

# Hart Ditch Improvements

Joint Project in Northwest Indiana

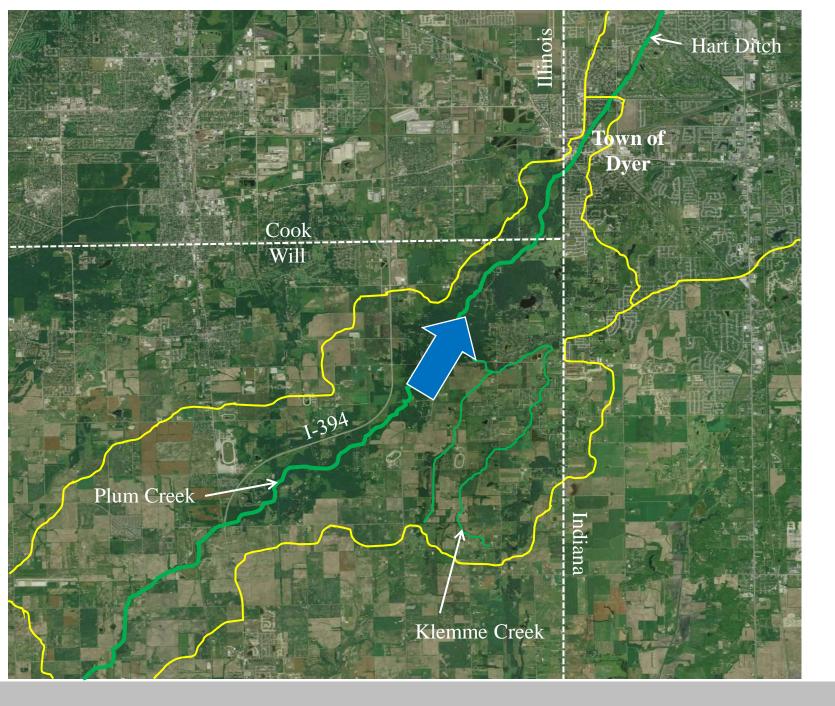




#### Plum Creek/Hart Ditch Watershed

Confluence with Little Calumet River in Munster, IN

71 mi<sup>2</sup> at confluence with Little Calumet River



### Plum Creek/Hart Ditch Watershed

71 mi<sup>2</sup> at confluence with Little Calumet River

36 mi<sup>2</sup> drainage area in Illinois before it enters Dyer, IN

Water knows no boundaries!



#### Plum Creek

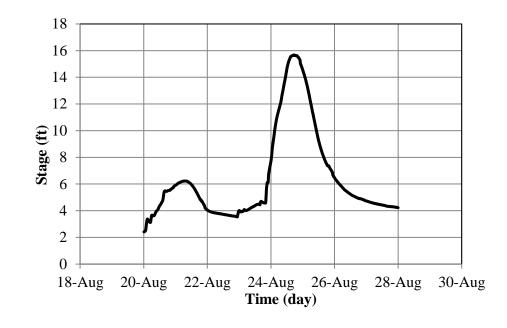
Berens Monaldi Subdivision

US 30

Hart Ditch

### **Flooding History**

- November 1990
  - Significant flooding
  - 13 ft total rise
- August 2007 (saturated watershed)
  - 5" rain between 8/20 and 8/23
  - 1" in Dyer and 5" rain in Will Co. on 8/24
  - 9' rise in 18 hours
- September 2008 (Hurricane Ike)
  - 9" on the  $13^{th}$  and  $14^{th}$
  - 8' rise in 18 hours

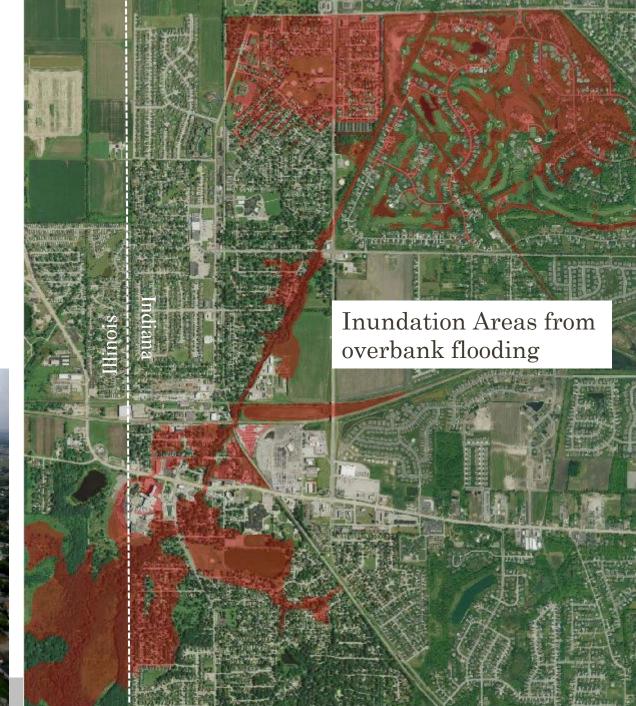


Event	Rainfall (in)	Peak Gage (ft)
Nov. 1990	~6"	13
Aug. 2007	10"	15.7
Sept. 2008	9"	16.8

#### Significant Flooding throughout Dyer from 2007 and 2008 events







- August 2007 had > \$4M in damages to homes
  - \$2.8M in Berens Monaldi subdivision
  - Cases of foundation collapses
  - Houses with 8 feet of water in the basement
  - \$33M in damages at Franciscan Health Dyer
    - Over 2' going through Emergency Room
- September 2008
  - More damages than Aug. 2007



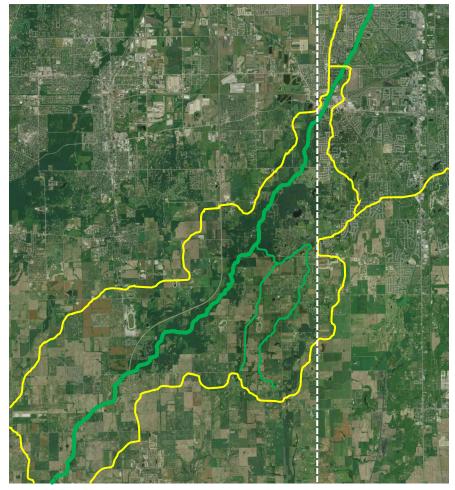
Significant Flooding throughout Dyer from 2007 and 2008 events





