

Summary of Riley Creek Watershed Survey

An online survey of 500 stakeholders in the Riley Creek Watershed was conducted between October 1-30, 2010. Postcards were sent to the landowners along Riley Creek and Little Riley Creek, plus XXX randomly selected landowners in the watershed. Twenty two postcards were returned as undeliverable. Two Stakeholders requested a hard copy of the survey. Both returned their surveys. Forty nine stakeholders completed the survey. The results of these respondents is summarized below.

Questions 1: Do you feel there is a problem with water quality in your area?

48 answered - 46% (22) Yes; 44% (21) No; and 10% (5) No Opinion

Question 2: The following is a list of water quality problems that sometimes occur in rural watersheds. Which of the following do you consider to be a problem in your area? (choose all that apply)

43 answered - Flooding	72% (31)
Agricultural Runoff - from fields	58% (25)
Failed Septic Systems	35% (15)
Chemical Pollutants	30% (13)
Illegal Dumping	30% (13)
Industrial sources	12% (5)
Dams	9% (4)
Erosion from construction sites	5% (2)

Question 3: What best describes the streams in your area?

46 answered - They are an asset and landowners are proud of them	57% (26)
They could be an asset, but currently have poor water quality	28% (13)
Other	9% (4)
They are an eye sore and a detriment to our community	4% (2)
They have no impact on the quality of our community	2% (1)

Question 4: What do you consider the most beneficial use of our local streams?

46 answered - Drainage	41% (19)
Wildlife and Birding	24% (11)
Aesthetic and Beauty	22% (10)
Other	7% (3)
Fishing	4% (2)
Drinking Water	2% (1)
Swimming	0% (0)
Waste Removal	0% (0)
Tourism	0% (0)

Question 5: Do you drink tap water in your home?

46 answered - Yes, always	70% (32)
We drink mostly tapwater	22% (10)
We drink water mostly from other sources(bottled, etc)	7% (3)
We never drink the tapwater	2% (1)

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Questions 6: Do you filter your tap water in your home?

46 answered - No	52% (24)
Yes, always	28% (13)
Sometimes yes, sometimes no	20% (9)
We do not drink tapwater	0% (0)

Question 7: Is there a problem with flooding in your area?

46 answered - 54% (25) Yes; 43% (20) No; and 2% (1) No Opinion

Question 8: Streams are considered to have a high flashiness if the water level rises quickly in reaction to storm runoff. Which of the following do you feel might be causing (flashiness in the stream).

46 answered - An increase in the use of tile to drain agricultural fields	43% (20)
An increase in paved surfaces in urban areas	30% (14)
An increase in drainage related to rural residential development	26% (12)
Channelization of streams	20% (9)
I have not noticed this problem	20% (9)
Overaggressive maintenance of ditches	11% (5)
Other	11% (5)
Installation of new ditches	4% (2)

Question 9: If you feel flashiness is a problem, which of the following practices would you like to see implemented in the watershed as possible solutions?

46 answered - Planting trees	37% (17)
Creation of wetlands	30% (14)
Use of controlled drainage to help recharge ground water	28% (13)
Stormwater retention basins	22% (10)
I haven't noticed the problem	22% (10)
Improved soil tillage (e.g. conservation tillage, cover crops, crop rotation)	22% (10)
Ordinances requiring pervious paved surfaces to be used on parking lots	13% (6)
Ordinances to limit the amount of paved surfaces on parking lots	13% (6)
Other	9% (4)
Installation of field tile to reduce surface runoff	9% (4)

Question 10: Do you feel the farmers are doing enough to limit how much water pollution they cause?

46 answered - Most are doing enough	46% (21)
Yes, they are doing enough	26% (12)
Very few are doing enough	26% (12)
Farmers do not cause any water pollution	2% (1)
None of them are doing enough	0% (0)

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Question 11: Do you feel industries are doing enough to limit how much water pollution they cause?

46 answered - Most are doing enough	54% (25)
Very few are doing enough	28% (13)
Yes, they are doing enough	9% (9)
None of them are doing enough	7% (3)
Industries do not cause any water pollution	2% (1)

Question 12: Do you feel local government is doing enough to limit pollution in local streams?

46 answered - Most are doing enough	37% (17)
Very few are doing enough	35% (16)
Yes, they are doing enough	20% (9)
It is not a local government issue	7% (3)
None of them are doing enough	2% (1)

Question 13: Do you feel work needs to be done to improve the quality local streams?

45 answered - 44% (20) Yes; 38% (17) No; and 18% (8) Not Sure

Question 14: Do you feel there are neighbors in your area that create pollution that impacts local streams?

45 answered - 20% (9) Yes; 51% (23) No; and 29% (13) Not Sure

Question 15: What kind of impact to you have on local water quality?

