

Allen Creek Stormwater Project at Pioneer

Pioneer

Timeline

Construction Begins	November 23, 2009
Main Construction Complete	June 1, 2010
Lawn Restored (less 1 acre over water treatment system)	August 15, 2010
Final Restoration	Spring, 2011



Proposed Plan

What's Going On Here?

The Ann Arbor Public School District is doing its part to protect the Huron River. In collaboration with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner and the City of Ann Arbor, an underground water treatment system is being built here. The system will intercept rainwater runoff from surrounding neighborhoods and:

- Remove trash, oils, sediment, phosphorus and E. coli
- Recharge ground water
- Discharge cleaner water to Allen Creek and the Huron River

Once complete, added features will include:

- A brick plaza and planting bed on the corner of Stadium and South Main
- 130 trees planted along the historic path of Allen Creek
- Interpretive signs

Although most construction will be done by August 2010, an area the size of a soccer field will be covered with stone for the first winter. It will then be re-seeded in Spring 2011.

Who's Paying?

Construction will cost \$3.1 million. Forty percent of the cost will come from the federal stimulus package. The remainder will be financed via a low interest loan from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The Ann Arbor Public Schools is providing the land for the project, but no monetary contribution.



Where's Allen Creek?

Allen Creek flows roughly along the path of the Ann Arbor railroad. It empties into the Huron River near Argo Dam. John and Ann Allen settled alongside this Creek in 1824. For 100 years, the creek powered mills and supplied the water necessary for tanning, brewing and recreation. Polluted by industry and surrounded by growth, the creek was buried in large pipes starting in the 1920's. Two tributaries merge at this location.

A New Chapter

Though water quality in Allen Creek is improving, much work remains. Rainwater falling on rooftops, lawns, pavement and the landscape delivers unwanted contaminants into Allen Creek and the Huron River. With an eye toward one day restoring Allen Creek, this project and others like it mark an important shift in our relationship with this historic waterway.

Historic Path Of Allen Creek