#### **Flood Mitigation and Alternatives Measures**

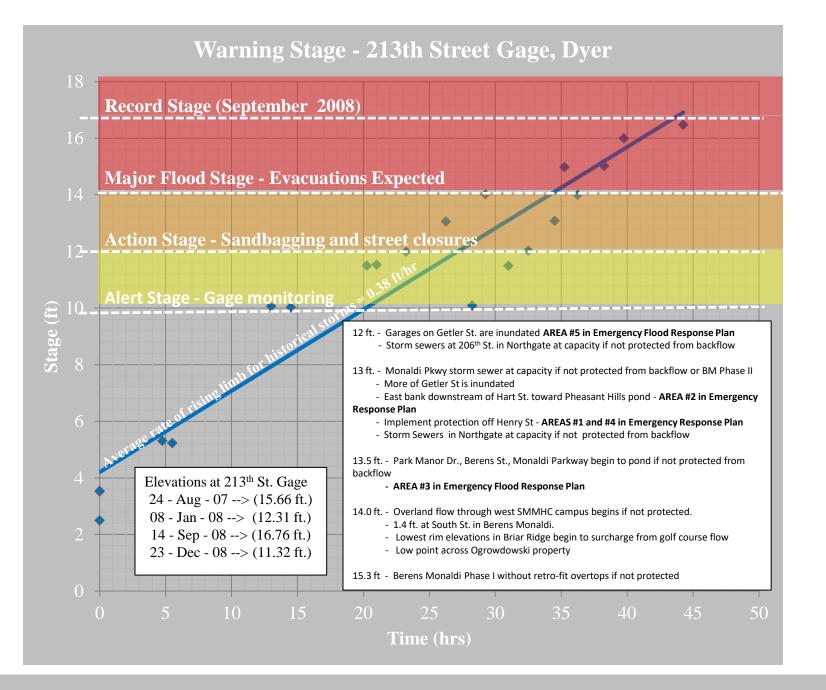
- Lake County Surveyor's Office commissioned a study of the watershed
  - Plum Creek Hart Ditch Watershed Study
  - Hydrologic and hydraulic models of the watershed
    - Calibrated to long and short duration events
    - Verified using Jan. 2008 and Sept. 2008 events
    - Used for predicting flood events on anticipated rainfall
    - Larger flows than regulatory flows (3389 cfs vs 1910 cfs)
- Added rain gage in Goodenow (2009)
- Added a stream gage on Plum Creek (2009)
- Emergency Action Plan



### Gages Added in Plum Creek Watershed

- USGS Rain Gages
  - Hart Ditch at 213<sup>th</sup> Street in Dyer
  - Crete, IL
  - Goodenow, IL (new)
- USGS Stage Gages
  - Hart Ditch at 213<sup>th</sup> Street in Dyer
  - Plum Creek (new)





### Predictions and Emergency Response

Used for predictions

Correlation between stage gages

Time to prepare for floods and enact emergency actions

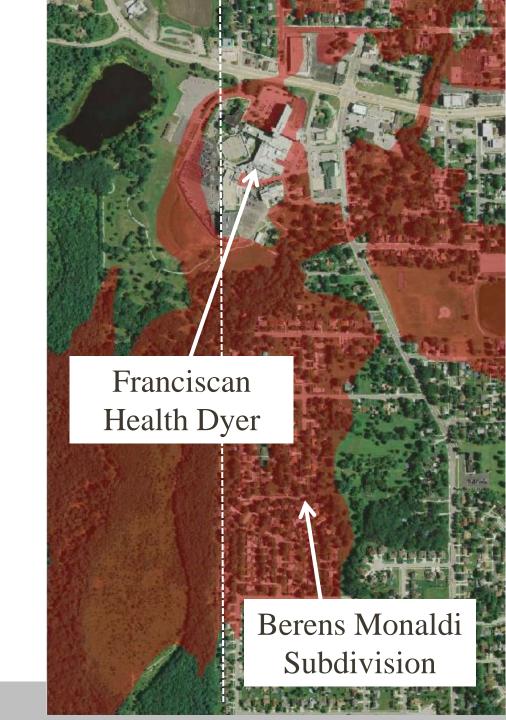
#### **Flood Mitigation and Alternatives Measures**



- Longwood Golf Course in NW corner of Will County
- Widen Hart Ditch
- Multiple smaller storage areas
- Berms to protect subdivision and hospital

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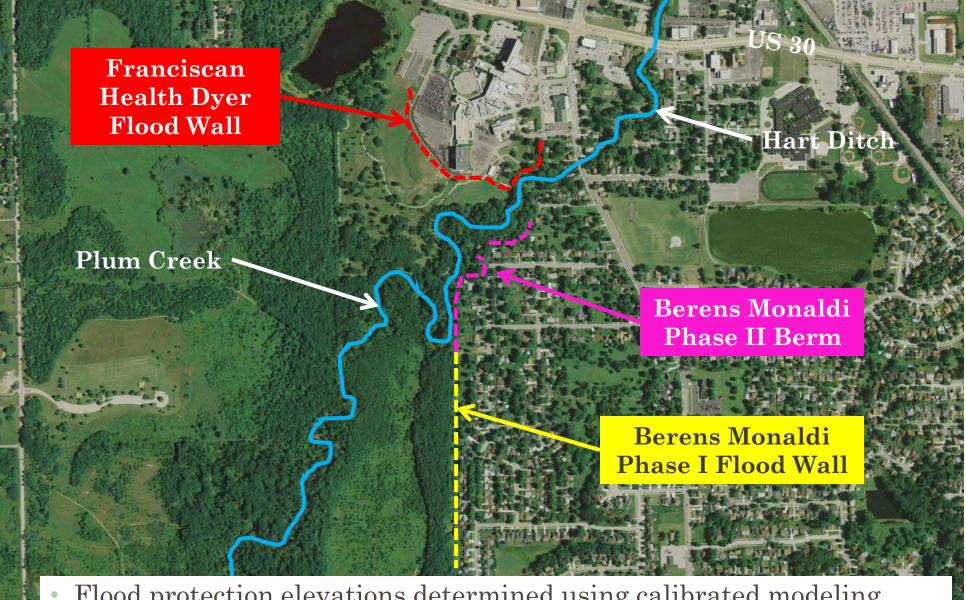
#### **Flood Mitigation and Alternatives Measures**

