the dam broke out ten years ago [1924] We have ever since tried to figure out ways and means how we could possibly reestablish this dam so as to get the pond back. We have now arranged a *Gala Fall Festival* with PICNIC and DANCE. There will also be a *BIG PARADE* at 1 o'clock. Don't miss it!”
Excerpt: An Invitation from *The People of the Little Village of Centerville 1934*



THE MILL POND RETURNS

After two successful money making picnics, a new dam was erected in 1935, impounding 12 acres of the creek, bringing the mill pond back. Again, Centerville and Hika citizens enjoyed the benefits of their *Old Mill Pond*.

In 1942 a heavy rainfall washed away the soil at both ends of the dam and caused the Mill to collapse and wash away into Lake Michigan making ongoing repairs necessary.

THE CREEK RETURNS HOME

NO LONGER NEEDED FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY, THE DAM WAS REMOVED IN 1996

The creek was free to meander once more. But there was much work to be done; restore the natural floodplain, re-establish native vegetation and enhance recreational opportunities for the community.



REMOVING THE DAM BUILDING COMMUNITY

After the drawdown of the mill pond, decades of sediment and a stream bed full of invasive plants remained.

In 2009, with a focus on water quality, restoration and recreation, the community gathers many groups who work together, restoring the creek to a healthy, functioning, ecosystem once more. Water shapes the people and the land once more.