
SUCKER CREEK RESTORATION

Where?

Sucker Creek is a roughly ten-mile creek located in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin that flows into Lake Michigan.

Why?

Historically, Sucker Creek was a valuable spawning ground for Lake Michigan's trout and salmon. Further, it supported robust populations of its namesake, the white and longnose sucker. However, like many creeks in the region, its water quality has been impaired by runoff pollution, limiting its value to fish and other aquatic species.

In recent years, community residents have expressed significant interest in ecologically restoring the creek to improve habitat of its namesake fish and to improve the creek's streamflow to levels experienced before human intervention. Longnose sucker is ecologically important as a prey species for many important species of game fish. Improving streamflow conditions of the creek can improve aquatic health and reduce flooding in adjacent agricultural landscapes.

How?

Our team of ecologists and engineers aim to turn that vision into a reality by designing holistic solutions, inclusive of hydraulic conditions within it and ecological conditions around it, that will be tailored to the specific needs of the creek and land adjacent to it.

Our team understands that successful ecological restoration doesn't stop at the implementation phase, which is why we are dedicated to ongoing site management practices that will increase the likelihood that the creek once again achieves historical streamflow and harbors thriving populations of longnose sucker.

Potential Solutions:

- Removal of invasive plant species, such as Reed Canary Grass, Honeysuckle, and Eurasian Buckthorn
- Removal of dead Ash trees/debris
- Revegetation of wetland, riparian, and upland areas through the use of seeding, planting, plugging, and existing seed banks
- Soil amendments
- Increases/decreases in stream depth and sinuosity
- Engineering and/or restoring wetlands
- Streambank stabilization and restoration

