



2025 Update on BLT Initiatives

- Dredging
- Wetlands
- Stream Restorations
- Goose Busters
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Aeration Systems
- River Round Up
- Education & Collaboration
- Q&A



Dredging is the Key

- Dredging removes approximately 2ft of sediment and harmful algae nutrients – deeper the better
- Increase utilization of ODNR's \$1.4M dredge
- Accelerate development of DMRA East site
- Identify new DRMA sites to increase capacity
- Test core samples from DMRA sites
- Develop new use cases for DMRA material
- Work with ODNR & BLRC on a long term strategic dredge plan

DMRA Locations and Capacity at Buckeye Lake¹



DMRA Locations and Capacity at Buckeye Lake

#	Name	Total Capacity	% Full	Remaining
1	East End Project ²	68.0 acres	0%	68.0 acres
2	Liebs Island	6.0 acres	70%	1.8 acres
3	Maple Bay ³	10.0 acres	0%	10.0 acres

Source: ODNR

² Under construction at time of data retrieval.

³ Pending agreement.



Wetlands

- Wetlands reduce risk of harmful algae blooms (HABs) by filtering nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment
- Cristland Hills Wetland to be completed by LCSW in 2025
- Slim Creek Wetland
 - Slim Creek drains 700 acres into Buckeye Lake
 - \$1.2M project to restore 11 acres of wetland in 2026
 - Funded by The Nature Conservancy, Amazon, Google
- Honey Creek Park & Wetlands TBD
 - Potential project to restore 20 acres of wetlands
 - Requires purchasing 30 to 50 acres with eagle nest
 - Working with BLRC, The Nature Conservancy and the land owner to develop more detailed plan



Wetland Restoration



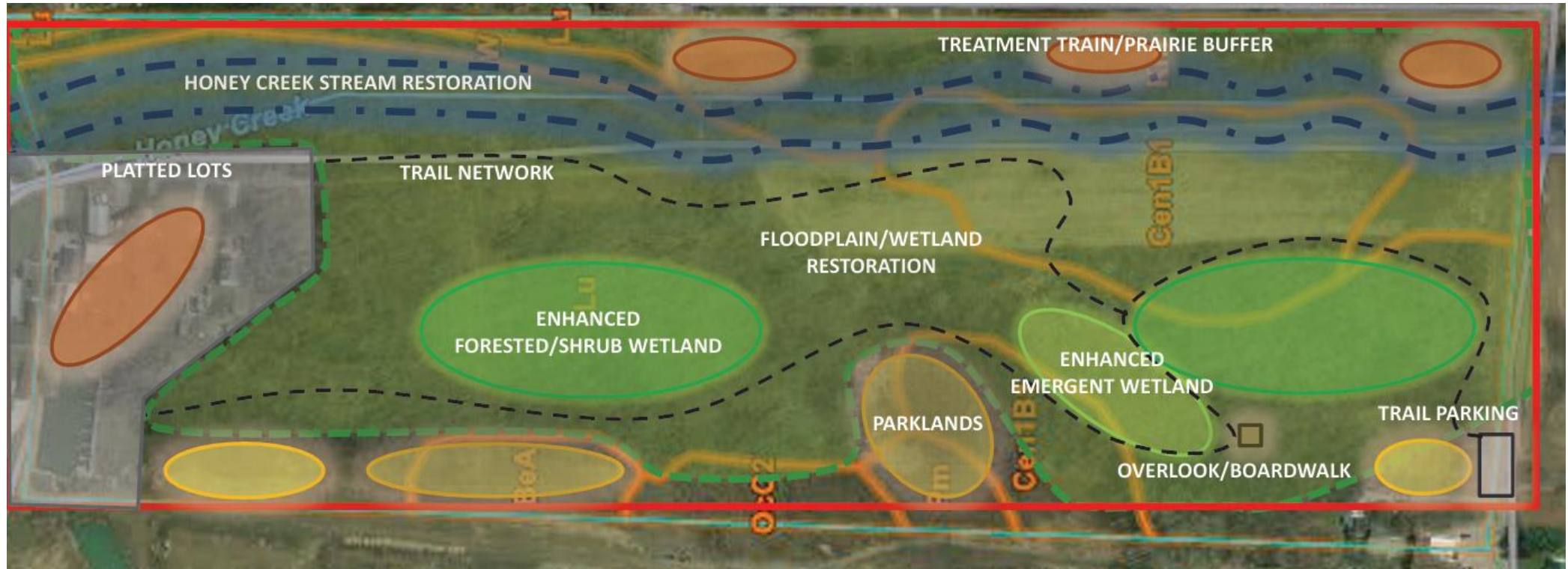
Slim Creek Wetland

- The Ohio Dept of Agriculture estimates this project can potentially remove 6,107 pounds of nitrogen and 315 pounds of phosphorous, preventing it from being delivered into Buckeye Lake each year
- This is one of 20 wetlands projects that Amazon has invested in globally which are estimated to return 7 billion liters of water to the environment annually
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) anticipates this will be the first of many in Central Ohio that will be jointly funded by a grant awarded to TNC by Amazon Web Services, Google and Ryan Companies
- BLT to meet with TNC in March on potential funding for Honey Creek Park & Wetlands





