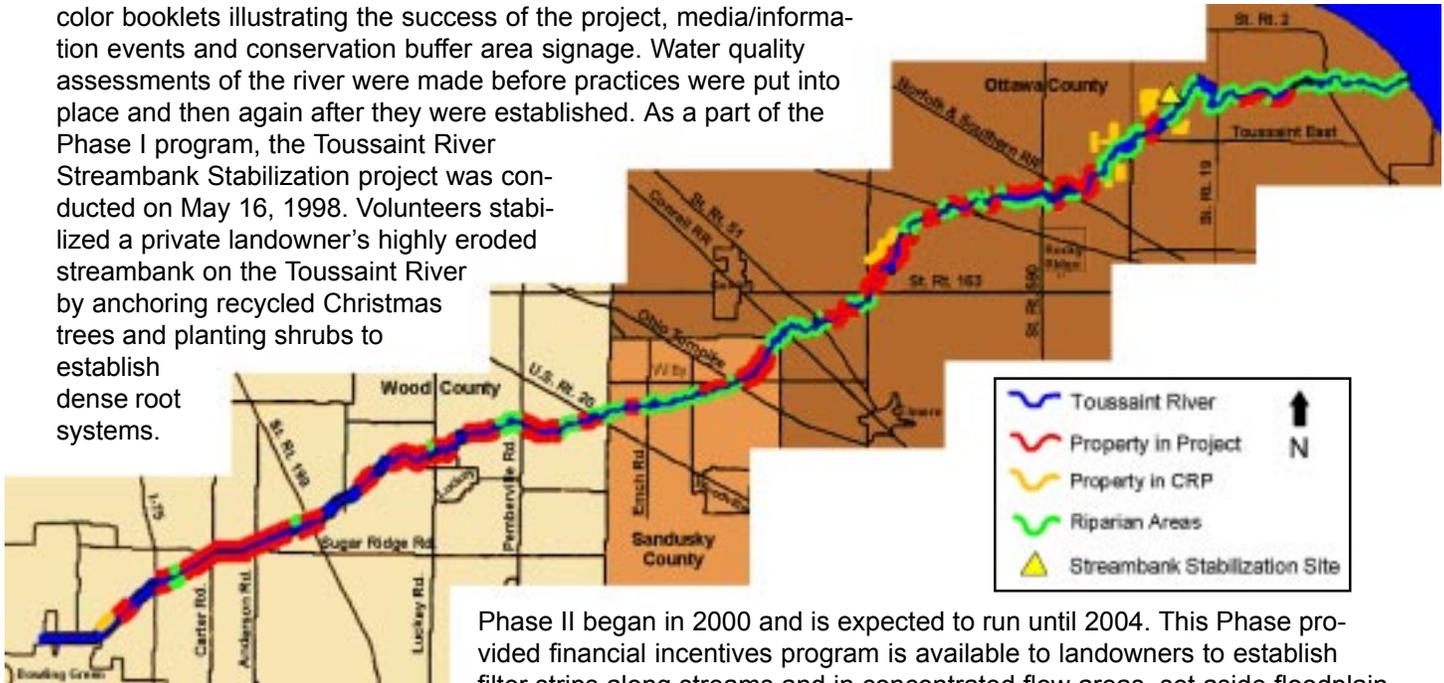


TOUSSAINT RIVER IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Toussaint River Improvement Incentive Program was developed to reduce sediment and nutrient loadings into the Toussaint River and Lake Erie. As a part of Phase I (1997-2000) incentives were available to landowners along the 36-mile mainstem of the Toussaint River. Landowners made a five-year commitment to maintaining these conservation practices. Phase I activities and events included the creation of two full-color booklets illustrating the success of the project, media/information events and conservation buffer area signage. Water quality assessments of the river were made before practices were put into place and then again after they were established. As a part of the Phase I program, the Toussaint River Streambank Stabilization project was conducted on May 16, 1998. Volunteers stabilized a private landowner's highly eroded streambank on the Toussaint River by anchoring recycled Christmas trees and planting shrubs to establish dense root systems.



Phase II began in 2000 and is expected to run until 2004. This Phase provided financial incentives program is available to landowners to establish filter strips along streams and in concentrated flow areas, set aside floodplain lands for all rivers, streams and ditches in the Toussaint River and Packer Creek watersheds. It is also available for acreage already enrolled in the CRP. The project is currently being expanded to include incentives to reduce other types of nonpoint source pollution effecting these watersheds.

Financing for Phase I was through a \$275,000 Ohio EPA 319 Grant with local match of \$208,000 through assistance from the Ohio DNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation and many other partners. Phase II was financed through a \$300,000 Ohio EPA 319 Grant and many other partners. The Wood County Commissioners provided a bonus incentive payment to encourage landowner sign ups.

Phase I Final Statistics				
Number of Contracts	Buffer Strips (linear feet)	Floodplains (acres)	Conservation Tillage (acres)	\$ Amount Committed
Ottawa County				
22	64,541	186.43	576.71	\$122,050.50
Sandusky County				
8	12,075	0	123.00	\$11,057.00
Wood County				
27	65,597	46.82	760.80	\$77,427.00
Tri-County County				
57	27 miles	233.25	1460.51	\$210,534.50

Phase II Interim Statistics				
Number of Contracts	Buffer Strips (linear feet)	Floodplains (acres)	Concentrated Flow (acres)	\$ Amount Committed
Tri-County County				
132	39 miles	8	33.9	\$89,380