Stream Stabilization Plan

Stone Toe Protection is constructed from cobblesized rock on the creek edges. It extends to approximately the bankfull level, which will protect the channel banks for flow events that occur every 1 to 2 years or less. The material will extend into the ground to resist scour. Coarse gravel is used to separate the larger rock material from underlying soil. Stone toe protection is typically used in conjunction with revegetation of the upper banks.

Stone toe protection has been used extensively in Nine Mile Creek’s Lower Valley, in conjunction with deflector dikes, grade control measures and stabilization of large bank failures. Following the 1987 “super storm,” the proposed design allowed the stream to continue its course while taking measures to protect areas where water flow was eroding valley walls. The resulting measures have stabilized the stream channel and valley walls while blending seamlessly with the natural environment.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fluvial bank erosion is caused by water in the stream moving past the streambanks. The shear stress caused by the flow entrains soil particles into the flow, causing the stream bank to erode away. This is the most common type of erosion that occurs in streams. Virtually all streams experience this type of erosion as their flow path evolves over time. However, the rate of fluvial bank erosion can increase when the stream is out of equilibrium with its watershed. Increased flow from a watershed will increase the rate of fluvial bank erosion. In many cases, it appears to be a part of the natural process of stream evolution. In places where the channel is confined by the valley walls, however, fluvial bank erosion can lead to failure of the high banks. It can also undermine storm sewer inlets.

MATERIALS

Materials will consist of cobblesized material with coarse gravel filter layer to provide separation from the underlying soil. Natural fieldstone material will be used.
Stream Stabilization Plan

Grade control measures are used where channel downcutting has occurred. Various types of weirs are commonly used to provide grade control on streams, particularly in steeper systems. Weirs can be constructed of sheetpile, concrete, or natural materials such as rock. In most cases, natural rock is used to emulate natural riffles. Large boulders would comprise the core of the structure, with smaller rock material placed on the upstream and downstream sides of the boulders to provide a gradual transition to the channel.

The riffles will serve to raise the surface of the water profile, and will reconnect the stream to its floodplain areas. Following the installation of the riffles, pools will be created upstream of the riffles. However, these pools will fill with sediment over time, which will in effect raise the channel bottom to the desired elevation.

MATERIALS
Materials will consist of various gradations of rock, ranging from large, 3-foot boulders to coarse gravel.

Channel incision occurs when there is an imbalance between the sediment supply and the sediment carrying capacity of the stream. Erosion will occur when the sediment carrying capacity of a stream exceeds the sediment supply. In streams with cohesive banks and steep channel slope, the erosion will first occur primarily on the channel bottom because that is where the erosive forces are the strongest. As the channel deepens, the stream will gradually become wider as the banks eventually fail. The stream will gradually return to equilibrium; however, the process can take many years and significant amounts of erosion will occur during the process.

Erosion forces

Following the 1987 “super storm,” a rapids was constructed on Nine Mile Creek downstream of the 196th Street Bridge. The rapids was one of several grade-control structures that were installed on a three-mile stretch of creek in the lower valley. The proposal allowed the stream to continue its course while taking measures to protect areas where water flow was eroding valley walls. Protection measures included applying porous deflector dikes, burying sheetpile walls parallel to the creek to prevent undercutting of slopes, installing weirs (rock or capped sheetpiles) to limit stream-bed degradation, and improving storm-sewer outlets.

SECTION/PLAN RENDERING

12" water depth or less

Larger boulders at riffle crest

Flow

6"-8" diameter riprap

18" layer filter aggregate

60'

30'

Tie wall into bank

Tie wallн into bank

BARR

Constructed Riffle

Grade Control
Stream Stabilization Plan

Rock vanes are constructed from boulders on the creek bottom. They function by diverting channel flow toward the center and away from the bank. They are typically oriented in the upstream direction and occupy no more than one third of the channel width. Vanes are largely submerged and inconspicuous. The rocks are chosen such that they will be large enough to resist movement during flood flows or by vandalism, with additional smaller rock material to add stability. Rock vanes function in much the same way as root wads in that they push the stream thalweg (zone of highest velocity) away from the outside bend. They also promote sedimentation behind the vane, which adds to the toe protection.

Vanes can also be constructed from both banks, forming an upstream-pointing “V.” In this configuration, the vane protects both banks and also provides grade control.

