University of Toledo
Ottawa River Restoration Project

The Presidents Commission on the River at the University of Toledo is undertaking a habitat restoration project for the 3,700 feet of the Ottawa River on the main campus of the university. The overall intent of the project is to improve natural habitat within the Ottawa River on the main campus and contribute to overall efforts underway along the river with our community.

Restoration efforts are aimed to enhance current stream and stream bank restoration and stabilization efforts and address the critical issue of aquatic habitat loss - that have been identified as significant environmental concerns for the river on the UT main campus – by the use of innovative demonstrative techniques for this urban stream condition that have potential for application to other sites along the Ottawa River in Toledo and similar streams in Ohio.
The project concept calls for the following in-stream restoration elements, making use of all natural materials (stones, logs and others):

- Riffles and hydrologic cover stones (Fig #1)
- Lunkers for fish habits (Fig #2)
- Locked logs and aquatic plantings (Fig #3)
- Cutbanks (Fig #4)

Stream restoration will incorporate some grade work in areas adjacent to in stream structures to restore a more natural stream channel and bank and to avoid erosion.

The stream channel will be restored to incorporate stream function and design principles including riffle and pools structures, low flow concentration and erosion control features as needed. Bank shape and stability will be assessed and addressed as in-stream elements are constructed.

Bioengineering techniques will be utilized to protect infrastructure as this is a very urban and visible area. Additional work will focus on slope vegetation and replanting through use of native plants.

This project will serve as a demonstration of the possibilities available for restoration in a very altered and modified river system.

Several restoration elements will be constructed onsite starting in August 2012, the remaining elements and completion of the full restoration of the in-stream and banks in August 2013.