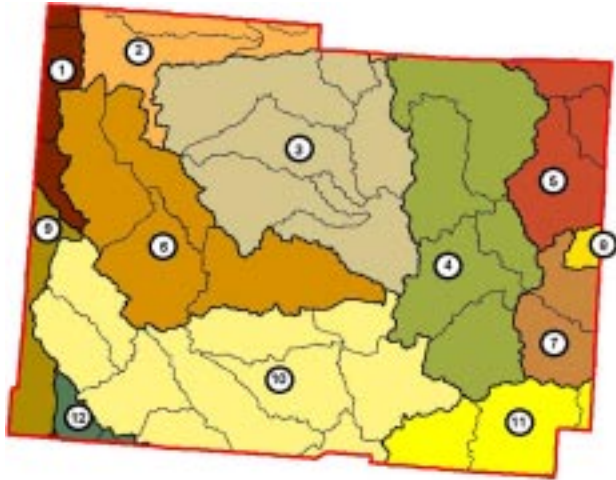


## LICKING COUNTY WATERSHEDS...



### WHAT'S YOUR WATERSHED?

Find the watershed where you live on the map. The darker lines delineate Licking County's larger watersheds. The lighter lines identify smaller watersheds within each grouping.

- (1) Big Walnut Creek -- headwaters to Hoover Dam
- (2) North Fork of Licking River -- headwaters below Sycamore Creek
- (3) North Fork of Licking River -- below Sycamore Creek to Licking River
- (4) Licking River -- below confluence of North and South Forks to below Rocky Fork
- (5) Wakatomika Creek -- headwaters to Brushy Fork
- (6) Raccoon Creek
- (7) Licking River below Rocky Fork to Muskingum River
- (8) Wakatomika Creek -- below Brushy Fork to Muskingum River
- (9) Big Walnut Creek -- below Hoover Dam to Alum Creek
- (10) South Fork of Licking River
- (11) Jonathan Creek
- (12) Walnut Creek -- headwaters to Sycamore Creek

## LICKING COUNTY NPDES PHASE II COMMUNITIES

IN COOPERATION WITH THE LICKING COUNTY SOIL &  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Licking County

Village of Buckeye Lake  
Village of Granville      Licking Township  
Village of Hebron      Madison Township  
Etna Township      Newark Township  
Granville Township      Newton Township  
                                 Union Township

Call Licking County SWCD at 670-5330  
for more information.

# I LIVE IN A WATERSHED?



A Citizen's Guide to Clean Water

## A WATERSHED IS....

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a stream, river or lake. During rainfall events, some rainwater soaks into the ground. The rest of this rainwater runs along the surface of the ground until it collects in a low area (usually a river, stream or lake.) The water that runs along the surface of the ground is called runoff. As the runoff travels over the ground's surface, it collects sediment, chemicals, litter and other pollutants and carries them to our waterways.



Each watershed is unique. Every watershed has its own mix of natural and human-made features. Watersheds are powered by gravity. Hills and ridges form boundaries from which water drains into or away from watersheds. Water drains from higher slopes and collects in the lowest points – rivers, streams and lakes.

Watersheds can be large or small. They can encompass a few acres around a small country stream or all of the states surrounding a large river. Smaller watersheds are part of larger watersheds. The Licking River watershed is part of the Muskingum River watershed which is part of the Ohio River watershed.

## WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT WATERSHEDS?

Everyone lives in a watershed. Every moment of every day you are in a watershed. Everyone's actions impact our water quality.

Watersheds provide water for human consumption, industry, agriculture and recreation. Many animals make their home in water. Other wildlife use our rivers, streams and lakes as their source for drinking water. Do you know the source of your drinking water?



photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

## TYPES OF POLLUTION...

Most people think water pollution comes from a factory dumping directly into the water or a chemical spill. This type of pollution is called Point Source Pollution. We can easily trace the source of this type of pollution. Point Source Pollution is combated with laws and regulatory agencies. These laws and agencies have done a good job of curbing Point Source Pollution and preventing future issues.

One of the major problems facing our waterways is Non-Point Source Pollution. This type of pollution comes from a variety of sources over a wide area. These pollutants are carried into our waterways by runoff. Non-Point Source Pollutants include sediment, lawn chemicals, litter, oil, household hazardous wastes and many other items found in and around your home. The best way to combat Non-Point Source Pollution is educating citizens on simple, cost effective measures they can implement to prevent water pollution.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

Following are some steps you can take to help keep our water clean.

**Don't Litter** - Litter often makes its way into our rivers, streams and lakes. It can harm wildlife and increase pest populations. It is also illegal.

**Recycle Used Motor Oil** - Most instant oil change stores will take your used motor oil for recycling. Never pour oil down the drain or on the ground. One quart of oil can contaminate two million gallons of water.

**Use Lawn Chemicals Responsibly** - Always follow lawn chemical directions. Do not apply more chemicals than needed. Pay attention to the weather. Do not apply chemicals when rain is likely. Consider using natural fertilizers and pest controls.

**Take Chemicals to Household Hazardous Waste Collections** - Your home contains many hazardous wastes including batteries, cleaning solutions, pool chemicals and others. These items can cause water pollution when disposed of improperly. Never pour household hazardous wastes down the drain or throw them in the garbage. Take them to household hazardous waste collection days. Try not to buy more of a household chemical than you will use.

**Clean-up Pet Waste** - Dispose of pet wastes in the toilet or garbage. These wastes contain nutrients and pathogens that can contaminate our waterways.

**Don't Dump in Storm Drains** - Storm drains often drain directly into a creek or river without any treatment. Anything poured down these drains becomes part of these waterways.

**Maintain Your Septic System** - Leaking or improperly functioning septic systems can cause water pollution. Having septic systems inspected or pumped every 3 to 5 years can help prevent water pollution. This maintenance can also improve the function of your septic system.