

In-stream Habitat Improvement

Mayhew Creek

A landowner contacted us about a dredged channel on his property. The straight cut channel provides little habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. Cedar bundles were installed in the stream to create habitat and a more naturally meandering channel. Working together with CSSP, this landowner is committed to improving the instream habitat of Mayhew Creek.

The straight channel dredged by a previous landowner provided virtually no instream habitat to aquatic organisms. The channel bottom was composed mostly of fine silt and there was little woody riparian vegetation present.



Cedar bundles placed on the downstream end of meander bends help deflect flow back to the centre of the channel. This will help create a channel with varying water depths and substrate types, both of which are important for fish and fish habitat.



The landowner has also started to plant native trees along the length of the channel which will enhance the riparian vegetation currently present.

The restoration of this stream channel is an on-going project. With support from the landowner continued monitoring and habitat enhancement will occur.

This project was made possible with support from:

- Community Stream Steward Program
- Lower Trent Conservation Authority
- Pioneer Petroleums
- Landowner



To encourage the channel to return to a more naturally meandering pattern, cedar bundles were installed along the length of the channel.

A cedar bundle is constructed by tying a bunch of cedar branches together and then attaching them to the stream bank, often with rebar.



In the fall of 2010, live staking along the stream banks was completed. This will help establish native woody vegetation along the channel length, providing bank stability to prevent further erosion and stream cover to shade the stream and keep water temperatures cool.