

Blanchard River Watershed Partnership The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed Fact Sheet

What is a watershed? A watershed is any area of land where surface water drains into a common body of water, such as a river, lake, or wetland.

What watersheds effect the people of the Blanchard River Basin?

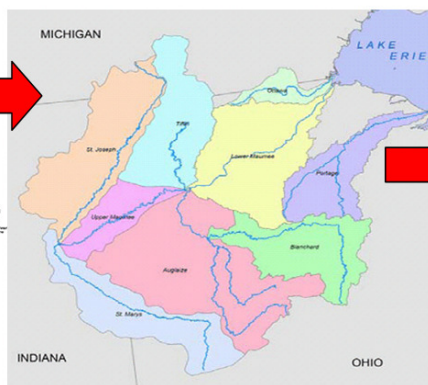
Water from The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed flows into the Blanchard River which is part of the Maumee River Basin (Western Lake Erie watersheds). The Maumee River into Lake Erie which is a part of the Great Lakes Watershed. Eventually, the water that fell on The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed flows out the St. Lawrence River into the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way the water could be taken up by plants, people, animals, or evaporate into the air. The water that is used by people may become polluted if not properly handled. *This is what watershed action plans are all about!!!!!!*



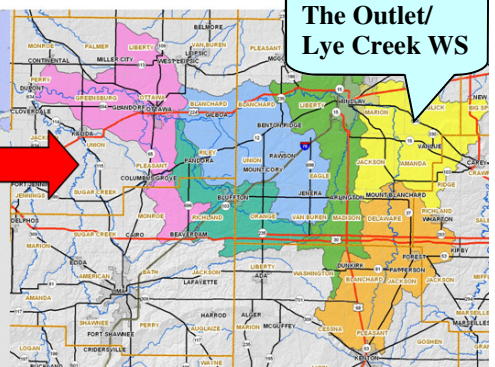
Great Lakes Watershed



Western Lake Erie Watersheds



Blanchard River Watershed

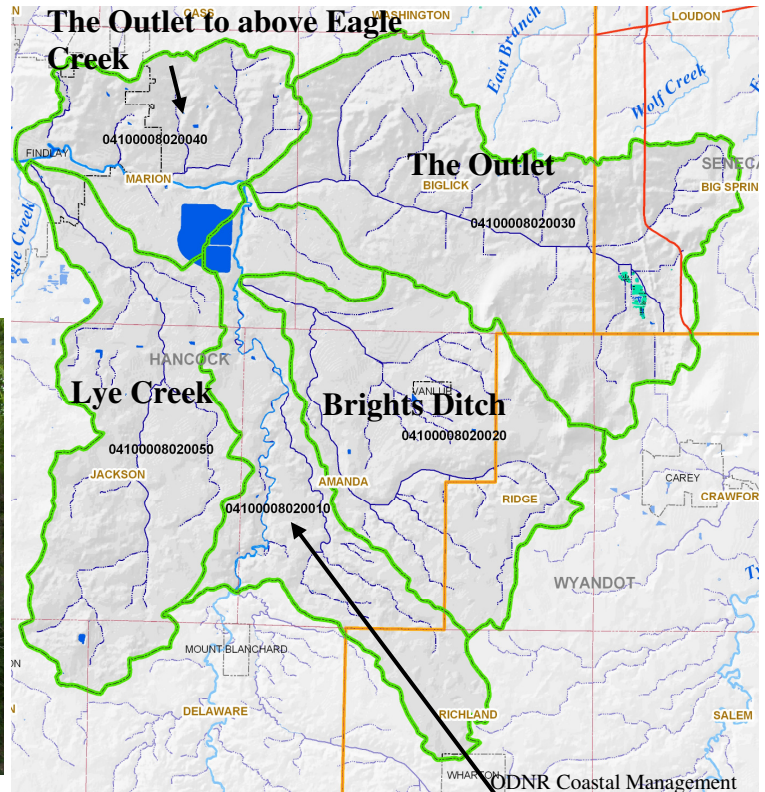


Facts about The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed...

- Covers 85,384 acres
- 82.7% of the land is used for agriculture.
- Contains five smaller subwatersheds.
- Located in the Eastern Corn Belt Ecoregion.
- Population 17,370 (based on 2000 census)
- Area contains Riverbend Recreation Area, River-side Park in Findlay, several Conservation areas.
- 19 listed Cultural Resources in the watershed.

Blanchard River below

The Outlet to above Eagle Creek



Blanchard River at start of The Outlet/Lye Creek watershed.

**Remember - "We all live downstream and upstream of other people.
What we do and they do effects each other. Be a good steward!!!"**

**Blanchard River below
Potato Run to above The
Outlet (except Brights Dt.)**

In 2005, the Ohio EPA did a Water Quality Study of the entire Blanchard River Watershed. The study identified impairments found in the watershed. The BRWP started to write a watershed action plan for The Outlet/Lye Creek in 2008 and received **FULL endorsement** in June 2011.

What is an action plan?

- it is a plan of action that is endorsed by EPA to address nonpoint source pollution as required by the Clean Water Act.
- a watershed action plan includes...
 - an inventory of watershed resources.
 - identifies and evaluates nonpoint pollution.
 - develops problem statements, objectives, and goals based on an EPA TMDL report.
(web site for report: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/tmdl/BlanchardRiverTMDL.aspx>)
 - identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will help restore and protect the watershed.
- highlights of a watershed action plan
 - developed by local group(s).
 - address nonpoint source pollution only.
 - NON-REGULATORY - Stakeholders can not be forced install any practices, unless it is a Failed Home Septic System.
 - endorsed plan creates an opportunity to pursue bigger and more grants.

Impairments found during the Water Quality Study...

- Nutrient enrichment from water runoff and failed Home Septic Treatment Systems (HSTS) in the form of Phosphorus and Nitrogen.
- Sediment loading from erosion and channel alteration.
- Pathogens, mainly from failing HSTS, and animal waste being carried into the waterways by runoff.
- High temperature and low dissolved oxygen due to flow alteration and channelization.
- Aquatic Habitat destruction.

What an Endorsed Watershed Action Plan allows...

By having a **Fully Endorsed** watershed action plan, the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership is able to pursue, with the help of other agencies, more and bigger grants to help improve the water quality of The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed. Some of the Best Management Practices that will be used include:

- Filter Strips/riparian buffers along waterways
- Cover crops during the non-growing season
- Conservation Tillage
- Grass waterways
- Floating wetlands
- Restore floodplains and wetlands
- In-stream sediment collectors
- Soil Testing with Nutrient Management Plans
- Two-stage ditches
- Use bioreactors with Drainage Management Systems
- Repair and Replace failed or failing HSTS with new units
- Implementation of the City of Findlay's Stormwater Management Plan.



Erosion caused by heavy rain along TR 207



Check out the action plan at
<http://www.blanchardriver.org>