

6 Life at the Water's Edge

Enhance the Stream in Your Backyard & Beyond!

six in a series of six fact sheets on stream management

Clean Your Stream!
Trash is unsightly...unsanitary...
and unsafe for you,
your family, and wildlife!



CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

- ☛ Regularly remove old tires and other garbage from the water and stream banks.
- ☛ Educate all family members to refrain from littering.
- ☛ Participate in community clean-up days

Every bit helps! Remember to always wear proper footgear and gloves to prevent injuries!

Protect Your Storm Drains!

Storm drains and ditches in the watershed flow directly to streams and creeks. Never deposit waste or trash into storm drains. They can become clogged and flood nearby basements, including your own! Also, sweep up and reuse fertilizers left on sidewalks and driveways. Always recycle used motor oil and anti-freeze. Contact your County Solid Waste District for information on recycling locations in your community.

Maintain Septic Systems!

Any part of your "plumbing system" can become damaged or simply wear out over time. And any plumbing that's not working properly can be a source of pollution.

Simple Solutions:

- ☛ Have your septic system pumped regularly.
- ☛ Reduce or eliminate the amount of bleach, chemicals, oil and grease that you wash down the drain.
- ☛ Contact your County Board of Health for more information.

If you have just moved into a home, you may not know the size of the tank. In this case, you should contact your County Board of Health for information on your septic system and for information on pumping. The frequency of pumping depends on several factors:

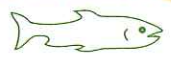
- ☛ capacity of the septic tank
- ☛ volume of wastewater (related to size of household)
- ☛ amount of solids in wastewater (e.g. garbage disposals produce more solids)
- ☛ number of people in the household

Get Involved!

Stream Monitoring:

Sample the stream for macro-invertebrates. These insects live in the stream all year round and are an important indicator of water quality.

NO DUMPING



DRAINS TO CREEK

Storm Drain Stenciling:



Stenciling your storm drains is a reminder to "Dump No Waste, Drains to Creek." Contact your Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.

Stream Clean-ups:

Join your community for annual clean-up activities in the watershed or adopt-a-spot near your home and keep it clean.

Community Storm Water Management Plans:

As of March 2003 your community might have been required to develop a storm water management program by Ohio EPA. Your community needs your help planning and implementing their storm water management plan, which addresses water quality and water quantity problems in your community. Take the opportunity to voice your opinion and concerns or just find out what it's all about.

Project funded in part by the Great Lakes Basin Program, Great Lakes Commission. Originally written and designed by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District in collaboration with Summit Soil and Water Conservation District and Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan.



Backyard

Habitat

Improvement

Ideas

Help Monitor the Chagrin River

Ohio's landscape is changing rapidly. The health of our rivers and streams is closely linked to their surrounding watersheds. Responsible planning and continued monitoring can reduce the impact of inappropriate development along Ohio's waterways.



ODNR, DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVES

Biological monitoring is a proven way of determining the quality of rivers and streams. Developed in 1983 by the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Ohio's Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) Project uses a variety of biological testing techniques to compile information on the quality of the state's scenic rivers and streams. With the help of volunteers, the Ohio SQM Project maintains data on 20 state scenic river segments. Biological monitoring can be performed year-

round, but most volunteers participate during warmer weather months, usually April through October. Ongoing monitoring is essential to protecting the health of Ohio's scenic rivers. Abnormal changes can

indicate potential pollution problems, which would prompt further investigation.

Being an SQM volunteer is easy, fun and doesn't take a large commitment of time or any prior experience. Volunteers range from individuals and organizations to teachers and their entire classes. For more information, please call ODNR, Natural Areas and Preserves at (330) 265-6453 or look on ODNR website at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/dnap/monitor>.

Acting today to maintain the Chagrin River Watershed

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