

BRWP Times

Full Endorsement for Watershed Action Plan....



The BRWP receive word from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio EPA that The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed Action Plan was recommended for **full endorsement**. The endorsement ends a three year process of gathering data and writing of the 406 page document. Word of endorsement has already allowed the Partnership to apply for a large grant to install Agricultural BMPs in the Lye Creek subwatershed. **Check our** web site at <http://www.blanchardriver.org> after July 1st for the complete action plan.

BRWP to host Water Quality Monitoring Credible Data Program...

The Ohio EPA will hold a Water Quality Monitoring Level 1 Credible Data Training day on Thursday, September 15, 2011. The training session will be held at the Riverbend Recreation Area east of Findlay, Ohio from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. For more information and to reserved a spot, call Dennis Clement at 614-644-2048 or by email at dennis.clement@epa.state.oh.us.

Hancock County Commissioners, Hancock Board of Health and the BRWP working together have secured a \$160,000 **Water Pollution Control Loan grant** to repair/replaced 10 Home Septic Treatment System for income-eligible homeowners in Hancock County. Contact Phil Martin, Watershed Coordinator at 419-422-6487 for information. This grant was award on a county basis. Check with your County Health Department to see if they received of the any money.

BRWP needs your help.....

As the Partnership grows, the need for more help and volunteers also increases. We are compiling a list of stakeholders willing to help the BRWP in several areas:

- **Public Relations** - help with our county fair and other exhibits, special events, and related areas
- **Fund Raising** - help with gathering names/addresses, setting up data base, assisting with mailings, distributing information.
- **River/stream clean-ups** - The BRWP plans on holding river/stream clean-ups each year in Bluffton, Findlay, and Ottawa. We need help making phone calls, be a team leader with volunteers in the river/stream, assist in clerical work and handling debris (trash / tires).
- **Develop Educational Programs** - Help the BRWP develop educational materials and programs for school students and conservation field days. Also, serve as BRWP representative at events like "Clear Choices for Clean Water", and "Splash Bash". (Retired teachers would be excellent for this area) *Call Phil Martin at 419-422-6487 to sign-up or learn more!!!!!!*

Blanchard River Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Check out our web site for further details or call Phil Martin at 419-422-6487
Volunteers are needed!!!!!!

Riley Creek/Little Riley Creek Clean-up.....

The BRWP is planning to hold a clean-up in Bluffton on August 27, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help clean Riley Creek and Little Riley Creek. Watch for further information on web and in the media



A new rain garden has been planted at The Family Center on north Blanchard St. to demonstrate natural solutions to handle stormwater. A \$1625 grant from The Community

Foundation funded the new garden. Volunteers from the University of Findlay, Hancock County Sustainability Committee and the BRWP did the installation. The Partnership would like to have a model rain in each of the communities in the watershed. ***Please let us know of any potential sites by calling Phil Martin at 419-422-6487***

Do YOU want to know more about your watershed? But, don't know where to find it.... The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and other agencies have developed a system that allows anyone to find information about the watershed they live in by using the internet. Simply go to the following web site: www.OhioERIN.com. Click on the Watershed Report tab to the left. Enlarge the map by clicking on the + tab on the left. Once you reach the level that you can identify where you live, double-click and wait for another window to open with the watershed report for that watershed. If you have any questions, feel free to call Phil Martin at 419-422-6487.



BRWP receives grant for Stormwater Outreach...

The Partnership and City of Findlay Engineering Department received a \$1500 Ohio Lake Erie Stormwater Training Grant from ODNR to provide a one-day informational forum. The event will be held on October 11, 2011 at the Findlay Inn from 8:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Event will be opened to the public. Here are the topics for the forum:

Stormwater Pollution in an Urban and Suburban Environment

- The Role of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership Tim Brugeman, President BRWP
- Stormwater Pollution - What, Where, and Why. Randy Greeno, City of Findlay Pollution Control Center Superintendent.
- Ohio's Approach to Storm Water Pollution-Goals - Process and Regulations, Lynette Hablitzel PE, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water
- A Small City Answer to Stormwater Pollution Reduction, Meghan Clement P.E., Engineer-City of Findlay OH.
- Stormwater Management Technology- Concepts and Local Applications, Paul Schmelzer, P.E., P.S. Principal, Van Horn Hoover & Associates
- Urban Best Management Practices for Commercial & Residential Properties TBA

Stormwater damage is not always flood damage. Stormwater flushes the pollution, both chemical and physical, that has accumulated on street, alley, parking lot, and yard surfaces during the long dry intervals that occur. The many pollutants accumulated are flushed into the storm sewers during even light or short rainfalls. Most storm sewers are not connected to the sewage (sanitary) system and the collected runoff is not treated. This untreated contaminated water is usually directed directly to our ditches streams and eventually into our Blanchard River.

The state of Ohio has developed a number of regulations to avoid contamination and many municipalities and private businesses are installing water management practices to reduce or eliminate this pollution. ***Please attend our forum to find out what is being required of small cities and villages and learn how you can help by managing your own property!!!!***

BRWP activities in the watershed

- Riley Creek Stream Observation walks will continue through the rest of the year. Volunteers are welcome.
- Visit our Fair Display at the Allen County, Hancock County, and Hardin County Fairs.
 - Allen County - August 19-27 in Lima
 - Hancock County - August 31-Sept. 5
 - Hardin County - Sept. 6-11
- August 2 - Hancock SWCD Annual Meeting. Call 419-422-6569 for tickets.
- River clean-up in Findlay on August 20, 2011.
- Riley and Little Riley Creek clean-up in Bluffton on August 27, 2011. Check the web site for after July 21st for more details.
- A clean-up in Ottawa is being planned for sometime in late September.
- Ohio EPA Water Quality Monitoring Credible Data Program Level 1 Training will be held at Riverbend Park on September 15, 2011.
- October 11, 2011 - Urban Stormwater Forum at Findlay Inn from 8:30 a.m. till 12:00 p.m.
- Fall Water Quality Monitoring will occur late September to early October. Volunteers are welcome.
- November 17, 2011 - Annual Meeting