

Bull Creek Stakeholders Association

February 6, 2002

Dear Riparian Landowner,

Greetings from Bull Creek Stakeholders Association. Thank you for your participation last fall in the Dead River Watershed Tour and/or our informational meeting on conservation easements. Both events received positive feedback for the information they provided and the ideas they generated.

We are pleased to announce that our series of educational events will continue this spring with a landowner training workshop. The workshop will provide riparian property owners with a range of ecologically-sensitive and low-cost practices for reducing streambank erosion and improving aquatic habitat. Details will be provided in a later mailing.

To help make the workshop thorough, effective, and relevant, please take a few minutes now to look over and complete the enclosed survey. By answering a few questions, rating your interests and concerns, and relating any additional thoughts you may have, you will be providing valuable input to the design of the workshop.

Please return the survey in the postage-paid envelope provided or fax it to 847.244.5164. We may contact you in the next few days to follow up. Of course, please feel free to contact us anytime with questions or to get more information about the workshop. We look forward to receiving your completed survey and to seeing you again this spring – until then, enjoy the winter season!

Sincerely,

Joseph Hughes
President
Bull Creek Stakeholders Association
847.872.4943 / bullcreek4@attbi.com

LANDOWNER SURVEY

Bull Creek Stakeholders Association would like to learn more about the interests and concerns of landowners in the Dead River Watershed. Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey. Your input will help BCSA develop programs and events that provide practical information that directly addresses topics of interest to landowners and other stakeholders.

PROFILE

I am a: Private Landowner Business Landowner
 Public Landowner Representative (Government, Forest Preserve District, Park District, etc.)

I own property on: Bull Creek Location: _____
 Glen Flora Tributary Location: _____
 Other (please indicate): _____

How long have you been a riparian (streamside) landowner? _____

To what extent is erosion a problem on your property? None Minor Moderate Extreme
To what extent is debris accumulation a problem on your property? None Minor Moderate Extreme
How often do you experience flooding on your property? Never Rarely Occasionally Frequently

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Please describe any stream maintenance practices in place to improve or protect the stream and surrounding land on your property. For example, you may have placed rocks, logs or other structures along the bank to prevent erosion, or created berms along the bank to reduce flooding.

INTERESTS AND CONCERNS

Rate your level of interest in learning about the following topics:

Rating Scale: 1 = No Interest 2 = Somewhat Interested 3 = Interested 4 = Strongly Interested 5 = Extremely Interested

- ___ Stream Dynamics / How a Stream Works
- ___ Erosion Control / Streambank Stabilization Practices
- ___ Water Quality / Nonpoint Source Pollution / Biological Issues
- ___ Habitat Improvement Practices
- ___ Conservation Easements / Landowner Rights and Responsibilities
- ___ Stormwater Management
- ___ Technical Assistance Programs / Cost Share Opportunities
- ___ Other: _____

List two or three primary questions or concerns you have as a riparian landowner: _____

Indicate your preference regarding the length of a landowner training workshop: 1/2 day full day

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please list additional comments on the back of this page. Thank you for your input.

Bull Creek Stakeholders Association

Riparian Landowner Survey — RESULTS SUMMARY

Following is a summary of a survey of some riparian landowners in the Bull Creek watershed. The survey was conducted to determine current stream maintenance practices and identify landowners' primary topics of interest for the upcoming Workshop for Riparian Landowners.

Overall, fourteen responses were received out of twenty-five surveys distributed. The majority of the respondents are Bull Creek riparian landowners, with only one on Glen Flora Tributary, and one from Illinois Beach State Park. Erosion is extreme in the majority of cases, while debris accumulation is more moderate, and flooding is experienced only occasionally. About half of respondents have tried some form of streamside/channel maintenance, ranging from pulling out debris a few times a year and pruning invasive species to placing rocks or pouring cement at the base of the bank.

Respondents are most interested in learning more about erosion control, streamside stabilization practices, and vegetation management. The next most appealing topics are habitat improvement practices, conservation easements and landowner rights and responsibilities, followed by water quality/NPS/biological issues and technical assistance programs and cost share opportunities. They are least interested in learning about stormwater management and stream dynamics. Almost all respondents preferred a half-day workshop, though more than one noted that longer was acceptable if needed to cover the relevant issues.