- Berens Monaldi Subdivision berms and pump station paid for by Town of Dyer
- Franciscan Health Dyer berms paid for by the hospital







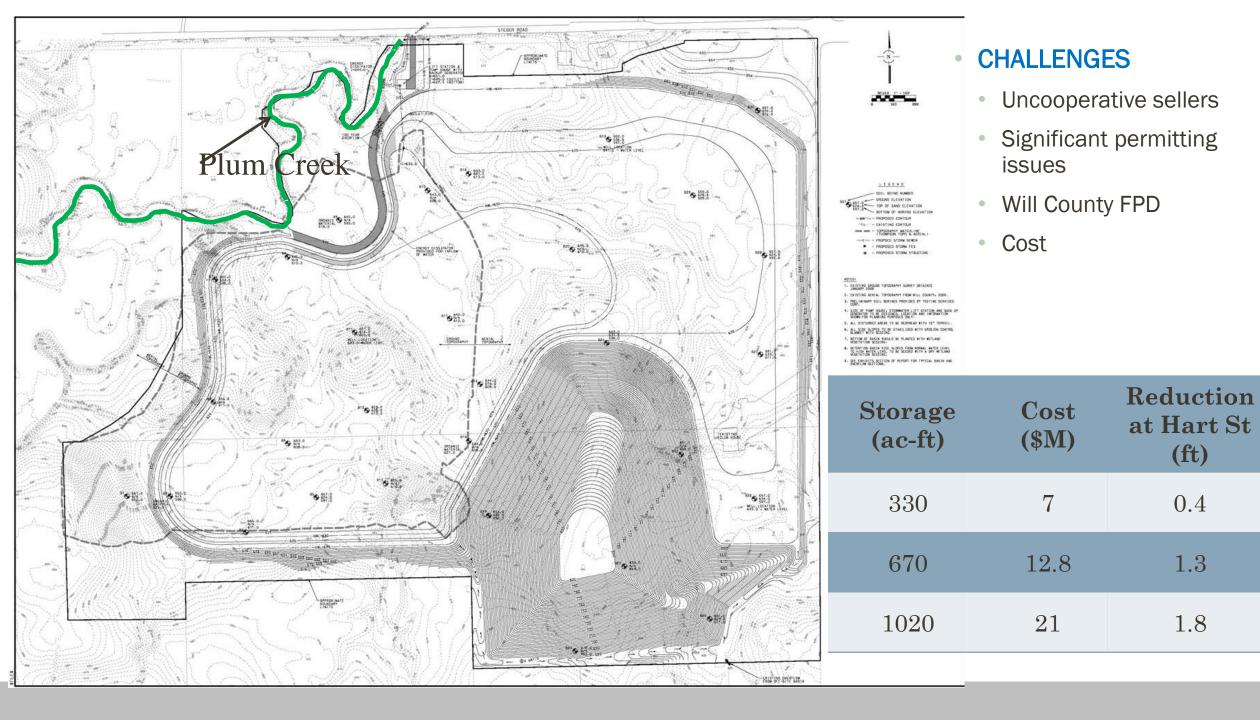


Flood protection elevations determined using calibrated modeling

Flood walls provide protection elevation greater than the elevations from the September 2008 storm event

### **Flood Mitigation and Alternatives Measures Implemented**

- Town of Dyer
  - In excess of \$2,800,000
- Franciscan Health Dyer
  - In excess of \$1,000,000
- Updated Stormwater Ordinance
- Search for storage projects using "compensatory storage" requirements from berms
- Longwood golf course project was studied in detail



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- Updated Stormwater Ordinance
- Search for storage projects using "compensatory storage" requirements from berms
- Longwood golf course project was studied in detail
- Identified 2-stage channel improvements

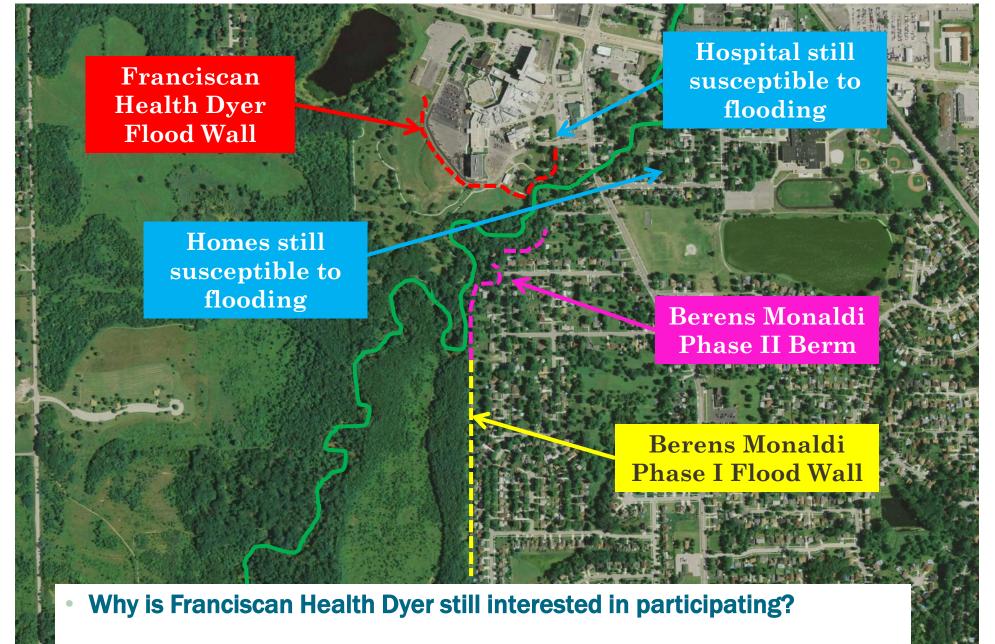
### **Cooperative Effort**

- Town of Dyer
- Franciscan Health Dyer
- Lake County Drainage Board
- Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
- Lake County Highway Department



