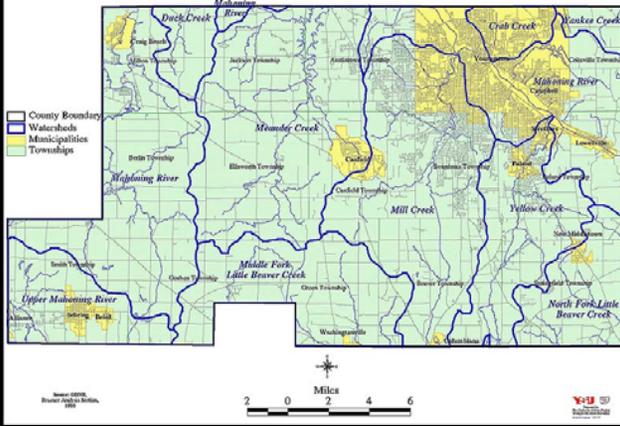


Major Watersheds Mahoning County, Ohio



A **watershed** is an area of land that drains to a specific stream, river, pond, lake, wetland, or ocean. Watersheds are vital to wildlife, humans, the environment, and our economy. Because all land is part of a watershed, everyone lives in a watershed. You and everyone in your watershed are part of the watershed community. What happens in your small watershed also affects the larger watershed downstream.

When **stormwater** runs over the land or soaks into the ground, it picks up pollutants and deposits them into streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and some underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants are known as **non-point** source pollutants because the pollution cannot be traced to one specific source. Non-point source pollution comes from a variety of sources and, therefore, is hard to control. Non-point source pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems in the nation and Ohio. It affects drinking water supplies, wildlife habitats, recreational areas, and fisheries.

For non-point pollution information contact:

Mahoning County Engineers Office

(330) 799-1581

For disposal of household chemicals, illegal dumping and recycling contact:

Mahoning County Solid Waste Management District

“The Green Team”

(330) 740-2060

www.greenteam.cc

For septic system maintenance and illegal dumping information contact:

Mahoning County District Board of Health

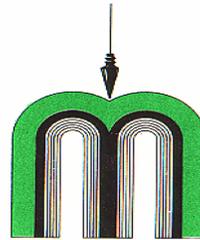
(330) 270-2855

www.mahoning-health.org/

Additional Information:

www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/index.html

www.cwp.org/



Mahoning County Engineers

940 Bears Den Rd.

Youngstown, OH 44511

(330) 799-1581 ph.

(330) 799-4600 fax

**Mahoning
County
Engineers**



**YOU MAY BE POLLUTING YOUR
WATERSHED
AND DON'T EVEN KNOW IT**





WHAT IS A STORM SEWER??

Storm Sewers collect rain water and melting snow that runs off of impermeable roofs, streets, parking lots, and lawns. The storm water runoff can transport toxic pollutants untreated, to a local stream, river, or lake. These pollutants can adversely affect or kill aquatic life, degrade the beauty of our natural resources and impair Mahoning County's waterways to the point that they must be closed for recreation. Storm water awareness can help keep our local waterways and your drinking water clean.

The Mahoning County Engineers Office has made a commitment to develop and implement storm water management and public outreach within Mahoning County. The mission is to heighten citizen storm water awareness and eliminate dumping of litter and other household hazardous materials into storm drains and ditches.

THE PROBLEM:

The Pollutants of Concern:

1.) NUTRIENTS

(Nitrogen, Phosphorus, fertilizers)-Excess nutrients create algae blooms in waterways. This reduces the amount of available oxygen in the water for the aquatic life and gives drinking water a bad odor and taste.

2.) PATHOGENS

(bacteria, viruses, etc.)-Pet waste and failing septic tanks pollute storm water with harmful levels of bacteria that cause a variety of health problems.

3.) PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS

(oil, grease, solvents, etc)-Oil and grease that drips or spills onto the land surface washes into the storm drain. One quart of oil can pollute up to 250,000 gallons of water.

4.) TOXIC POLLUTANTS

Household products such as paint, antifreeze, and pesticides are considered hazardous wastes. These products can be harmful to wildlife and the environment when not disposed of properly.

5.) LITTER

Trash is transported by the runoff from urban areas to ditches and storm drains. It can clog storm drains and contribute to flooding.



SOLUTION:

Things you can do:

1.) JOIN THE STORM WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT EFFORT:

Get involved by educating your neighborhood and become a storm drain marking volunteer.

2.) EROSION CONTROL:

Rocks, trees, plants, and seeding can help reduce erosion-causing sediment pollution.

3.) OUTDOOR CLEANING:

Wash outdoor items with biodegradable soap and wash them in the yard. Grass helps to filter out the soaps before they reach the storm drain.

4.) TRASH & RECYCLING:

Properly dispose of trash and any hazardous household chemicals. Please try to reuse and recycle where possible.

5.) CHECK FOR OIL LEAKS:

Place a drip pan under any leaking vehicle until they can be repaired. Clean up spills with absorbent materials like kitty litter and dispose in the trash.

