

AOA Launches Cedar Run Watershed Conservation Efforts Adds 80 Acres to Cedar Bog State Nature Preserve

AOA recently launched an initiative to conserve Cedar Run, a relatively small watershed in the Mad River valley which is home to one of the most valued and unique natural areas in Ohio – the 450-acre Cedar Bog State Nature Preserve. There are numerous rare, threatened and/or endangered species in the Cedar Run watershed – virtually all of which are concentrated in Cedar Bog, which contains a rare and unique remnant wetland ecosystem, that has been eradicated from surrounding areas.



Named for the relict population of northern white cedar, Cedar Run receives most of its water from cold water springs fed by a continuous flow of groundwater arising from underground glacially influenced formations. This condition creates a microenvironment which supports a diverse and relatively unique ecosystem that is vulnerable to external forces. The resiliency and sustainability of the habitats in Cedar Bog are highly dependent on the maintenance of the current groundwater level.



The unique habitats and plant associations found here were once widespread but are now confined to a small wetland “island” with no connectivity to other natural systems. As the many wetland habitats that once graced the region have disappeared, flora and fauna that were once relatively common have become rare, while those that were rare have become endangered or extirpated.

AOA is pursuing strategic actions to conserve and protect the rare and unique habitats in the Cedar Run watershed, and the conditions that allow them to exist. As part of a long term, landscape scale conservation approach AOA seeks to: protect and restore riparian areas of Cedar Run and adjacent properties that are suitable to be returned to wetland and other comparable and compatible habitats, expanding the areas that can support the unique habitats and rare species living in the watershed; help protect and enhance surface and groundwater resources; and provide suitable natural buffers for the unique plant communities.



AOA recently acquired the 31-acre Koerner farm adjacent to the northern upstream boundary of Cedar Bog, which conserves 1,530 linear feet of the west branch of Cedar Run, a very high-quality Class III Type B spring-fed Coldwater habitat headwater stream which is the primary groundwater source for Cedar Bog. We also accepted the donation of a 1-acre residential lot and previously acquired a 48-acre parcel on the south side of Cedar Bog from Jeff Clark, protecting 1,450 linear feet of Cedar Run riparian corridor and high-quality riparian wetlands.