


Blanchard River Watershed Report Card - 2012



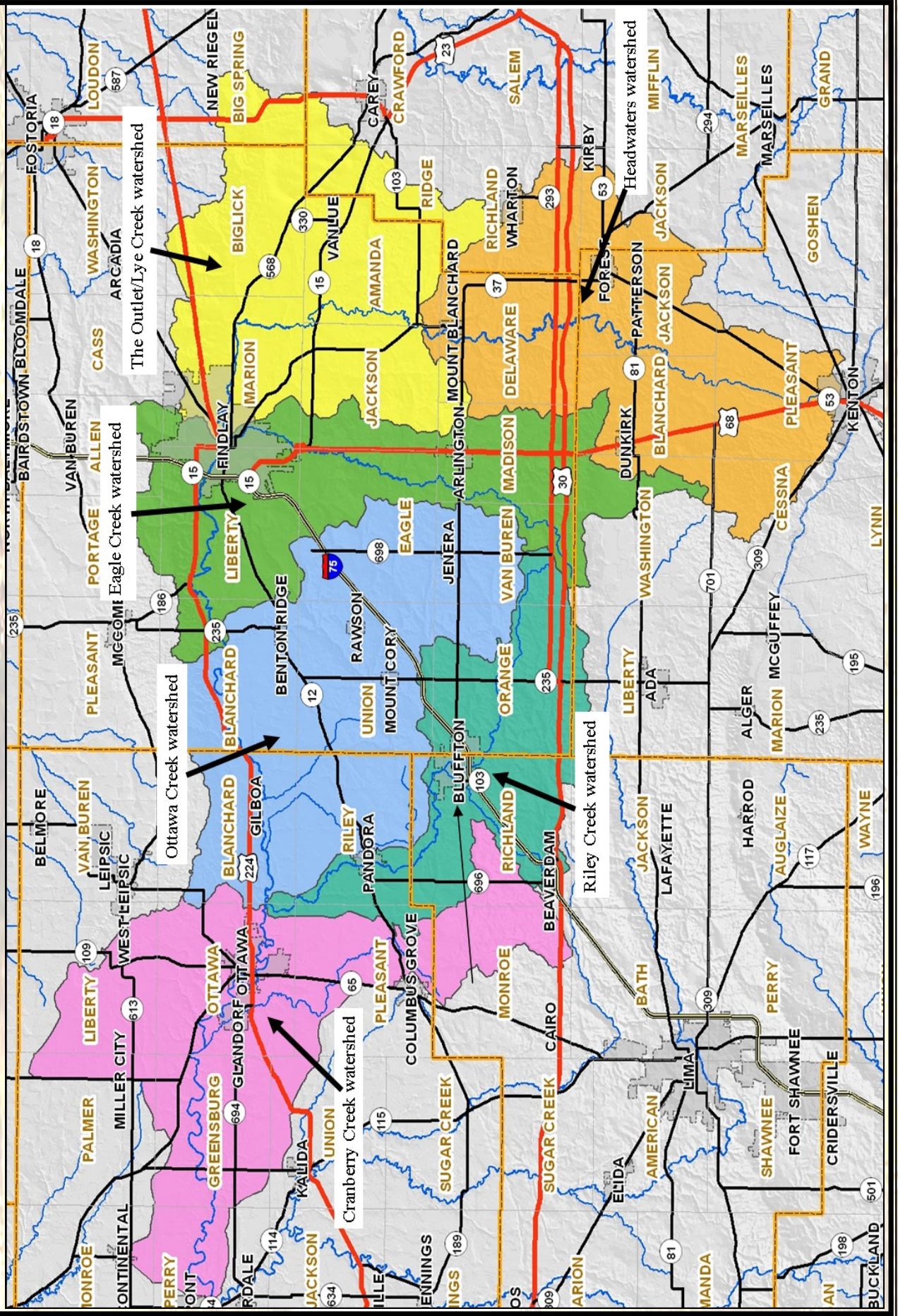
Action Today - Cleaner Water Tomorrow



The Blanchard River Watershed Report Card - 2012 was created, designed, and published by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership. The Report Card is the result of many hours of compiling data and information by Jane McCleary, Deb Wickerham, and the watershed coordinator, Phil Martin. For additional information, check out the Partnership's web site at: <http://www.blanchardriver.org>. Email any comments to brwp1237@gmail.com or call Phil Martin at 419.422.6487.

The Blanchard River Watershed Partnership is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

The Blanchard River Watershed



Dear Stakeholder or interest party,

*The Blanchard River Watershed Partnership (BRWP) decided to produce this **2012 Blanchard River Report Card** as a means of compiling and presenting useful information and data on the Blanchard River watershed. The report card also sets a base for future report cards and presents the present impairments in the watershed as identified by the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).*

The mission of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership is to:

“Encourage water quality improvements to our geologically unique, northwestern Ohio watershed, through sustainable land use, collaboration, conservation and enhancement of natural and man-made resources.”

*The **VISION** of the BRWP is:*

“To live in a clean and productive watershed that assures long-term value to all its inhabitants.” Only through the involvement of the many agencies in the watershed and the stakeholders can the BRWP reach their mission. The BRWP has developed working relationship with many of these agencies. The BRWP has either directly or indirectly been involved in securing over \$1,000,000 in grants this year.

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Why a Report Card?

The ***Blanchard River Watershed Report Card*** is a tool to evaluate both the condition of the river as well as the success of efforts to protect and restore it. It can also be used as a tool to guide local communities when developing their subwatershed management plans. Report Card recommendations may be prioritized and adapted based on decisions made in each subwatershed.

The Report Card is intended to:

- ◆ Provide a brief description of current conditions and progress being made based on specific environmental and performance indicators
- ◆ Suggest important environmental and performance indicators that should be evaluated and managed watershed-wide and within each subwatershed
- ◆ Help subwatershed stakeholders ask themselves key environmental questions as they begin their watershed planning process under the general storm water permit

Why a Watershed Report Card?

Many of the current federal and state efforts to improve and protect water quality are based upon a watershed approach focusing more on geographic boundaries defined by drainage areas instead of political boundaries. This approach provides a flexible, coordinated framework that aligns public and private efforts with targeted problems in a watershed. The guiding principles of this approach are stakeholder partnerships, a geographic focus, and sound scientific data. It has been shown that involving the public in watershed planning and decision making generates a high level of support and long term success. Using a watershed approach ensures the most equitable balancing of environmental protection, economic prosperity, and quality of life issues. We need to keep in mind, we all live upstream and/or downstream in a watershed and that each individual action has an effect somewhere in that watershed.

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