



**FINAL REPORT  
COPLEY TOWNSHIP  
COPLEY DITCH (DITCH NO. 38) IMPROVEMENTS  
PETITIONED DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**ISSUED: MARCH 23, 2026  
AMENDED: APRIL 1, 2026 (PAGE 3)  
AMENDED: APRIL 23, 2026 (PAGE 3 & ATT. D)**

**PREPARED BY:  
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SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER**

## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 6131, The Copley Township Board of Trustees filed a petition with Summit County for the improvement of Copley Ditch (County Ditch No. 38), as shown on Attachment A. ORC 6131 provides a process through which the County may make improvements to a stormwater ditch or drain and assess the owners of property benefiting from the improvement for the cost of the improvement and the perpetual maintenance thereof in accordance with the benefits conferred thereby.

Following a Public Viewing, Preliminary Report of the Engineer and First Hearing, Council determined to proceed with the project and ordered the Engineer to conduct surveys, prepare construction plans, estimate of cost and a schedule of compensation for land and damages. Upon completion of these documents, the Engineer shall file them with the Clerk of Council.

## BACKGROUND

Copley Ditch begins approximately 0.20 miles west of Jacoby Road, then runs east and south approximately 1.8 miles to Yellow Pond, then southeast approximately 0.5 miles to the Norton Corporation Limit. Copley Ditch continues south, through the City of Norton, approximately 0.7 miles to its terminus Pigeon Creek. Various parts of Copley ditch were constructed between 1882 and 1938. Parts of Copley Ditch were reconstructed or cleaned between 1923 and 1938. Most recently in the mid-1970's, Copley Ditch was cleaned and reconstructed from Wealthy Drive to Pigeon Creek.

## THE PROBLEM

There was no maintenance assessment or other means established to provide funding for maintenance of Copley Ditch. As a result, the channel capacity has become significantly reduced and inefficient due to sedimentation and debris. Steep eroding banks and leveed areas reduce the connectivity to the adjacent flood plain limiting flood plain storage of stormwater runoff. As a result, the road, yards and homes at the south end of Sunnyacres Road frequently flood.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

The Copley Ditch project improvements begin west of Jacoby Road and end at the Norton Corporation limit and will involve the following:

1. Grade control installation to stabilize the stream bed.
2. Two stage ditches with low flow channel.
3. Riffle/pool complex.
4. Levee removal & expansion of flood prone areas and wetlands.
5. Bank Stabilization.
6. Diversion swale near Sunnyacres Rd.

## OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

EnviroScience has submitted a Final Opinion of Probable Construction Cost in the amount of \$1,195,397.50 dated March 12, 2026. This figure is substantially similar to their Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost amount of \$1,150,825 dated

August 8, 2025, which was deemed to provide a positive benefit-cost ration considering the \$11,367,810 value of the protected properties.

The cost of the preliminary study was paid by the Summit County Surface Water Management District, and the cost of survey, final design, administration and inspection services performed by the County Engineer's Office has also been paid by the SWMD, so these costs are not included in the above costs.

The cost of compensation and damages for the easements to be acquired is \$78,950.00. These values were determined by professional right-of-way appraisal firm O.R. Colan Associates, LLC and their subconsultant Sours Buie and Associates, LLC.

The cost to construct the project (including compensation) will be paid by the SWMD and the cost to maintain the in-stream improvements will be paid with revenues collected by the SWMD. ***There will be no assessments for construction or maintenance levied upon properties within the Surface Water Management District (Copley Township).***

The Engineer has obtained the necessary permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio EPA and the Summit County Floodplain Manager. SCE provided notice of this project to the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources per 6131.14(D) and obtained a letter of review and approval.

Attachments to this report filed with the Clerk:

- A. Petition
- B. Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost of Construction
- C. ODNR letter of review and approval
- D. Schedule of Damages and Compensation for Easements and Assessments
- E. Easement Dedication Plat
- F. Construction Plans

Respectfully submitted:

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Summit County Engineer



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