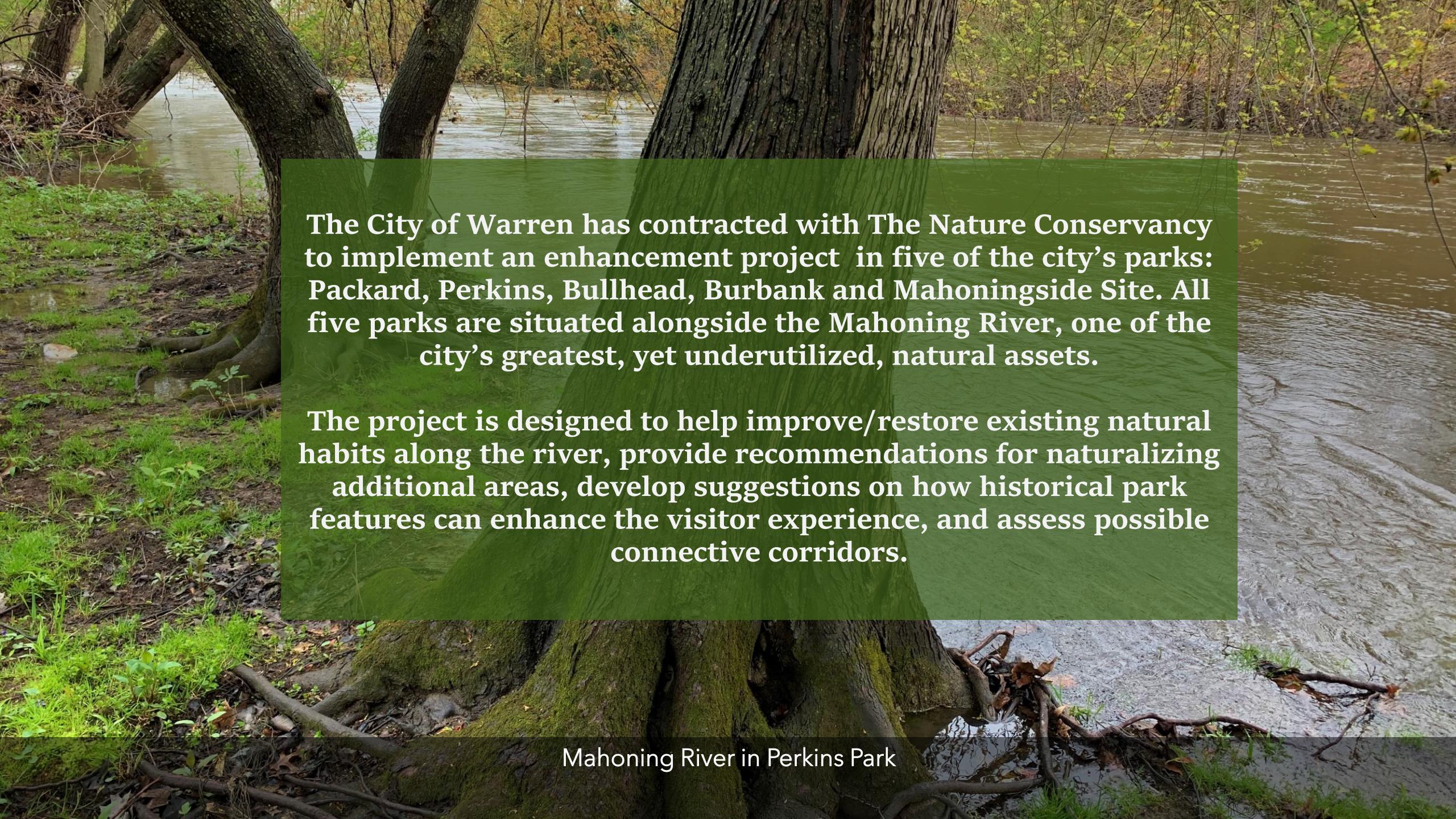




City of Warren

Park Enhancement
PROJECT



The City of Warren has contracted with The Nature Conservancy to implement an enhancement project in five of the city's parks: Packard, Perkins, Bullhead, Burbank and Mahoningside Site. All five parks are situated alongside the Mahoning River, one of the city's greatest, yet underutilized, natural assets.

The project is designed to help improve/restore existing natural habits along the river, provide recommendations for naturalizing additional areas, develop suggestions on how historical park features can enhance the visitor experience, and assess possible connective corridors.

Mahoning River in Perkins Park

The four project objectives are:

First: Identify native plant species restoration areas, non-native invasive species populations and implement the control and removal of the most aggressive and problematic non-native invasive shrubs.

Control and removal of non-native shrubs will be implemented by cutting and removing the shrubs and carefully applying herbicide to the cut stump. This work will take place between July-October of 2020. Foliar treatment of select species will be necessary, and follow up foliar application of re-spouts will be applied in the spring/summer of 2021.



Left to right: Native plants like Yellow trout lily, Solomon's Plume and Ohio buckeye are being overgrown and displaced by aggressive non-native shrubs such as European Spindle bush (middle). Removal of non-native shrubs will allow native plants to thrive and improve views of the Mahoning River (right).

Second: Identify selected areas that are currently being maintained as turf lawn, or other uses, and assess their potential for naturalization. In some cases, naturalization may be as simple as ending mowing and allowing the area to become a “meadow.” It could also involve planting of native species. Naturalization creates better opportunities for natural walking paths and wildlife observation while also helping to decrease maintenance costs and reduce habitat for nuisance Canada geese.



Naturalization of selected areas can provide new spaces for wildlife and people to enjoy and appreciate the parks.

Third: The Tea House and Pavilion at Packard park have long been recognized as important historical features. Other structures in Packard and Perkins Parks, built during the 1930/40's as a part of the New Deal, are not as well understood by the public. These classic examples of "Parkitecture", a rustic style of architecture, will be assessed and opportunities for increasing public appreciation will be identified.



Clockwise from bottom left: Packard Tea House, Packard Pavilion, Packard "Pond" Shelter, Perkins Restroom, Perkins North Shelter

Fourth: Connecting the parks through easements or additional ownership may provide new opportunities for public enjoyment of the river and the parkland. Ownership patterns will be reviewed to assess the feasibility of the concept.



Perkins Park Cottonwood Tree, above
Mahoning River Corridor, right





Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit conservation organization working to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

For more information about their work in Ohio, and around the world, visit nature.org/ohio