Honey Creek Park & Wetland TBD



Potential site is on 50 acres of undeveloped land that includes an eagle nest - is bounded by Honey Creek Road and Thorn Twp Rd 403



Honey Creek Park & Wetland TBD



Land Use Advisory Plan by Applied Ecological Services with 30 acres of green space & 20 acres of residential & commercial development was not approved by Thorn Twp



Honey Creek Park & Wetland TBD



Pollinator Station



Hands-on Learning



Discovery Play



Bird Watching



Nature Photography



Fishing



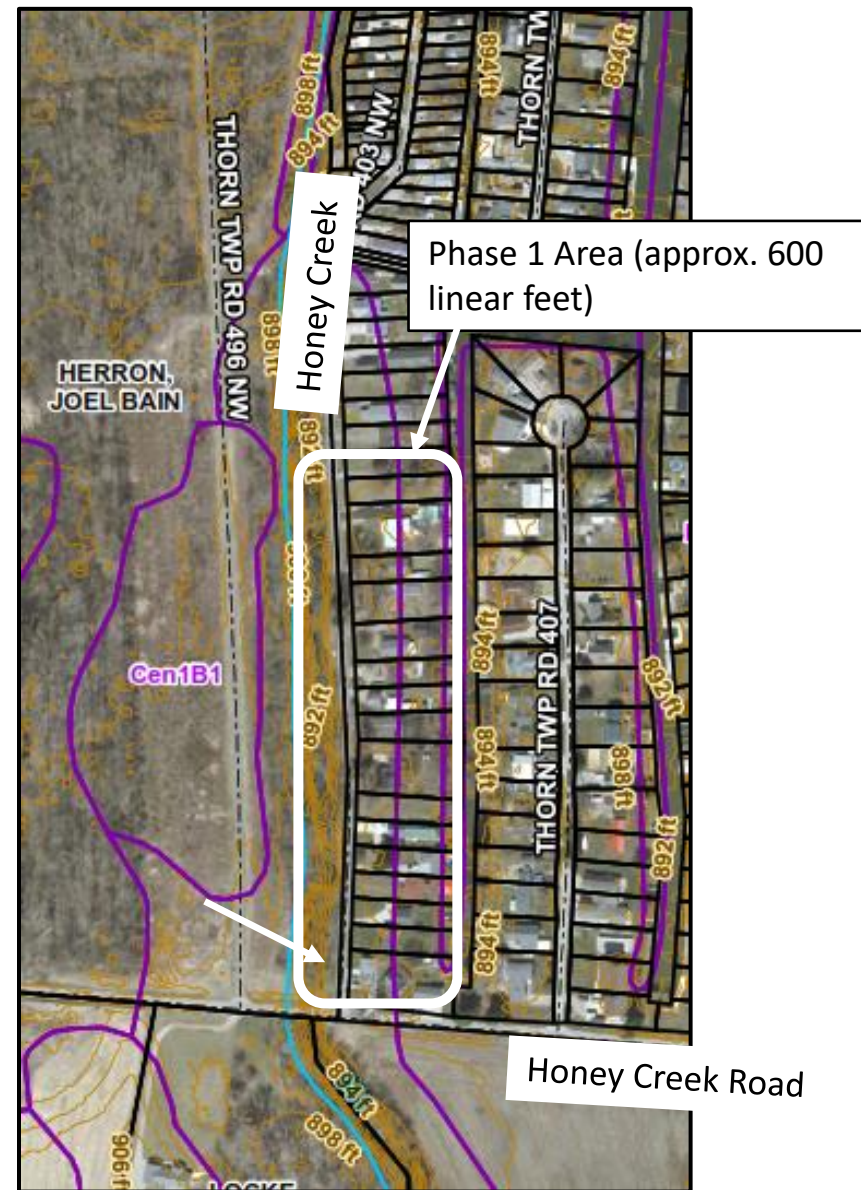
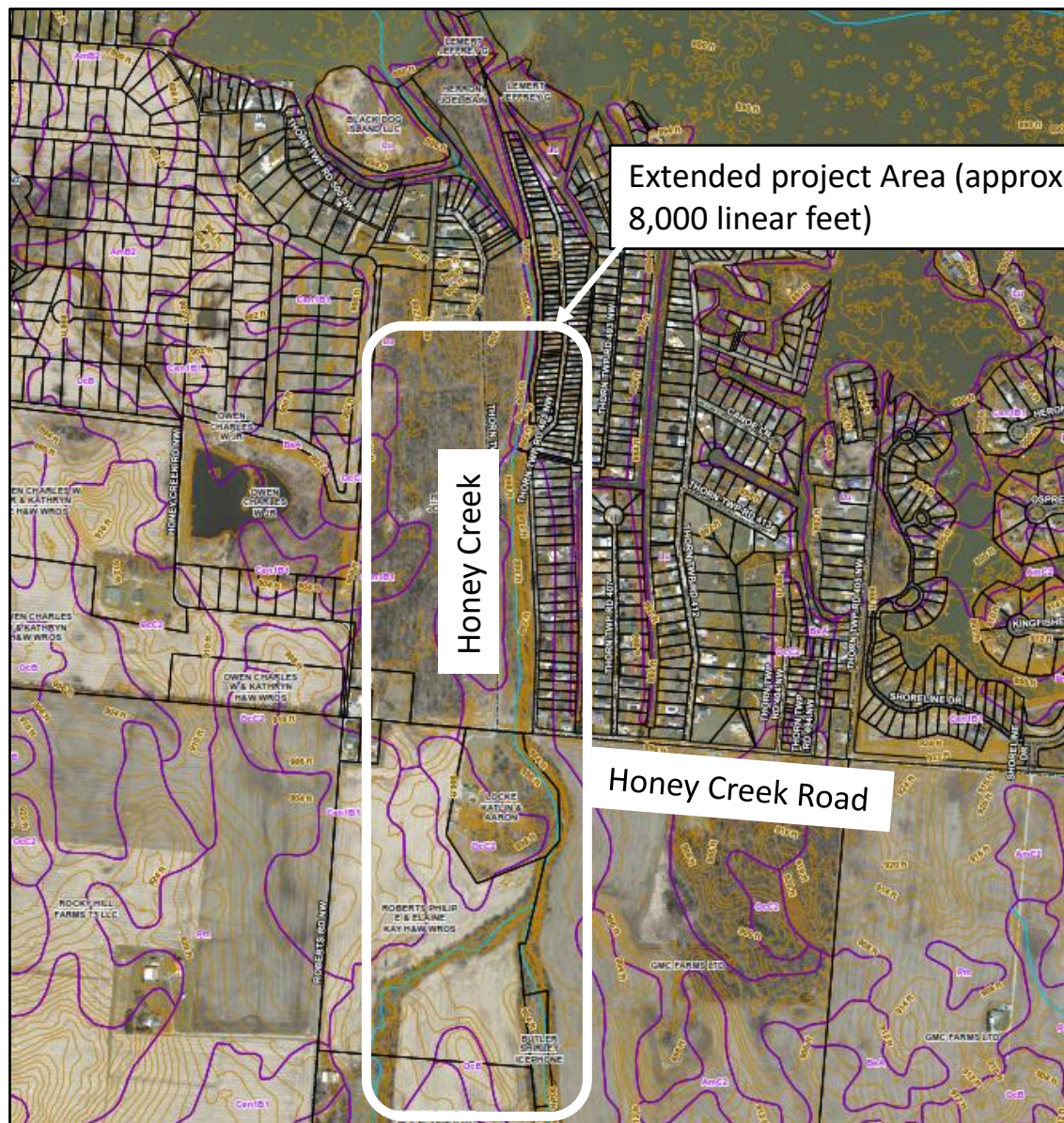
Honey Creek Stream Restoration

