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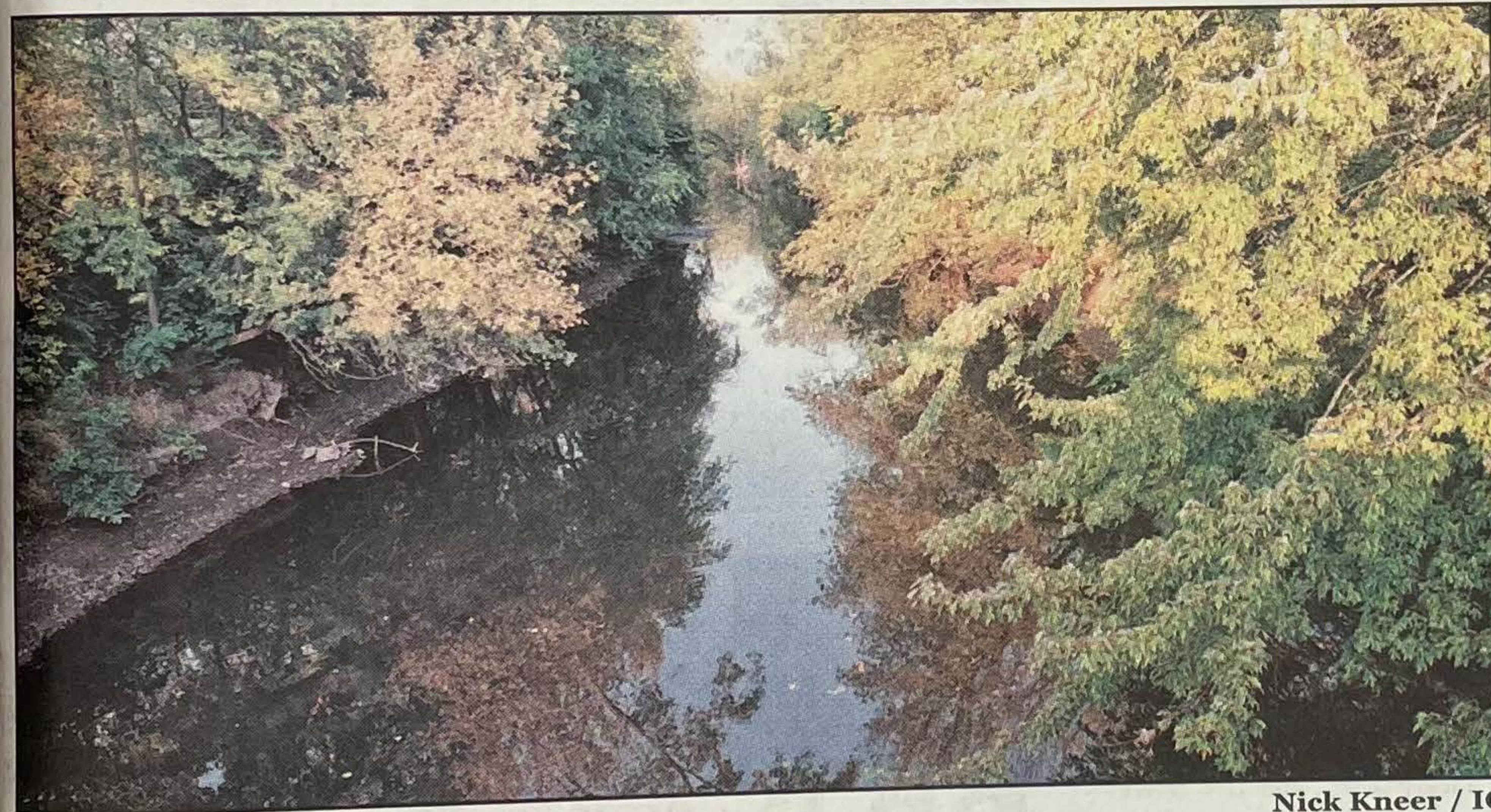
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Ottawa River grant to help sustain wildlife



Nick Kneer / IC

By Casey Cheap
IC News Editor

The 3,700-foot stretch of the Ottawa River that runs through Main Campus will have a different look by August of 2012.

A \$235,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will be used to clean up a large section of the river.

This grant will allow UT to clear out some of the dead trees along the river, making a more beneficial environment for the wildlife.

UT will also make in-stream

habitats using natural stone and tree trunk-like material to create shelters for fish swimming in the river and adjust rock placement to alter the flow of the river.

Patrick Lawrence, chair of the Department of Geography and Planning, said one of the goals of construction along the river is to make the water ripple more, creating a better aquatic habitat.

"Right now there is not a lot of diversity in the river's habitats," he said. "We want to recreate some of the river's natural habitats and diversify

species."

Phase one of the grant was originally to just address a section of the river near Savage Arena.

"We got a grant from the Stranahan Foundation, had planning from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and had additional funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife [Service]," Lawrence.

The annual grant from the Ohio EPA will be used to expand upon a previous grant from the Stranahan Foundation awarded two years ago.

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The \$235,000 grant will help UT make the river a more suitable aquatic habitat for fish.