



Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership, Inc.



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Quarterly Newsletter

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DOCP Website

The Duck and Otter Creeks Website has recently been updated and you can now find more information relating to our organization as well as information on past and current projects and reports. Some information that can now be found on our website are:

- Membership application form
- Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments
- Sediment Characterization Study
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Updates on all of our projects
- Meetings and Agendas to our Board meetings
- Local Events
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Contact Information

I encourage everyone to look around our new and improved website!

Rain Garden Initiative

In the summer of 2006, citizens in Toledo and Lucas County sustained heavy flooding from a series of rainstorms. The excess rainfall, coupled with the high percentage of impervious surfaces including parking lots and rooftops, exceeded the capacity of many of the ditches and storm sewers in the urbanized area. In response, Representative Marcy Kaptur and the Western Lake Erie Basin Council prompted local officials and agencies to pursue innovative methods to reduce stormwater runoff. The Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo-Lucas County is a diverse group of agencies, organizations, and individuals which seeks to promote the use of rain gardens as a tool for stormwater management. This is achieved through outreach and education, demonstration, advocacy, and serving as a technical resource.

The Initiative has held several workshops and public outreach events over the past few years, including those designed for homeowners, engineers, service organizations, and blockwatch groups. To learn more about the organization, or to find out what events they will be attending in the near future, please visit their website at www.raingardeninitiative.org

- Jeff Grabarkiewicz, RGI Chair

Storm Drain Stenciling

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water, litter, and debris once it goes down the storm drain? It goes straight to our lakes, rivers, and streams. The same areas that we like to fish and swim! Help us in our effort to improve our water quality and keep pollution out, by becoming a volunteer to mark the storm drains in the watershed. If you are interested in getting outside, having a good time, and doing something good for our environment then call our office at 419-530-8366 or send an e-mail to dopartnership@yahoo.com



Risk Assessments

In 2007, Partners for Clean Streams (PCS) received a grant from the Joyce Foundation. PCS partnered with the Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership and part of the grant monies was used to complete Phase II of our Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment. The overall purpose of the study was to determine whether sediment contaminants pose a significant risk to human health or the environment, and if so, to identify specific chemicals contributing to toxicity and define the spatial extent (where risks are located) of risks (to human and ecological receptors). The two reports have been finalized and can be viewed on our website at www.dopartnership.org.

*If you do not have high speed internet, please call the office to see a copy of the reports.

Calendar

The Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership holds board meetings every other month on the third Thursday at 2:00 p.m.. Below are the next meeting dates. Please call ahead, or go to our website, to verify location:
May 21st July 16th Sept. 17th Nov. 19th

*Please send an e-mail to dopartnership@yahoo.com if you would like to receive future meeting agendas, meeting minutes and other Partnership updates.



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The Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership promotes human and ecological health through education, protection and restoration of these watersheds with diverse collaborative efforts dedicated to building community stewardship

Great Lakes Legacy Act

Contaminated sediment is a big problem not only in the Duck and Otter Creeks watershed, but across all of the Great Lakes. To help address this problem, The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002 (GLLA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on November 27th, 2002. The Act authorized \$270 million in funding over 5 years beginning in fiscal year 2004 to help with the remediation of contaminated sediment in "Areas of Concern located wholly or partially in the United States", including specific funding designated for public outreach and research components. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) was designated to administer the funds available through the Act. The Act has since been reauthorized until 2010.

Duck and Otter Creeks, located in an Area of Concern, would be a possible GLLA candidate. Recently, the industrial members of the Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership have formed a subgroup and collectively sent a letter of interest to the USEPA stating "We are interested in continuing to work cooperatively to build on this work and support efforts to assess potential stressors to ecological health within the creeks including those associated with current sediment conditions." The Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership is very excited about this development and will keep you updated as to the progress in future newsletters.

Watershed 101

What is a Watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains to the same waterbody. Watersheds can be as small as the area around a puddle, or as large as the watershed for the entire Maumee River, from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Maumee Bay. Watersheds include the open land, buildings, and parking lots.

Do I live in a watershed? YES!! Everyone lives in a watershed. No matter how far away you live from a waterbody, you have an effect on the water quality in your area.

What can I do to help with water quality? Everything that goes into a roadside ditch or down a roadside drain will eventually end up in a lake, river, or stream, potentially polluting our waterway. Here are a few simple things you can do to help improve our water quality.

- Keep all litter and leaf debris out of the roads and ditches
- Pick up after your pet
- Sweep fertilizer back onto your lawn
- Dispose of Household hazardous wastes appropriately
- Wash your car on your lawn, instead of your driveway

Watershed Area for Duck and Otter Creeks

