

Lake Erie Community Park West Trail Improvements

SUMMARY

This project was to improve the conditions of a walking trail down to the Lake Erie water's edge within the Lake Erie Community Park on the west side in Girard Township, Lake City, PA. The existing trail was in need of stormwater drainage and grading back of the excessively steep areas of the trail to make safe access to the water for everyone.



CHALLENGE

The existing path within Girard Township's Lake Erie Community Park, West Side, was very steep and needed constant maintenance due to there being no stormwater controls. The path would get washed out with each rain event, allowing non-point source pollution and sediments to flow down into Lake Erie. The rain also caused deep erosion areas across the path which were dangerous for anyone utilizing the path. Because this was not an improved trail, there were two very steep, unsafe areas that made traversing the path hazardous. With steep 110' bluffs throughout the Lake Erie Community Park, the rough path was used by visitors, fishermen to access the water's edge, as well as the local emergency personnel when they were called out on water rescues. Making the path into a viable walking trail was imperative to keep everyone safe.

FUNDING

Grant Award: \$50,000.00

Total Project Cost: **\$98,151.20**

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

The PA DEP Coastal Resources Management Program which is funded by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was a vital partner in this project.





SOLUTION

The trail was sloped slightly to the inside to allow for stormwater to flow into the subsurface and surface drainage to a catch basin and tubed to the toe of the bluff. This will help avoid erosion on the trail. After the steep portions of the trail were graded back, a GeoWeb contained aggregate system was applied to the trail and filled with two different sizes of limestone for a more stable and comfortable walking surface. The trail was also widened to allow access for emergency personnel in the event of a water rescue.

RESULTS

The outcome of this project is significant. A much wider, traversable trail with no dangerous erosion areas to maneuver around. Persons young and old can now walk this trail to the water's edge without the fear of sliding down the steep slopes. While the trail still has a downward slope, the trek up and down is much more manageable and the walking surface is secure. The width of the trail allows more than one person to walk next to each other and will allow a gator and a rescue basket to be taken down it safely to help those in water despair or other health related issues so that they can be extricated safely. A gate will go across the entrance to the trail at the top to eliminate unwanted vehicle traffic. Only emergency personnel, law enforcement and the Township will have access to the gate for motorized vehicles. This trail will allow fishermen, nature lovers, kayakers, canoers, hikers and the like to safely recreate in this beautiful area of Lake Erie Community Park.

Contact

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Before



After

