Cascading Waterway Under Construction in Allen County

Allen County, Ohio (Sept. 9, 2019) – An Allen County landowner is working with The Nature Conservancy and other partners to install a 3,100-linear-foot cascading waterway system. The project will divert water from 70 acres of surrounding farmland into a repaired grassed waterway that will be retrofitted with four small pond-like areas within it to hold and slow down surface and subsurface runoff. Creating those areas increases time needed for sediment and nutrients to filter out before leaving the site. This cascading waterway system will be one of the first installations of its kind in Ohio and will be the longest cascading waterway built in the state to date.

Cascading waterway systems are an enhancement of the grassed waterway best management practice that can help farmers more effectively manage water on their land. Best management practices such as grassed waterways and cascading waterways are a cost-effective means to reduce erosion in these sensitive areas and, which contributes to sediment and nutrients in runoff. Having cascading and grassed waterways in place becomes even more important during intense rainfall events, when the greatest pulses of nutrients are delivered to streams.

Partners on this project include the landowner, The Nature Conservancy, Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Ohio Department of Agriculture. Funding for the project is provided by an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Grant. For more information about this project contact The Nature Conservancy at (419) 782-0652.
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