

Lake County Engineer
Press Release
January 5, 2015

Lake County was awarded a Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation grant from the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to assist with the removal of the L'Alouette Plume Lake dam, construction of a new culvert under Morley Road, and restoration of the drained lake to restore natural stream function. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is providing the required matching funds for the grant to assist with the dam removal and culvert replacement construction. Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. assisted the County with the grant application and will continue to provide technical and grant management assistance throughout the project.

Lake County Engineers along with ODOT are currently developing design plans to remove the dam and construct a new culvert under Morley Road by jack and bore. Stream restoration activities will be bid out separately from the dam removal and culvert construction as a design-build project. Concurrent construction of both portions of the project is scheduled to begin July 15, 2015 and end October 30, 2015.

The need for the project came about in Fall 2013 when Lake County Engineers discovered an active sinkhole and a collapse in the spillway culvert that was endangering the dam and County-maintained Morley Road. At that time the dam was placed in a monitoring status by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Ohio Dam Safety Program (ODSP) and action was required to either bring the dam into ODSP compliance or remove it. After communication with various stakeholders, Lake County Engineers determined that the most viable option was to drain L'Alouette Plume Lake, remove the dam and construct a new culvert, and restore natural stream flow in the dewatered lake.