- BLT applied for \$400K OEPA Grant for Phase I
- Phase I to restore 600 feet
- Honey Creek has highest sediment & nutrient loads into Buckeye Lake over last decade
- Watkins Island grant helped fund environmental engineering design and prelim cost estimate
- Park National Bank, ODNR & SLWCD provided financial and in-kind cost share
- Anticipate award decision this summer
- If Phase I funding is awarded by OEPA, will seek addtl funding to expand the project to 1,200 feet





Honey Creek Stream Restoration - Project Area Map





Goose Busters

- March and April is the nesting season
- Use green lasers to harass geese
- As approved by the ODNR, BLT will addle eggs in April to reduce the gosling population
- In cooperation with the ODNR, BLT will help round-up and relocate geese during the June/July molting season
- Significant reduction in goose feces has resulted in fewer HAB's and E.coli levels below EPA thresholds



Water Quality Monitoring

- LCSW & FCSW will continue to monitor five streams that feed the lake using professional lab testing service
- Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) awarded BLT a \$33K grant for a BLT work pontoon to enable expanded in-lake testing and debris removal
- MWCD grant also provides funds for new testing supplies for the Lake Keepers using simple self-testing for HAB nutrients
- Lake Keepers will test inlets and dead-end canals
- Additional Lake Keeper volunteers needed



Aeration/Bubblers

- ODNR new regulations for operating aerators in the winter are on hold
- Maintenance underway for existing systems including replacing vandalized bubbling hose at Crystal Beach
- BLT work pontoon will also be used to monitor water quality at existing and new potential aerator sites



Education & Other 2025 Initiatives

- February – Apply for \$400K OEPA Honey Creek Stream Restoration Grant
- March – Support BLRC & ODNR Feeder Creek Restoration & Dredge Plan
- April – Goose Buster & Lake Keepers Activities
- May – Award Merv Bartholow Scholarships to Local High School Seniors
- June - CarpFest Tournament
- July - Zero K at Buckeye Lake Brewery
- August - Revisit funding for Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator
- September - River Round-Up on No Name Creek

Throughout 2025, collaborate with BLRC and ODNR to develop an environmentally sustainable water quality plan for the \$10.8M North Shore Park and Pier Project



Pete Thomas
buckeyelakefor tomorrow@gmail.com
614 260 4300