

What Can You Do?

The sources for all the impairments are man related activities. So, by stopping all the man related activities, the sources of the impairments would be eliminated. But that does not make any sense nor is it possible. *What can you do then???* More than you would think and with very little effort. Several of the things you can do will not be done directly by you, but by officials and agencies in the area. Your influence is needed on these officials and agencies with your input and membership. Take pictures and record sites of impairments. Let the people in charge know your findings. Other things you can do are listed in the table below.

Suggestion of things *YOU* can do...

Urban Areas

- ◆ use ***Phosphorus Free Fertilizer*** - your lawn will be fine without the Phosphorus
- ◆ use ***Rain Barrels*** - plant a ***Rain Garden*** (check our web site for information)
- ◆ direct downspouts away from paved surfaces)
- ◆ when living by a stream - ***create a buffer***
- ◆ ***never dump*** anything down storm drains or into streams
- ◆ ***wash your car in the yard*** or at a car wash
- ◆ ***pick up*** after your pet
- ◆ ***check your car for leaks*** and recycle your motor oil
- ◆ ***recycle all medicines*** - do not flush or dump them down the drain
- ◆ have your ***septic tank pumped*** and system inspected regularly

Agriculture Areas

- ◆ develop a ***Nutrient Management Plan*** for your farm
- ◆ use ***Cover Crops*** every year
- ◆ use ***Conservation Crop Rotation***
- ◆ use a ***Drainage Management Plan***
- ◆ use ***Filter Strips/Riparian Buffers***
- ◆ use a ***Residue/Tillage Management Plan*** - No Till, Mulch Tillage, and Conservation Tillage
- ◆ ***create and restore*** wetlands

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Aquatic Life Use Attainment - surface water bodies that meet the aquatic life use designations included in Ohio's water quality standards; in Ohio there are six categories of aquatic life use (PDF 87kb)(Section 5 from the 2004 Integrated Report): coldwater habitat, seasonal salmonid habitat, exceptional warmwater habitat, warmwater habitat, modified warmwater habitat, and limited resource waters

Ammonia - one of the primary forms of dissolved nitrogen in natural water. It is a compound of nitrogen in combination with hydrogen. The un-ionized form is more toxic to fish. Ammonia is soluble in water, but is not stable in most environments. It is easily transformed to nitrate in waters that contain oxygen and can be transformed to nitrogen gas in waters that are low in oxygen.

Biological indicators - species used to monitor the health of an environment or ecosystem. An example of such a group are the copepods and other small water crustaceans present in many water bodies. Such organisms are monitored for changes (biochemical, physiological, or behavioural) that may indicate a problem within their ecosystem. Bioindicators can tell us about the cumulative effects of different pollutants in the ecosystem and about how long a problem may have been present, which physical and chemical testing cannot.

Channelization - the practice of dredging and straightening stream channels to increase flow rates and carrying capacities. Channelization acts to force as much water as possible away from an area in a short period of time.

Crop production with subsurface drainage – drainage systems added below the land surface to remove excess water from the soil in order to enhance crop production

Destabilization – weakening of streambanks or streambeds due to removal of riparian vegetation

Direct habitat alterations – both natural and human induced changes which results in the modification of habitat including, constrictions caused by berms, dikes, or dams, points where the water velocity changes rapidly at rapids or falls, points where significant inflows occur at the confluence of rivers, channelization, dams, dredging, construction activities, etc.

Dissolved oxygen - The oxygen dissolved in water or sewage. Adequately dissolved oxygen is necessary for the life of fish and other aquatic organisms and for the prevention of offensive odors.

Dolostone or dolomite rock is a sedimentary carbonate rock that contains a high percentage of the mineral dolomite. It is resistant to erosion and can either contain bedded layers or be unbedded. It is less soluble than limestone in weakly acidic groundwater, but it can still develop solution features over time.

Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus (DRP) - The soluble form of the nutrient phosphorus, which is readily available for use by plants.

Eutrophication - a natural process that results from accumulation of nutrients in lakes or other bodies of water. Human activities can accelerate eutrophication by increasing the rate at which nutrients enter the water. Eutrophication in lakes and streams is related to high phosphate concentrations, which can produce foul tastes and odors in water.

Hydric soil - a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part This term is part of the legal definition of a wetland.

Impairment - detrimental effect on the biological integrity of a waterbody caused by an impact that prevents attainment of the designated use

Low flow alterations – changes made to the quantity, timing, and quality of water flows required to sustain freshwater. Low flows maintain adequate habitat, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and chemistry for aquatic organisms; drinking water for terrestrial animals; and soil moisture for plants

Nitrate – a primary form of dissolved nitrogen in natural water. It is readily transported in ground water and streams.

Nitrite - Nitrates and nitrites are nitrogen-oxygen chemical units which combine with various organic and inorganic compounds. The major sources of nitrite in drinking water are runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; and erosion of natural deposits.

Non-point source (NPS) – pollution coming from many diffuse sources (unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants). NPS pollution is caused when rainfall or snowfall runoff pick up and carry away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into bodies of water and underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include: Excess ferti-

Siltation - the pollution of water by fine particles dominated by silt or clay.

Stream bank modification - a best management practices used to improve and stabilize the banks of an eroding stream.

Organic enrichment - Animal or plant-produced substances containing mainly carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen. Carbonaceous waste contained in plant or animal matter and originating from domestic or industrial sources.

Upstream impoundment – An upstream body of water, such as a pond, confined by a dam, dike, floodgate or other barrier

Watershed score - The over-all score of a watershed based on several factors. Usually reported on a scale of 0-100.

Abbreviations

BMP - Best Management Practice(s)

BRWP - Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CRP - Conservation Reserve Program

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program

ERIN - Earth Resources Information Network

HUC - Hydrological Unit Code

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Program

ODNR - Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Ohio EPA - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Credits:

The Blanchard River Watershed would like to thank those agencies that have been very supportive of the BRWP in 2012.

Blanchard Valley Health Center

City of Findlay

Hancock County Commissioners

Hancock Park District

Martin Enterprises

Maumee Watershed Conservancy District

Putnam County Commissioners

Village of Bluffton

Village of Ottawa

and all our members...

Thank You