

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Great Miami River

WHY IS THIS WATERSHED SPECIAL?

Located in Southwest Ohio, the Great Miami River watershed overlies a sole source aquifer for drinking water that serves more than a million consumers. The condition of the watershed is crucial to the health of the streams within its boundaries, as well as the Ohio River and other receiving watersheds downstream – including the Gulf of Mexico. Approximately 83 percent of the land within the watershed is used for agriculture, primarily row crop production such as corn, soy beans, and wheat. Typical livestock include swine, cattle and poultry. Although more than 58 percent of the streams in the watershed meet their designated water quality standard, many streams are impaired.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The Targeted Watersheds Grant will focus on the following:

- Agriculture may result in the removal of streamside vegetation that allows sediment, nutrients, pathogens, and chemicals to enter the stream.
- Water quality impairment is a key problem resulting in public water supply degradation, aquatic species decline, and decreased recreational opportunities.
- Sediment jeopardizes the watershed's flood protection system that protects more than a million people and 2.75 billion dollars of property.
- Nutrient overloading creates low dissolved oxygen levels that hamper the growth and reproduction of aquatic organisms.
- Urban stormwater runoff from paved surfaces can carry pollutants to rivers and streams and degrade water quality.

RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant funds are helping the Miami Conservancy District restore its valuable water resources. It will:

- Reduce nutrients and sediments through performance-based cost sharing payments, innovative agriculture drainage structures, wetland retention, conservation development design, and use of pervious parking lots.
- Implement erosion control demonstration structures at construction sites.
- Demonstrate a stormwater runoff collection system.
- Collect and analyze water resource data to promote sound watershed management.
- Improve and maintain existing flood protection systems.
- Develop public education and outreach programs in local communities.

"The Great Miami River is an amazing resource for our area, both for recreation and for critical drinking water resources. We all need to do our part to keep this resource healthy."

– Dick Wager, Miami County Engineer

Dick Wager, Miami County Engineer's Office, manages the project that will install storm sewer collection systems to prevent pollutants from running into the Great Miami River.



A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

A unique network of diverse partnerships, comprised of representatives from community-based watershed organizations, is collaborating with the Miami Conservancy District to maximize talents and resources. Partners in the project include:

- The Ohio State University
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Loramie Valley Alliance
- Stillwater Watershed Project
- Miami County Engineer's Office
- City of Fairborn Parks
- Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments
- City of Dayton
- Three Valley Conservation Trust



Improving water quality increases recreational opportunities.



The Great Miami River project will help restore and protect water quality including the restoration of streamside habitat.

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EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHEDS GRANT PROGRAM

EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant Program is a new, competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.

For more information about the selected watersheds, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/>



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