

Resolving a “Stickney Situation”



In 2019, the Sewer District completed a stream restoration project on Stickney Creek as part of its Regional Stormwater Management Program.

Prior to the project, Stickney Creek had limited access to the low-laying land beside the channel, called floodplain. The floodplain reduces the energy of the stream during high flows. The slower water maintains stable banks and encourages debris and sediment to deposit along the creekside, instead of clogging culverts and bridges.

Without floodplain access, a stream will erode downward until it reaches harder material. When it can no longer erode downward, it begins to widen, eroding banks and threatening adjacent homes and utilities. The photo above shows the old sewer that was exposed by Stickney Creek on this site!



The Sewer District’s solution was to move the stream and the sewer away from one another and reconnect Stickney Creek to its floodplain.

This project relocated and increased the size of the 66” brick, combined sewer to 72”, to manage additional volume since its original construction. In summary, the project improved the alignment of the stream as it travels through the site and under Ridge Road, benefited water quality by reducing sewage contamination and erosion, and maintained fish and macroinvertebrate habitat in the stream.

This holistic planning approach maximizes the natural function of the stream and protects the public sewer, now and in the future.