

WHAT CAN I DO?

Small steps to help keep our water clean:

Don't Litter - Litter often enters our rivers, streams and lakes. Littering is illegal and can harm wildlife and increase pest populations.

Recycle Used Motor Oil - Most instant oil change stores will take your used motor oil for recycling. Never pour oil down the drain or on the ground. One quart of oil can contaminate two million gallons of water.

Use Lawn Chemicals Responsibly - Always read the label and follow chemical guidelines. Over applying can become more harmful than helpful. Pay attention to the weather. If rain is in the forecast, avoid applying chemicals. A rainfall would increase runoff. Consider using natural fertilizers and pest controls.

Take Chemicals to Household Hazardous Waste Collections - Your home contains many hazardous wastes including batteries, cleaning solutions, pool chemicals and more. These items can cause water pollution when disposed of improperly. Never pour household hazardous wastes down the drain or throw them in the garbage. Take them to household hazardous waste collection days. Try not to buy more of a household chemical than you will use before the expiration.

Clean-up Pet Waste - Dispose of pet wastes in the toilet or garbage. These wastes contain nutrients and pathogens that can contaminate our waterways.

Don't Dump in Storm Drains - Storm drains often drain directly into a creek or river without any treatment. Anything poured down these drains directly into part of these waterways.

Maintain Your Septic System - Leaking or improperly functioning septic systems can cause water pollution. Having septic systems inspected or pumped every 3 to 5 years can help prevent water pollution. This routine maintenance can also improve the function of your septic system.

LICKING COUNTY NPDES PHASE II COMMUNITIES

In Cooperation with the Licking County
Soil & Water Conservation District

Village of Buckeye Lake

Etna Township

Village of Granville

Village of Hebron

Granville Township

Licking Township

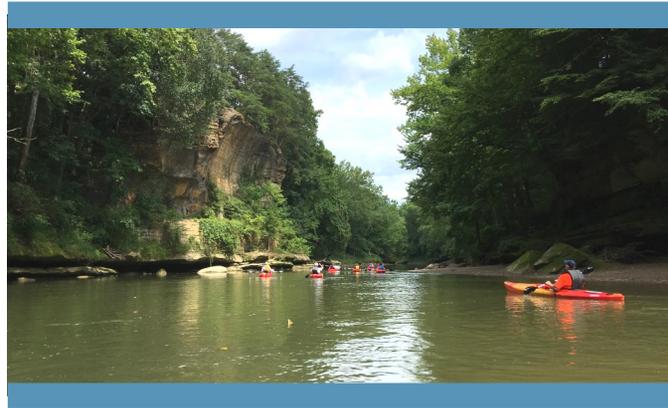
Madison Township

Harrison Township

Newton Township

Village of Hanover

Union Township



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All Licking County SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, familial status political beliefs or handicap.

I LIVE IN A WATERSHED?