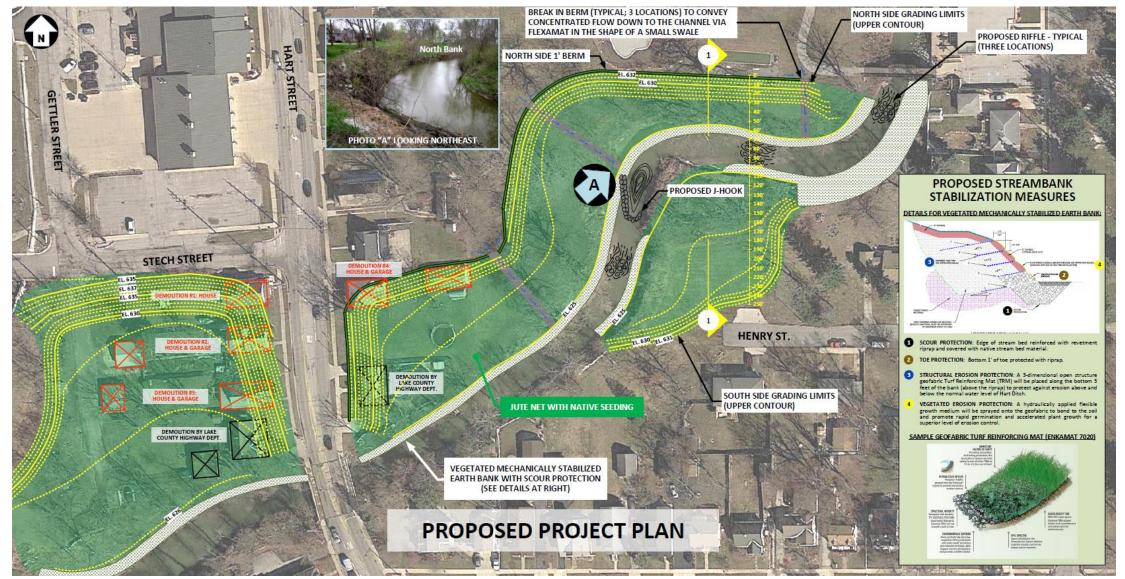
### **Cooperative Effort**

- Awarded bid \$1,856,309.78 to Dyer Construction, with change orders about \$1.9M
- Town paid \$1,090,880 for purchase of houses and demolition and tree clearing
- Total Cost was approximately \$3.3M
- Franciscan Health Dyer contributed \$2,047,118.22 (agreement from 2010)
- Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission contributed \$600,000
- Received grant from DNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program for \$100,000
- 3 Houses removed and land dedicated to Town from Lake County Highway Department
- Lake County Surveyor's Office funded initial watershed study and various alternative studies



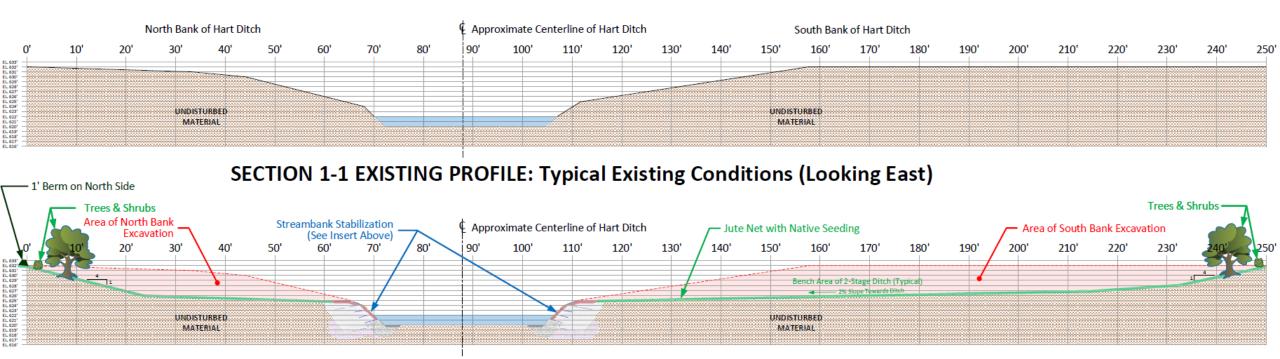
Why is Town still interested in participating?

#### **Concept Design**





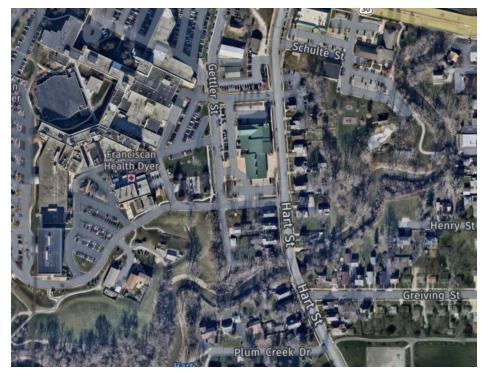
## Creating a 2-Stage Ditch: Existing and Proposed Section Views



SECTION 1-1 PROPOSED PROFILE: 2-Stage Ditch with Reinforced Stream Bank Edge (Typical Conditions -- Looking East)

### **Site Conditions prior to design**

- Video from February 21, 2018 after storm event
  - Berm protecting hospital
  - First area to flood is behind homes on west side of Hart Street
  - Large trees throughout project site
  - Potential overtop locations to the south (left in video)
  - Hart Street bridge is a 2 lane bridge
  - <u>Survae</u>





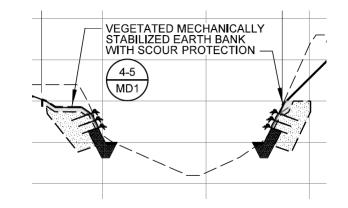


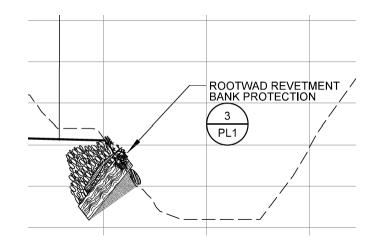




### **Expected Project Benefits**

- Water Quality and Quantity Benefits
  - Significantly improved ditch stability:
    - Bench area to be sloped towards ditch at 2%
    - After bench, bank sloped at 2:1 to maximize storage area
    - Toe of the ditch reconstructed as a preventive scour measure (rootwads and riprap) with vegetated mechanically stabilized earth bank above toe
    - J-hook and rock vane
  - Sediment reduction
    - Finer sediment particles will settle out on the bench areas
    - Coarser particles will form ditch bed

