Bowman Creek is one of the most environmentally impaired tributaries feeding the St. Joseph River. Flooding and pollution issues have led to a negative opinion of the creek, driving the creek into further disrepair. The Troyer Group assisted the City of South Bend in providing a plan for remediating this debilitated watershed. In order to complete this task, an investigation of existing conditions was completed and public input sessions were held to acquire the community’s ideas about the existing positives and negatives of the creek. A Master Plan was then developed to remedy and improve the creek by correcting the flooding issues, provide park and trail facilities that will connect the neighboring community to the creek and create an optimistic view of Bowman Creek.

Improvements to Bowman Creek include:

Creek Improvements
- Daylighting sections of the creek
- Re-establishing native vegetation and habitat
- Introducing a two-stage channel in some areas.
- Deepened pools, drops, and riffles to improve water quality
- Improving drainage by re-sizing certain drainage structures
- Increasing public awareness of the importance of the creek to encourage future protection and maintenance.
- Restoring aquatic life

New Gateway Park
- Located at the northeast corner of Michigan and Ewing
- Will replace many blighted or vacant properties
- Serve as an entry feature to the City
- Include amenities such as a splash pad, bandshell, playground, trails, pavilion, basketball courts, views and interaction with Bowman Creek, etc.

Other Improvements
- Multi-use trail that will run parallel to the creek and connect to adjacent neighborhoods
- Pocket parks and trail nodes along the creek to provide recreational opportunity
- Re-routing the creek in certain areas to improve drainage or land use function
- Educational signage
- Bridge restoration work
- Riley High School campus improvements

We are looking for energetic Notre Dame students who are interested to be involved in this project. These students are responsible for collecting data in the field and analyzing samples for Oxygen, E coli, and Nitrate as well as mentoring Riley High School students.

In addition to hands-on student involvement, we are looking to implement and continually update a project website. Student will need to be familiar with and competent in website and graphic design concepts necessary to implement and update a website. Preferably, they should be available to work on it this summer or mentor a high school student to accomplish the task.

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