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Dam to be Removed on Gunpowder Creek

(Northern Kentucky) Ohio River Foundation has received a grant to remove a dam on Gunpowder Creek in Boone County, KY. Its removal and associated river restoration work will improve water quality, fish passage, and public safety on Gunpowder Creek.

The remnant dam is on a portion of Gunpowder Creek that runs through the Boy Scout owned Camp Michaels property in Union, KY. Boone County Conservation District worked with Ohio River Foundation to obtain \$65,000 to remove the dam. Part of this funding comes from The U.S. Fish & Wildlife's Fish Passage program.

This project furthers Ohio River Foundation's efforts to reconnect rivers and restore habitat.

Gunpowder Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River, is considered an impaired waterway. The Gunpowder Creek Watershed is 58 square miles and contains 614 miles of waterways. State and federal governments have recognized the importance of this watershed and continue to target significant funds to improving its condition.

Watershed problems include hydromodification, sedimentation, stormwater runoff, and bank erosion. Removal of the barrier will reduce the amount of erosion in the creek by lessening the opportunity for artificial pool creation upstream of the site and associated sloughing and creek bank erosion.

Mark Jacobs, Watershed Program Director for Boone County Conservation District, commented, "Removal of the low-head dam at Camp Michaels follows the mission of the Gunpowder Creek Watershed Initiative by improving the overall health of Gunpowder Creek. Removing this obstacle will help stabilize the stream banks, improve aquatic habitat and fish passage, and help protect the nearby facilities at the Boy Scout camp."

“We have developed a workable model that enables us to help other communities raise the necessary funds to achieve the social, environmental, and economic benefits of river protection and restoration. We applaud the Boone County Conservation District for having the vision and ambition that this project requires,” said Rich Cogen, Executive Director of Ohio River Foundation.

Founded in 2000, Ohio River Foundation is dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality and ecology of the Ohio River and all waters in its 11-state watershed. ORF works towards these goals through environmental education and conservation activities that serve to inspire environmental stewardship for the benefit and enjoyment of all current and future citizens. Its award winning River Explorer education and Youth Conservation Team stewardship programs reach more than 5,000 young people every year helping to develop and train the next generation of environmental stewards.

For more information about how ORF can help your community, or how you can support its efforts, please call ORF at 513-460-3365, or visit www.ohioriverfdn.org.

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