



**FINAL REPORT
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
SPRINGFIELD LAKE OUTLET (DITCH No. 45)
IMPROVEMENTS
PETITIONED DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**ISSUED: MARCH 31, 2026
AMENDED: APRIL 1, 2026 (PAGE 3)
AMENDED: APRIL 22, 2026 (PG 3 & ATT. D)**

**PREPARED BY:
DAVID KOONTZ, PE, SI
ALAN BRUBAKER, PE, PS
SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER**

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 6131, The Springfield Township Board of Trustees filed a petition with Summit County for the improvement of Springfield Lake Outlet (County Ditch No. 45), 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

Springfield Lake Outlet provides a discharge route from Springfield Lake to the Little Cuyahoga River. The portion that is County Ditch No. 45 in Springfield Township runs a distance of approximately 5,400 feet from the outlet structure to the corporation limit of the City of Akron. This channel segment was improved in 1938 and an easement 33 feet wide was established over the waterway.

THE PROBLEM

There was no maintenance assessment or other means established to provide funding for maintenance of the channel. As a result, the channel capacity has become significantly reduced as the channel has become obstructed with fallen trees, sand bars and other debris.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

The proposed Springfield Lake Outlet improvements will involve the following:

1. Remove debris and encroachments along the stream
2. Reconstruct or modify the existing stream at strategic locations to achieve the following goals:
 - a. restore channel capacity
 - b. reduce flooding
 - c. mitigate erosion
 - d. improve water quality.
3. Install access driveways to provide for perpetual maintenance of the waterway.

OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

DLZ has submitted a Final Opinion of Probable Construction Cost in the amount of \$1,115,000 dated March 6, 2026. This figure is substantially similar to their Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost amount of \$900,000 in the Preliminary Engineering Report dated January 13, 2025, which was deemed to provide a positive benefit-cost ration considering the \$5,000,000 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 32 easements to be acquired is \$73,025. These values were determined by professional right-of-way appraisal firm Smith Advisory Group, 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 in the Surface Water Management District (Springfield 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, Compensation for Easements and Assessments
- E. Easement Dedication Plat
- F. Construction Plans

Respectfully submitted:

Alan Brubaker, P.E., P.S.
Summit County Engineer



David L. Koontz, PE, SI
Engineer Project Manager