



BEAVER CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION GROUP

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Mission:

To improve and protect the Beaver Creek Watershed by promoting low impact development and watershed awareness through monitoring water quality; sharing and acting on this water quality data; and educating residents living within the watershed on best management practices.

OBJECTIVES:

- Monitor, study, and act on the biological and chemical integrity of the Beaver Creek mainstem and selected tributaries of the Creek.
- Develop an educational outreach on: living in the Watershed with a small “ecological footprint.”
- Promote low impact development when new projects are proposed.

WHAT IS THE BEAVER CREEK WATERSHED?

A watershed contains all of the land that drains its water to a central stream, creek, or river. Any activities that occur on that piece of land will directly affect the watercourse receiving the contaminated water.

The Beaver Creek Watershed is the largest watershed located entirely within Lorain County, and is a direct tributary to Lake Erie. Whatever occurs in the waters of the Beaver Creek Watershed will eventually end up in Lake Erie, our source of drinking water.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

To prevent land from eroding and washing into the Creek, help maintain a well-vegetated strip of land adjacent to the Creek called a *riparian buffer*. This strip of land should be maintained or established along all watercourses, including the mainstem of Beaver Creek and all of its tributaries (intermittently and regularly flowing). Mowing should be no closer than 25 feet away from the Creek; 120 feet is ideal.

When land erodes into the Creek, excess dirt or sediment will add to the amount of *total suspended solids* or *turbidity* of the water. Increased levels of sediment are dangerous to aquatic life, including fish. The dirt in the water coats their gills so that they cannot breathe.

Dumping any materials into the Creek is almost never a good idea. Too many leaves, branches, and other yard waste act as pollution. As these materials decompose, this process removes oxygen from the Creek. This decrease in oxygen can suffocate the fish and other organisms living in the Creek.

Do not over fertilize your lawns. When this excess fertilizer runs off the land and enters the Creek, it acts as nutrients that can increase the growth of algae. This upsets the Creek by turning sections into stinking cesspools that cannot support fish.