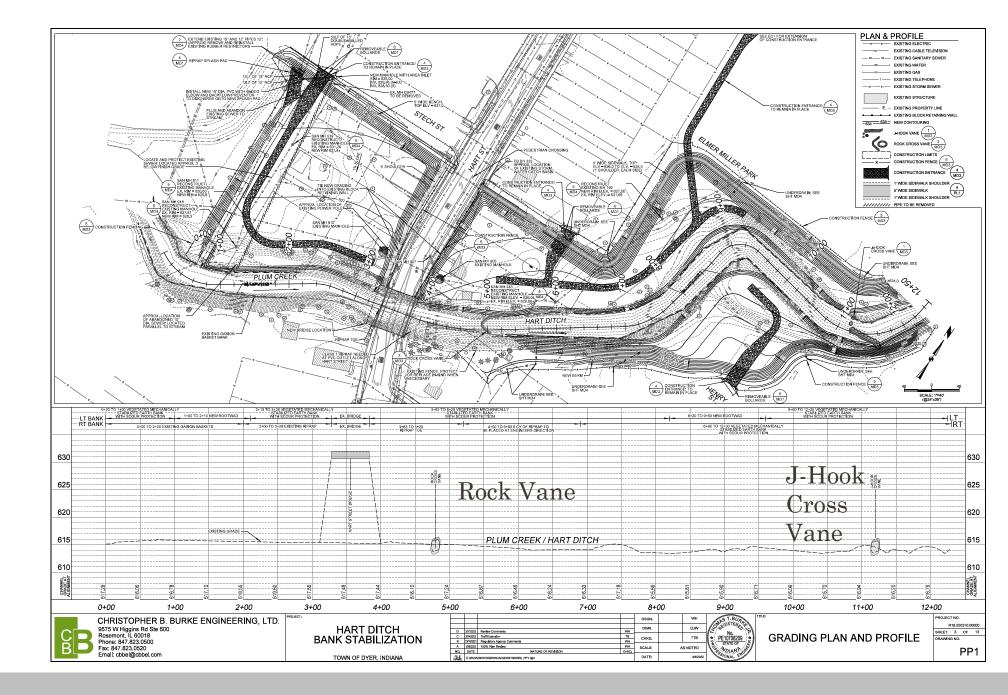




### **Expected Project Benefits**

- Environmental
  - Bio-uptake of nutrients by vegetation located within the bench areas
  - The bench areas will filter pollutants and provide groundwater recharge
  - Native seed mix will provide wildlife habitat and accommodate migrating birds
- Educational
  - Kahler Middle School is 2 blocks from the site and students can walk to site to observe the results of the environmental restoration with native plants
  - Demonstration that 2-stage channel restoration can work in highly urban areas
  - Signage being installed explaining the project
  - Walking path

#### Design

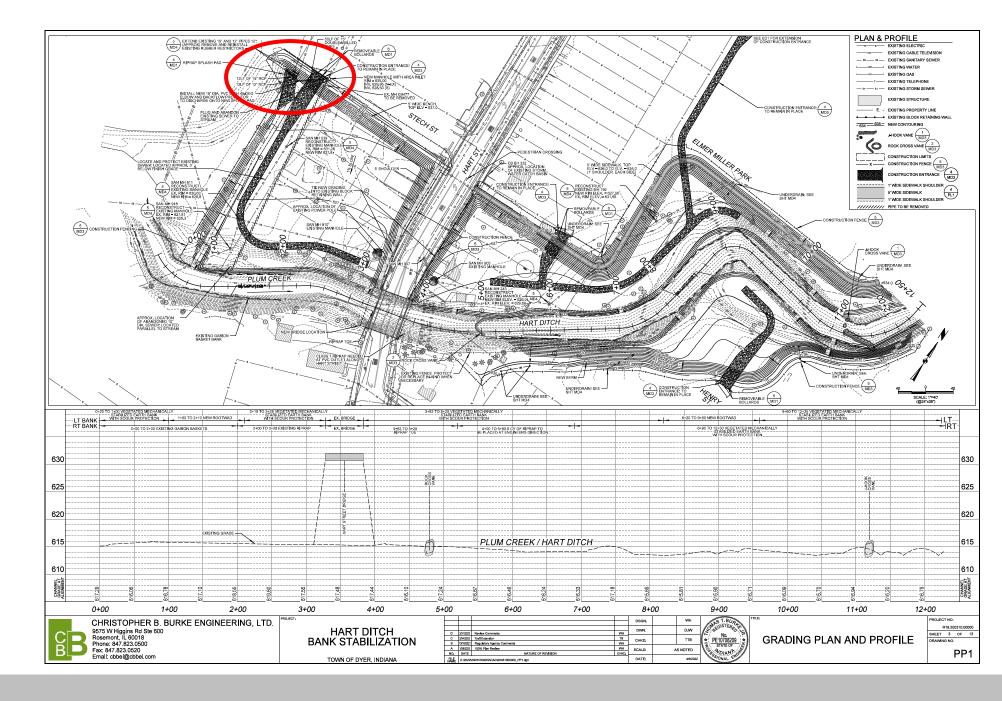




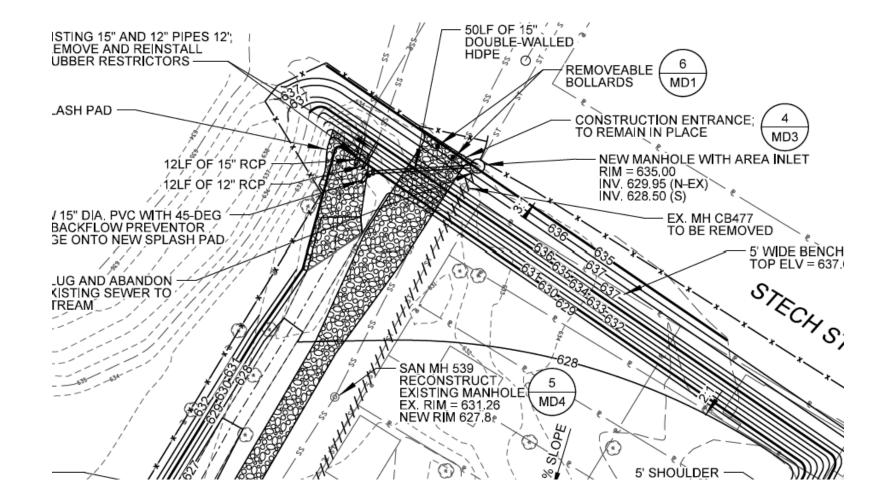
#### Alternative protection for hospital

Install emergency concrete jersey barriers each time a flood was possible across entrances

