

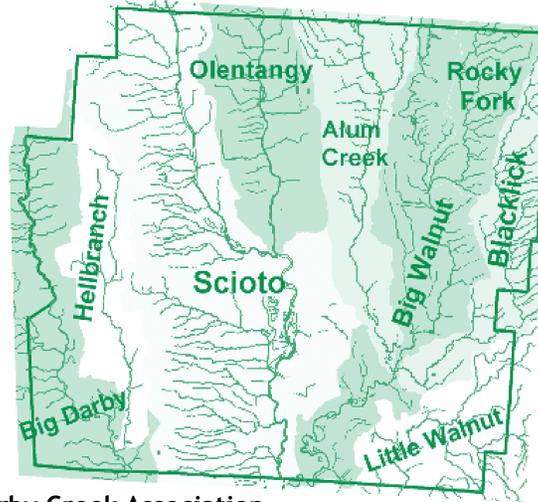
The Central Ohio Greenways Steering Committee produced Green Ways of Life in Central Ohio, a video about water quality. This video is available free of charge to schools, libraries, conservation groups and government agencies in both 20 minute and 5 minute versions. We recommend the longer version for a more complete story about the history and future of our rivers and streams in Central Ohio.

The Central Ohio Greenways Steering Committee thanks the Ohio Environmental Education Fund for providing a grant to support this effort.



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
285 East Main Street
Columbus, OH 43215-5272
www.morpc.org

Watersheds in Franklin County, Ohio



Darby Creek Association
 jftetzloff@aol.com, <http://www.darbycreeks.org>

Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries
 (614) 409-0511, Doherty@friendsofalumcreek.org

Friends of Big Walnut Creek
 Bob Bostard (614) 645-8014, (614) 478-5418,
fobwc@sbcglobal.net

Friends of Blacklick
 (614) 236-6214, kkeljo@capital.edu

Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed
 (614) 267-3386, FLOW@myexcel.com

Friends of the Ravines
mhbuckalew@sbcglobal.net

Friends of the Scioto River
asilbajo@hotmail.com

Olentangy Watershed Alliance
 (740) 369-8270, morrowswed@redbird.net

Rocky Fork Protection Task Force
zamoraw@hotmail.com

Scioto River Valley Federation
joseph.roden@mci.com

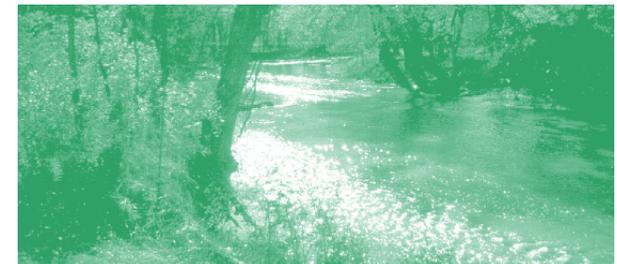
Upper Scioto River Watershed
dswcd@delawareswcd.org

Upper Big Walnut Creek Water Quality Partnership
 (740) 368-1921, ubwc@delawareswcd.org

Walnut Action Group
Byaple@violet.oh.us



**WE
 ALL
 LIVE
 IN
 A
 WATERSHED**



We All Live In A Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water such as a stream, lake or wetland. Everyone in the world lives in a watershed. What we do on the land has a direct effect on the quality of our waterways.

Water quality is a top environmental concern for Americans. Since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, point source pollution from industrial areas and sewage treatment plants has been greatly reduced. Today, increasing water quality problems are from non-point sources of pollution and stormwater discharges.



We all contribute to the problem, and we are all capable of doing something about it. Water that falls on our homes, lawns, farms and gardens picks up contaminants including herbicides, pesticides, fertilizer and petroleum products. Hard, impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, sidewalks and roads cause flash flows of water in our stream channels during periods of rain and lower flows during dry months.

What You Can Do To Help:

In Our Homes:

- ☞ Reduce use of lawn and garden products - follow the directions for use found on packages
- ☞ Recycle oil and other petroleum products
- ☞ NEVER throw anything away into a stormdrain because they empty directly into your local stream or river - without any treatment!
- ☞ If you have a septic tank, maintain it
- ☞ Keep stormwater on your property through use of rain gardens and rain barrels
- ☞ When you walk your pets, properly dispose of pet waste in a trash can or toilet
- ☞ Plant native vegetation to provide habitat for wildlife

On the Farm:

- ☞ Properly use and manage herbicides, fertilizers and manure from livestock
- ☞ Work with your local Soil & Water Conservation District Office to enroll in conservation programs such as EQIP and CREP through the Department of Agriculture

In Our Communities:

- Support Land Use Planning
- ☞ Let your local, state and federal officials know you care about water quality
- ☞ Support community planning efforts that preserve ecological areas such as wetlands, streamside forests and steep slopes
- ☞ Support efforts to reduce impervious/hard surfaces
- ☞ Support the use of stormwater reduction practices to prevent flooding and water quality impacts

Support Local Watershed Protection Organizations

All of the major watersheds in central Ohio have citizen groups working to improve water quality in our rivers and streams. Watershed protection groups monitor water quality, advocate responsible practices, educate the public, organize cleanups and develop action plans.

- ☞ Contact MORPC at 614-233-4124 to find out what watershed you live or work in and get your watershed group's contact information (or visit the Greenways' website link at www.morpc.org)
- ☞ If you live in an area outside of central Ohio, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District about watershed groups in your area, or go to <http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/wgp.php>
- ☞ Donate time, money, equipment, office space or advice - any little bit will help

Report Water Pollution

- ☞ Report chemical spills or runoff events (e.g. mud washing from a construction site) to the Ohio EPA at 1-800-282-9378
- ☞ Report dumping or littering to the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio 614-871-5322 or your local waste authority

The Benefits Are Endless

The benefits of getting involved include clean and healthy places to boat, fish and observe wildlife, as well as increased property values. Watershed protection also means fewer tax dollars will be spent on drinking water treatment, erosion control, flood mediation and flood damage.