

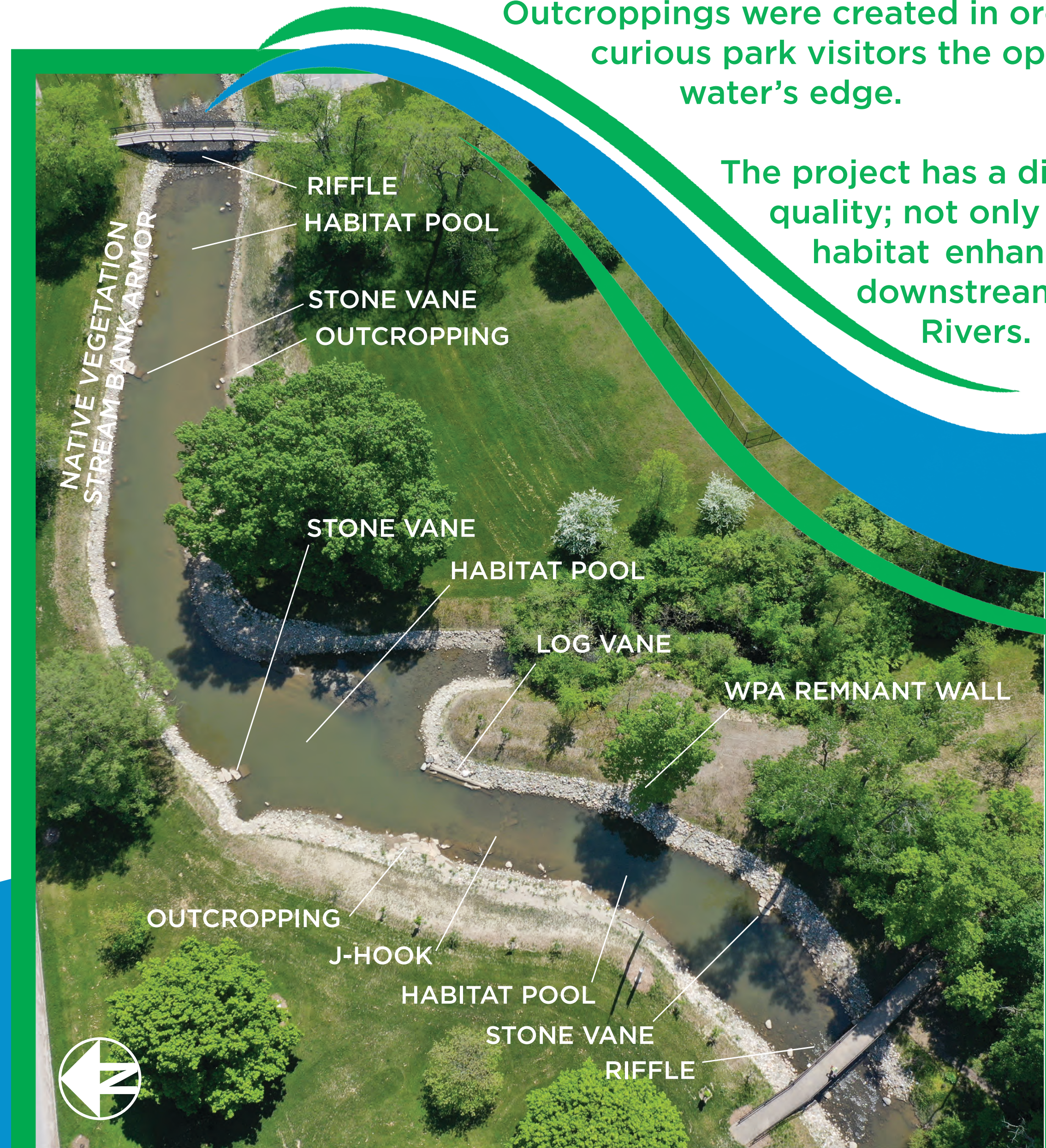
SPY RUN CREEK STREAM BANK RESTORATION PROJECT

In 2019, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation completed the Spy Run Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project in an effort to improve stream bank stability, decrease erosion, increase flood storage capacity, and provide improved recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat in Franke Park. In partnership with the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this stretch of stream bank was restored through the use of a number of design and construction methods.

Steep, eroding banks were reshaped and protected with stone, while stone and wood structures were carefully built in the stream to redirect the flow of water, protect the banks from erosion and allow for greater water storage. Natural stone riffles, deep pools, and native boulders were thoughtfully positioned throughout the stream to provide habitat for aquatic species, while native vegetation was planted on the upper banks for bird and insect species.

Outcroppings were created in order to provide fishermen or curious park visitors the opportunity to easily reach the water's edge.

The project has a direct positive impact on water quality; not only is pollution decreased and habitat enhanced for Spy Run Creek, but also downstream in the St. Marys and Maumee Rivers.



Credit: National Archives and Records Administration



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION: SPY RUN CREEK

Created by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was established in order to provide work for the many Americans affected by the Great Depression. More than 8.5 million Americans were employed through the WPA; both skilled and unskilled workers were put to work on a variety of

public works projects, including parks, roads, bridges and schools. The WPA made possible the completion of approximately 1.4 million projects, providing more than \$11 million in employment relief prior to its cancellation in 1943.

As stated in the Fort Wayne Park and Boulevard Historic District Nomination, the Spy Run Creek system within Franke Park is comprised of a natural creek, a system of trails and pedestrian bridges, and built retaining walls. These retaining walls were constructed during the WPA-era in order to help stabilize the stream banks. However, over the decades the walls began to degrade, and the intent of the walls was lost.

Through the construction of the Spy Run Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project, sections of the retaining walls were removed. A remnant section of the original walls, pictured here, was left in place as a reminder of the historical significance of the Spy Run Creek in the WPA-era. Similar examples can be found throughout the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation system, including along Spy Run Creek in Vesey Park and the St. Marys River in Foster Park.