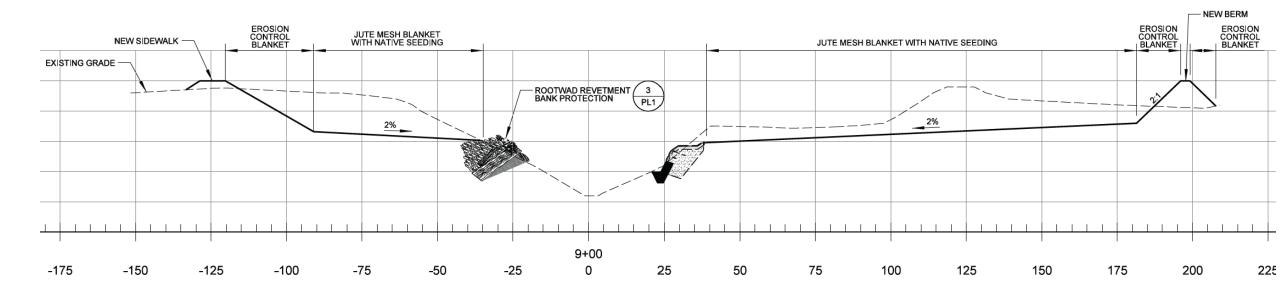
#### Design to tie into hospital berm



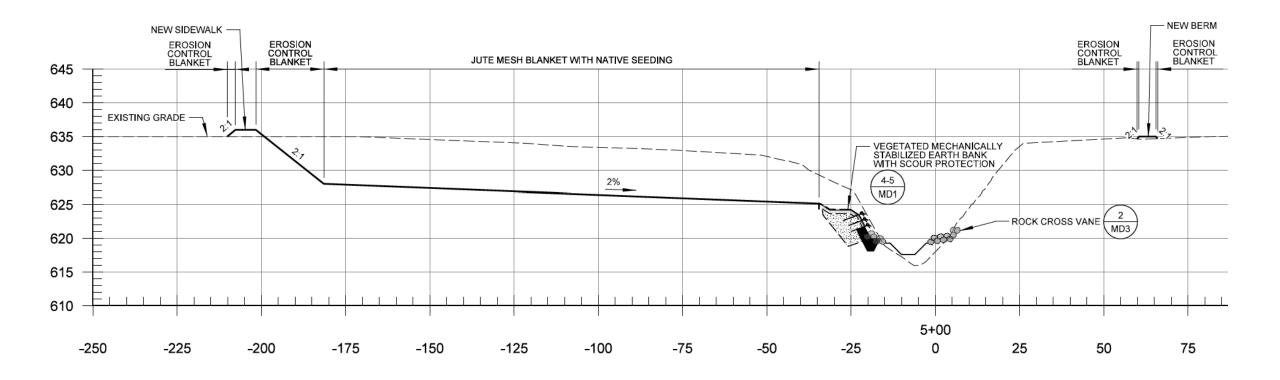
#### **Provides hospital needed protection**