**MATERIALS**

Materials will consist of various gradations of rock, ranging from large, 3-foot boulders to coarse gravel.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Fluvial bank erosion is caused by water in the stream moving past the streambanks. The shear stress caused by the flow entrains soil particles into the flow, causing the stream bank to erode away. This is the most common type of erosion that occurs in streams. Virtually all streams experience this type of erosion as their flow path evolves over time. However, the rate of fluvial bank erosion can increase when the stream is out of equilibrium with its watershed. Increased flow from a watershed will increase the rate of fluvial bank erosion. In places where the channel is confined by the valley walls, however, fluvial bank erosion can lead to failure of the high banks. It can also undermine storm sewer inlets.

**PLAN/SECTION RENDERING**

Here is an example of a stabilization project designed for a 1,000-foot long, 20-foot high streambank that was severely eroded. The channel was directed away from the bank toe by installing six rock vanes. The bank was planted with native vegetation and protected with erosion control blanket, while the terrace above the bank was graded to redirect surface runoff to a less vulnerable area. The restored streambank withstood significant flooding during 2001, and has become nicely vegetated (see picture above).

**Rock Vanes**

Bank Protection
Stream Stabilization Plan

Soil Pillows are utilized in a bioengineering method known as Vegetated Reinforced Slope Stabilization (VRSS). The method combines rock, geosynthetics, soil and plants to stabilize steep, eroding slopes in a structurally sound manner. VRSS typically involves protecting layers of soils with a blanket or geotextile material (e.g., erosion control blanket) and vegetating the slope by either planting selected species (often willow or dogwood species) between the soil layers or by sending the soil with desired species before it is covered by the protective material. In either case, with adequate light and moisture, the vegetation grows quickly and provides significant root structure to strengthen the bank. This method tends to be labor intensive and, therefore, relatively expensive.

**SECTION RENDERING**

Fluvial bank erosion is caused by water in the stream moving past the streambanks. The shear stress caused by the flow entrains soil particles into the flow, causing the stream bank to erode away. This is the most common type of erosion that occurs in streams. Virtually all streams experience this type of erosion as their flow path evolves over time. However, the rate of fluvial bank erosion can increase when the stream is out of equilibrium with its watershed. Increased flow from a watershed will increase the rate of fluvial bank erosion.

In places where the channel is confined by the steep valley walls, however, fluvial bank erosion can lead to failure of the high banks. It can also undermine storm sewer inlets. For sites where groundwater seepage is a problem and where it is desirable to maintain steep banks, soil pillows are a feasible solution.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

**SIMILAR PROJECTS**

The Mill Creek Restoration Project utilized soil bioengineering design to stabilize 175 linear feet of severely eroding streambanks within the Caldwell Recreation Park in southeastern Ohio. The work included two 25-foot vegetated reinforced soil slope (VRSS) sections, two 50-foot fill bank sections protected with woven coir and direct woody plantings, and a 12.5-foot tie-in on the upstream and downstream end of streambank work area.

**MATERIALS**

Materials consist of graded rock for the lower layers of the structure and for internal drainage, if necessary. Geotextile fabric is used to wrap the soil. Plants, such as willow or dogwood, or seed mixture is used for planting in and between the soil pillows.

**Soil Pillows**

Bank Protection
Stream Stabilization Plan

Culvert Stabilization is somewhat unique to each situation, depending on the site circumstances. Most sites require additional rock placement with a granular filter layer (rather than filter fabric). Some cases may require re-alignment and/or lowering of the outlet to better align with the stream channel. Typically, outlets should be aligned in the downstream channel direction so that flow doesn’t impinge on the opposite bank. It is usually desirable for the culvert to enter the stream at or just above the normal water level in order to minimize the potential for undercutting.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Erosion is frequently observed at culvert outlets for a variety of reasons, including insufficient erosion protection at the culvert outlet, streambank erosion, and channel downcutting, which leaves the culvert perched above the channel. Filter fabric is often used at culvert outlets to separate riprap protection from underlying soils, however the fabric provides a slippery surface for the riprap, which commonly slides into the channel.

SECTION RENDERING

MATERIALS

Materials consist of rock materials ranging from graded riprap (either fieldstone, or, for steep slopes, angular) and granular filter material (typically coarse gravel). If necessary, additional pipe, manholes and end sections may be necessary.

SIMILAR PROJECTS

There are many culvert stabilization designs used on various streams and rivers. Because they are often small projects, the work is often performed by local municipalities or completed as part of a larger project.