PROFILE

I am a: **12** Private Landowner ~~Business Landowner~~
1 Public Landowner Representative (Government, Forest Preserve District, Park District, etc.)

I own property on: **11** Bull Creek Location: California Av., Gilbert Av., Paxton Dr. x5, Pickford Av., Tewes Ct., west of Sheridan Rd., NR
1 Glen Flora Tributary Location: Stanley Ave. in Waukegan
1 Other (please indicate): TNC Steward at Illinois Beach State Park

How long have you been a riparian (streamside) landowner? In years = 3+, 4, 4, 4, 6-7, 6-7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 20, 25, 38.
153-156 combined yrs. Range = 3+-38 yrs. Average = 11.8-12 yrs. Median = 9 yrs.

To what extent is erosion a problem on your property? **1** None **1** Minor **3** Moderate **1** Moderate+ **7** Extreme

To what extent is debris accumulation a problem on your property? ~~None~~ **3** Minor **6** Moderate **1** Moderate+ **3** Extreme

How often do you experience flooding on your property? ~~Never~~ **1** Rarely **7** Occasionally **4** Frequently **1** NR
Notes: [Frequently] only in ravines; [no rating] over bank flows every 1 to 3 years

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Please describe any stream maintenance practices in place to improve or protect the stream and surrounding land on your property. For example, you may have placed rocks, logs or other structures along the bank to prevent erosion, or created berms along the bank to reduce flooding.

None; None; None; None; Not much; NR;
None – slope (steambank) is not part of our property.;

(continued on reverse)

Tried some clearance of major debris (tree trunks, etc.) and tried placing some rocks. When it really rains – forget it. Dirt is washing out from under trees on banks, and then banks cave;
 Cement at the base of the bank.;
 Pull out debris 2-3 times per year.;
 General clean up, pruning invasive plants.;
 Placed rocks – unfortunately neighbor lined the creek with stone increasing rate of flow and causing more erosion on my property.;
 IBSP has a series of ponds connected with culverts and dams to regulate flow.

Interests and Concerns

Rate your level of interest in learning about the following topics:

Rating Scale: 1 = No Interest 2 = Somewhat Interested 3 = Interested 4 = Strongly Interested 5 = Extremely Interested

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Erosion Control / Streambank Stabilization Practices	53	5	2, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, NR
Habitat Improvement Practices	47	4	3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, NRx2
Conservation Easements / Landowner Rights & Responsibilities	47	3	3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, NR
Water Quality / Nonpoint Source Pollution / Biological Issues	45	4	2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, NRx2
Stormwater Management	40	2,4	2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, NR
Stream Dynamics / How a Stream Works	41	4	2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, NRx2
Technical Assistance Programs / Cost Share Opportunities	43	2,5	2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, ?
Other: <u>Rain garden; What to do?</u>	NA	NA	5, NRx12

List two or three primary questions or concerns you have as a riparian landowner:

NR; NR; NR;

Erosion and debris accumulation;

Erosion and vegetation;

Who owns the right-of-way on our stretch of the ravine? Water quality is a major concern.;

How to identify bad plants? What to replace with? How much debris should be removed?;

Property totally overgrown with junk, trees, etc.; wet almost everywhere – creek comes up 40-50’ wide when flooding.;

What, if any, cost may accrue to a riparian landowner? Impact of easement on riparian landowner, etc.? How can riparian landowner contribute “sweat equity” to improve own property?;

Cost to establish conservancy, duties of stormwater management agency.;

As arthritic octogenarians, we can no longer climb down to our section of Bull Creek to keep it cleaned out.;

Who is responsible for clean up of culverts? Effects of burning leaves near creek.;

Spread of exotic species, especially garlic mustard and phragmites. Soil deposit in the wetlands.

Indicate your preference regarding the length of a landowner training workshop: **11** 1/2 day **1** full day **1** either

Notes: Do more as needed.; 1/2 day great, if there’s enough time to cover all issues – full day is o.k.