#### **Design Cross-sections**

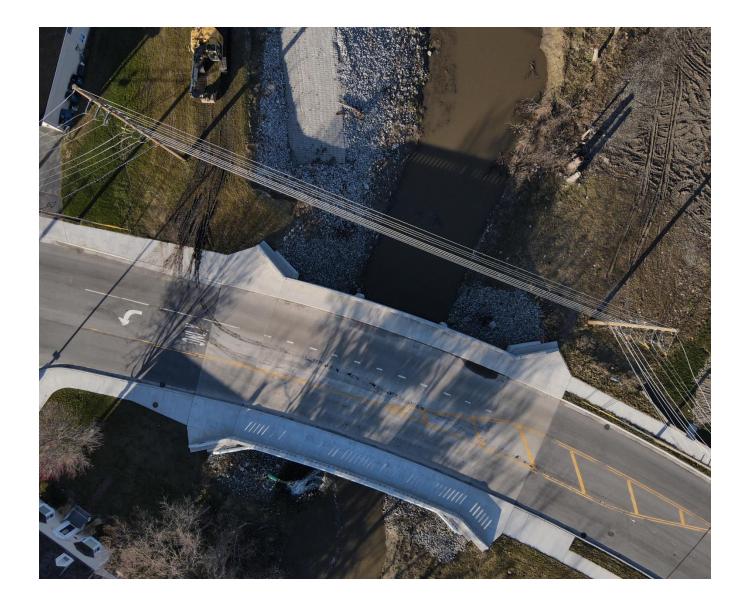


## **Design Cross-sections**

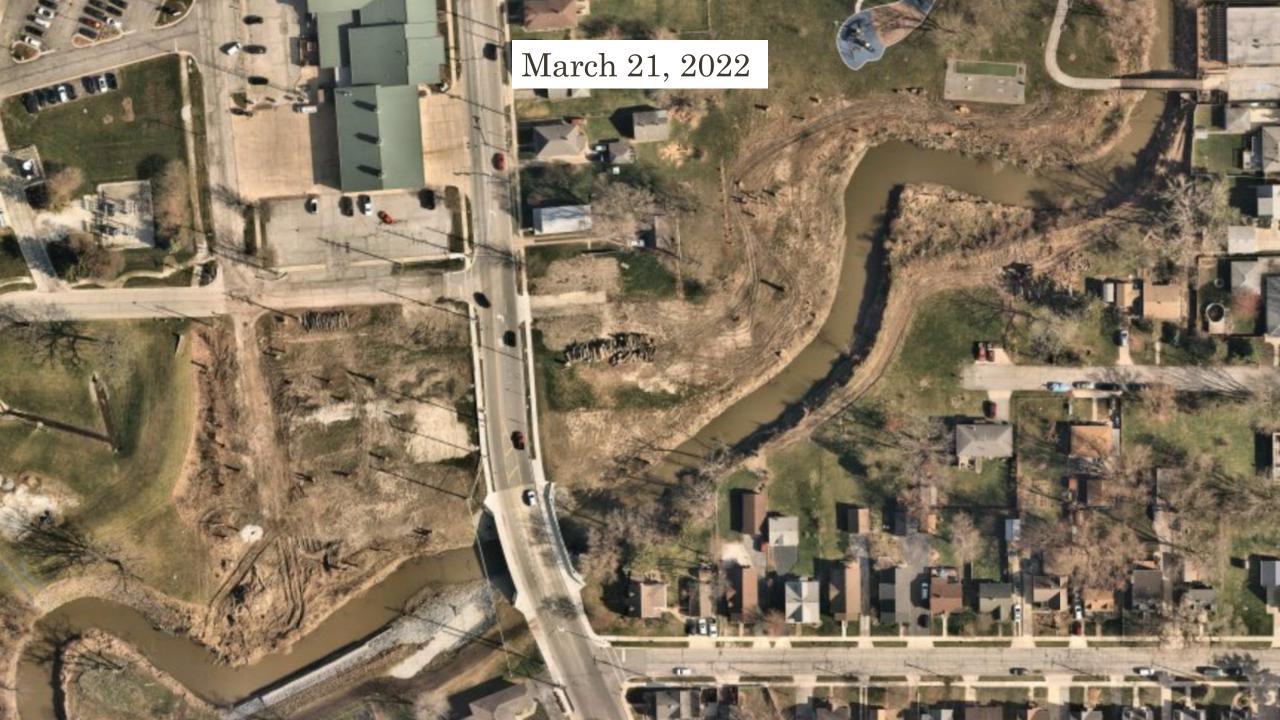


# **Tree removal in March 2022**





# New 3 lane Hart Street Bridge



# **Construction begins June 2022**





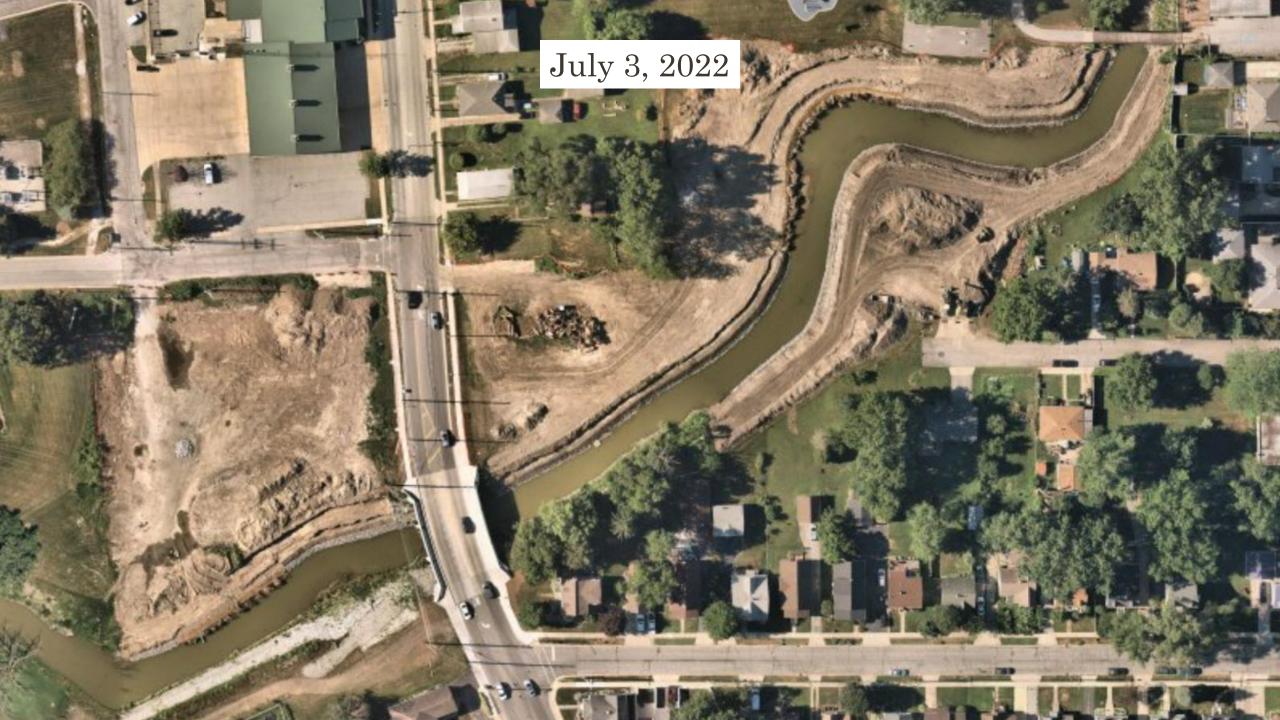


















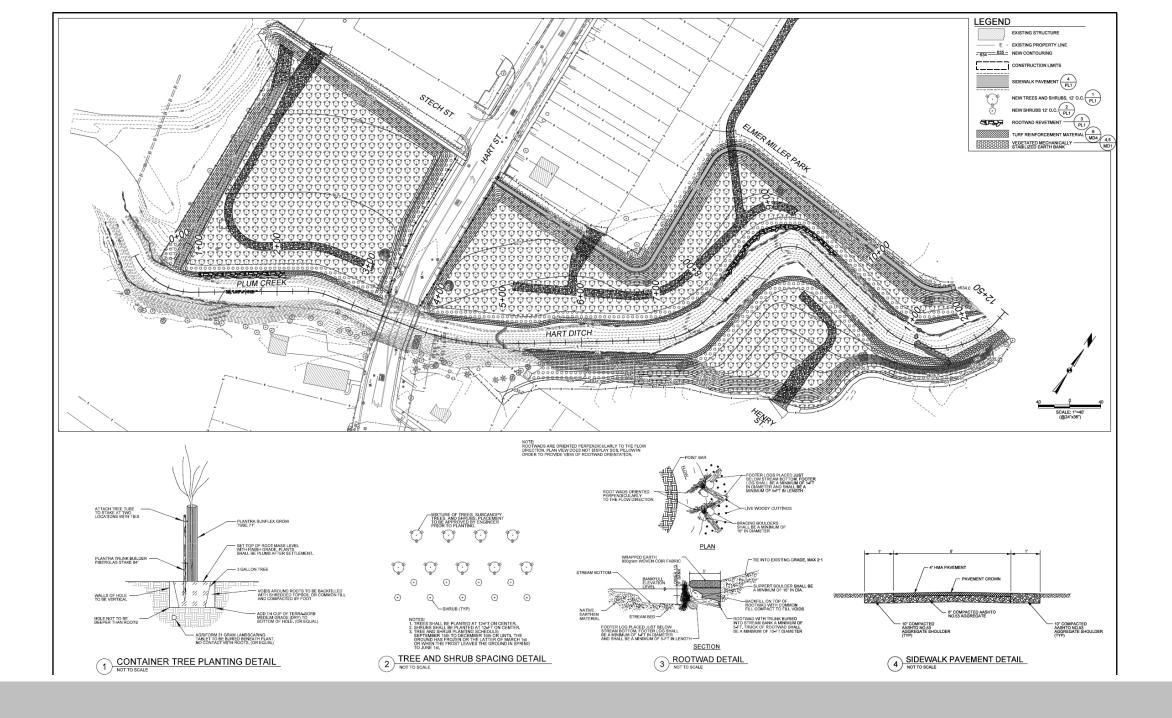






# **Sept. 28, 2022 Photos**

- Backflow preventors on all storm sewers
- Landcaping
  - Trees 775
  - Shrubs 500
  - Live stakes 1,167

