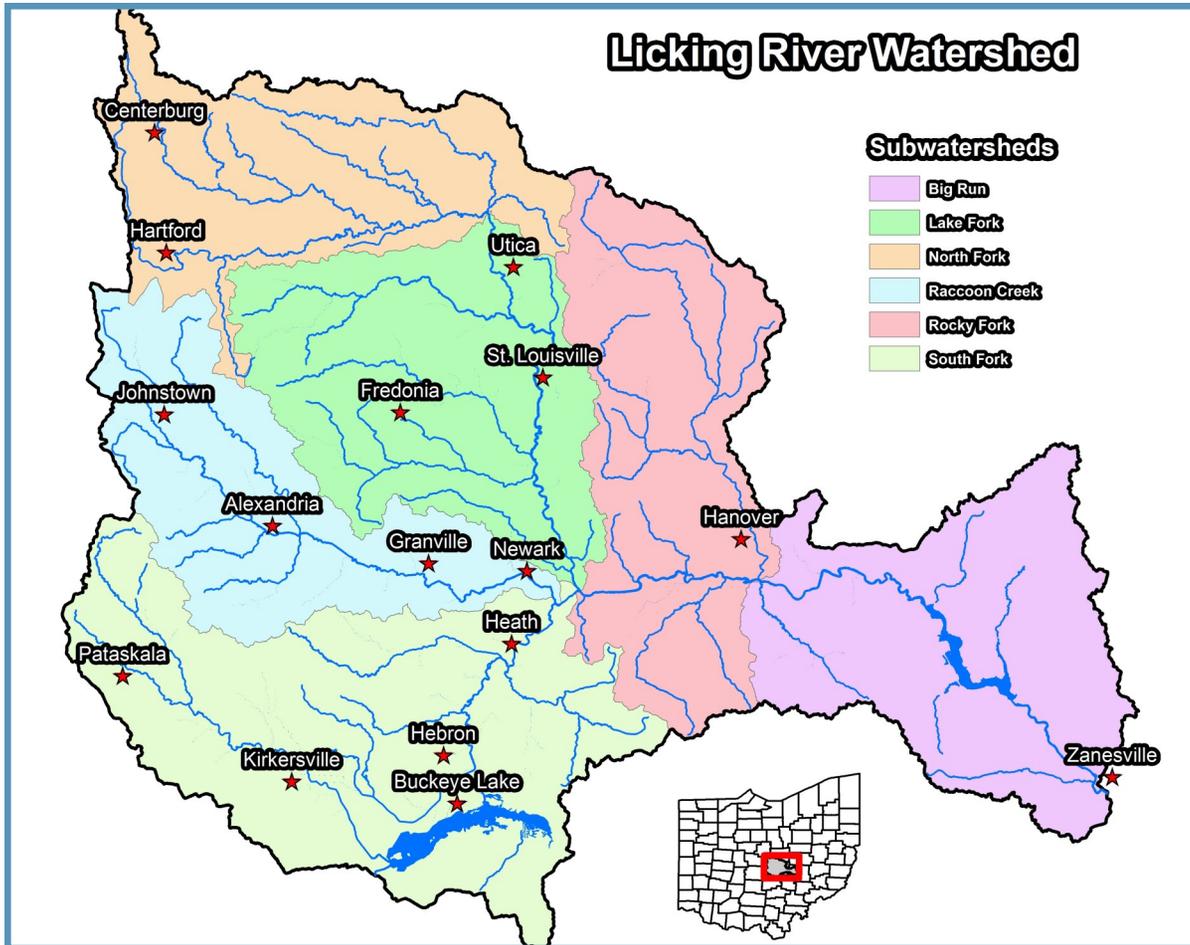
A Citizen's Guide to Clean Water



A WATERSHED IS....

an area of land that drains to a stream, river or lake. During rainfall events, some rainwater soaks into the ground. The rest of the rainwater runs along the surface of the ground, running from higher slopes and then collects in the lowest points, forming rivers, streams and lakes. The water that runs along the surface of the ground is called runoff. As the runoff travels over the ground's surface, sediment, litter, chemicals, and other pollutants are carried into our waterways.

Each watershed is unique, and has a mix of natural and human-made features and can vary in size. They can encompass a few acres around a small country stream, or all of the states surrounding a large river. Smaller watersheds are part of larger watersheds. The Licking River watershed is part of the Muskingum River watershed, which is part of the Ohio River watershed.



WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT WATERSHEDS?

Everyone lives in a watershed and everyone's actions impact our water quality every day.

Watersheds provide water for household consumption, industry, agriculture, and recreation. Many animals make their home in water and other wildlife use our rivers, streams and lakes as their source for drinking water.



TYPES OF POLLUTION

Most people think water pollution comes from a factory dumping directly into the water, a farm, or a chemical spill. One of the major problems facing our waterways is Non-Point Source Pollution. This type of pollution comes from a variety of sources over a wide area and are carried into our waterways by runoff. Non-Point Source Pollutants include :

- Sediment
- Fertilizer
- Motor Oil
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Pet & Animal Waste
- Litter
- Road Salt