46 answered - I have a small positive impact	46% (21)
I have no impact	37% (17)
I have a large positive impact	11% (5)
I have a small negative impact	7% (3)
I have a large negative impact	0% (0)

Question 16: Putting a watercourse on ditch maintenance will most likely... (choose all that apply)

38 answered - Improve my drainage	39% (15)
Improve water quality	21% (8)
Improve the aesthetics of my neighborhood	21% (8)
Reduce the aesthetics of my neighborhood	18% (7)
Reduce real estate value (residential)	16% (6)
Improve real estate value (agricultural)	16% (6)
Improve real estate value (residential)	13% (5)
Reduce property value (agricultural)	13% (5)
Reduce water quality	13% (5)
Impair my drainage	8% (3)
Improve other	5% (2)
Reduce other	3% (1)

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Question 17: Which of the following approaches would you like to see used to protect local streams?
(choose all that apply)

46 answered - Protection and preservation of floodplains	41% (19)
Education landowners on ways to protect stream quality	41% (19)
Incentive programs to help landowners reduce pollution	30% (14)
Incentive payments to farmers to implement conservation practices	30% (14)
Increased enforcement of our present laws	28% (13)
Fines and penalties for polluters	26% (12)
Conservation contracts to protect streamside vegetation and limit development	26% (12)
Cost share to help landowners replace failed home septic systems	24% (11)
Enough is being done already	17% (8)
Other	11% (5)
Creation of new laws and ordinances to protect water quality	0% (0)

Question 18: Ohio EPA listed sediment caused by erosion as the number one cause of pollution in your watershed. Which of the following do you feel are the most significant sources of this erosion?
(Choose all that apply)

44 answered - Agricultural fields	48% (21)
Stream bank erosion	45% (20)
I don't agree that erosion is a problem	14% (6)
Other	9% (4)
Construction sites (residential and commercial)	7% (3)
Pastures where livestock have access to streams	5% (2)

Question 19: Which of the following potential solutions would you like to see implemented to reduce erosion in this watershed? (choose all that apply)

42 answered - Filter strips/buffer strips on streams	55% (23)
Removal of log jams	52% (22)
Financial incentives for landowners to control erosion	38% (16)
Increase use of conservation tillage practices	31% (13)
Education of how landowners can reduce erosion	31% (13)
Fines and penalties for polluters	12% (5)
Better enforcement of current regulations at construction sites	10% (4)
New regulations to help reduce erosion at construction sites	2% (1)
There is no need to reduce erosion	2% (1)
Other	2% (1)

Question 20: A goal of reducing phosphorus levels in streams has been suggested by the Ohio EPA. Which of the following do you feel are the most significant sources of this phosphorus?
(choose all that apply)

44 answered - Runoff from agricultural fields	57% (25)
Over application of fertilizers	30% (13)
Failed septic systems	27% (12)
Urban storm sewer overflows	16% (7)
I don't agree that phosphorus is a problem	16% (7)
Livestock waste	14% (6)
Other	5% (2)

Question 21 Which of the following practices would you like to see implemented in this watershed to reduce phosphorus in streams? (choose all that apply)

42 answered - Installation of streamside buffer/filter strips	45% (19)
Use of cover crops	43% (18)
Improved fertilizer use efficiencies by farmers (i.e. soil testing)	38% (16)
Increased use of conservation tillage	29% (12)
Improved fertilizer use efficiencies by residential homeowners (i.e. soil testing)	19% (8)
There is no need to reduce phosphorus	19% (8)
Improved storage, handling, and application of livestock waste	17% (7)
Replacement of septic systems	17% (7)
Fine and penalties for polluters	10% (4)
New regulations to reduce residential sources	7% (3)
New regulations to reduce agricultural sources	7% (3)
New regulations to reduce urban sources	5% (2)
Other	0% (0)

Question 22: Where do you feel it is acceptable to have trees? (choose all that apply)

46 answered - On large creeks, such as Riley Creek	70% (32)
On medium creeks, such as Little Riley Creek	57% (26)
On maintained ditches, on both sides	41% (19)
On small creeks, such as Marsh Run	37% (17)
On agricultural ditches in fields	28% (13)
Trees should not be allowed near any watercourse	15% (7)
On maintained ditches, on one side	

Question 23: What sex are you?

46 answered - Male 80% (37); Female 20% (9)

Question 24: How many people live in your home?

47 answered - 2-60% (28); 4-19% (9); 3-11% (5); 4-6% (3); 6 or more 4% (2)

Question 25: How many acres of land do you own, rent, farm, or have controlling interest in?

47 answered - less than 5.0 acres	45% (21)
25.01 - 100 acres	23% (11)
100.01 - 250 acres	19% (9)
250.01 - 1000 acres	11% (5)
5.01 - 15 acres	2% (1)

Question 26: Which of the following best describes you?

47 answered - resident of Riley Creek Watershed, owning multiple properties in the watershed	53% (25)
other, please specify	32% (15)
non-resident of Riley Creek Watershed, owning multiple properties in the watershed	13% (6)
elected official from within the Riley Creek Watershed	2% (1)
representative of an agency that works within the Riley Creek Watershed	0% (0)