# Live Stake Planting – Dec. 13, 2022







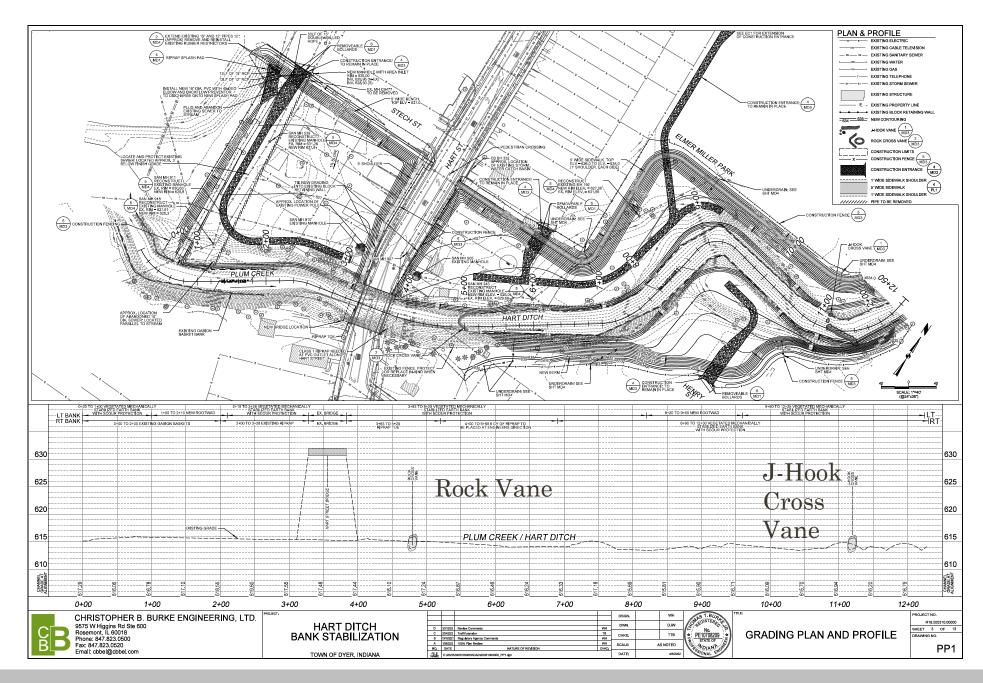


# Aerial video from Feb. 28, 2023

<u>https://play.survae.com/?ll=41.49173550409626,-</u>
<u>87.520862&z=17&mr=1&account=117&page=1&obj=BRbWjTOYpGnO&utc=1677608953842</u>

# **Benefits**

- Walking path
- Access path for maintenance
- Stopped overtopping to the south
- Provided protection for the hospital
- Creates 14.5 acrefeet of online flood storage
- Lowers the WSEL up to 0.9 feet



# Signage

### **Rootwads, J-Hooks, and Rock Vanes**

Water flowing through a community can be its most incredible beauty and a welcome asset.

Community leaders came together and embarked upon a multi-year project employing dozens of solutions and thousands of hours to transform Hart Ditch/Plum Creek into a beautiful natural asset

### A Do-Over

Top-to-bottom, side-to-side, Hart Ditch/Plum Creek needed a complete do-over. The earth along the creek was resculpted to ensure a healthy flow of water. Hundreds of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers were planted along the waterwa

Rootwads, J-hooks, rock vanes, and 2-stage benches are also some of the many solutions used for the urban stream restoration of Hart Ditch/Plum Creek

Version#1b 12-2022 L. Wallis, Freelance Illustrations

### What are they? Here are a few ways Hart Ditch/Plum Creek was transformed.







J-hook another type of a ock cross vane. J-hooks create riffles downstream from the deeper scouring pool. Riffles provid important habitat for small water dwelling insects necessary for a healthy stream.



er Manage ment Board Lake County Surveyor's Office Franciscan Hospital Dyer Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission Lake Michigan Coastal Program Lake County Highway Departmen

### **Healthy Neighborhoods Need Healthy Environments**

The art will be

in color

### We all live in neighborhoods

Our neighborhoods include...food, shelter, water, and safe places for us to grow.

Birds, mammals, fishes, aquatic creatures, oths all

#### A local long-term n solution was needed lace for

hy and

For most of its history, Hart Ditch/Plum Creek could have been a better asset in the Town of Dyer. Upstream issues caused problems the fown of Dver had no control over access

e a dange Sediment washed downstream, thickly coating he creek bed prohibiting a healthy environment I washed The waterway constantly overflowed its banks ssues causing repeated flooding of nearby homes and ays, impacting the hospital grounds and ) was a buildings. There was no public access to the as the banks were nearly verticated

> solution to pact on the animals iding a it priority. te Hart t for the







built into the project The aquatic insects were given new homes with the riffles built into the creek, as well as fishes, and native crustaceans. The needs of migrating birds were considered in the planning. Many

The needs of small creatures were

native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers were planted for birds and small mammals to rebuild healthy neighborhoods for their families. Butterfly gardens were designed and planted to care for the needs of pollinators such as butterflies, bees, and moths.

> The needs of people in the neighborhood were also considered Walking paths and open spaces were built. Broad shallow flat areas were sculpted to hold floodwater long enough for them to calm down and slowly soak back into the earth - preventing flooding and recharging the super important aquifers below. Trees and shrubs were planted to create soft, healthy green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

#### Project Partners:

Town of Dyer Stormwater Management Board Lake County Surveyor's Office Franciscan Hospital Dver Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission Lake Michigan Coastal Program Lake County Highway Department





# **Questions?**

