



# Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership, Inc.



6200 Bayshore Rd.  
Oregon, OH 43618  
(419) 530-8366

dopartnership@yahoo.com www.dopartnership.org

Quarterly Newsletter

January 2009

Volume 1 : Issue 1

## History of the Partnership

Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that was started in 2000 and is committed to the mission of promoting human and ecological health through education, protection and restoration of these watersheds with diverse collaborative efforts dedicated to building community stewardship. The main objective of the initiative that resulted in the formation of Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership was to bring together public, private, business, and government stakeholders in a voluntary partnership to understand and address the environmental issues affecting these watersheds. The premise of the Partnership was that a diverse organization could collaboratively identify the environmental condition of the watershed, and as needed, work together to arrive at solutions for mitigating environmental impacts – all being accomplished with an accelerated timeline and reduced cost compared to traditional remedial actions.

Our organization depends on member dues to cover operational costs and as local match for grants that result in restoration and improvement of habitat and water quality. Some of the projects and grants received to date are:

- 2001: Received 6-year grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to help support our Executive Director position
- 2003: Wetland Identification and Restoration Plan
- 2003: Annual stream bank cleanup program implemented
- 2005: Current Partnership staff serves on the City of Toledo Supplemental Environmental Project Committee to restore priority wetlands at the headwaters of Duck Creek
- 2005: Annual Storm Drain Stenciling educational program implemented
- 2006: Watershed Management Plan - received conditional full endorsement
- 2006: Commenced work on a \$50,000 grant-funded habitat enhancement project on Duck Creek
- 2007: Implemented \$200,000 sediment characterization project funded by US EPA GLNPO
- 2007: Initiated project to complete Phase II of the Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessments from money received from the Joyce foundation as part of a grant submitted by Partners for Clean Streams.

## Clean Your Streams

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Clean Your Streams event, coordinated by Partners for Clean Streams (PCS), took place on September 13<sup>th</sup> in and around Duck and Otter Creeks.

Despite the rain, a record number of people (768) came out for the event throughout the Toledo area! There were 69 volunteers that helped clean seven sites on the Otter creek. Over the whole Toledo area 50 sites were cleaned, which totaled 28 miles of stream bank. 200 tires were removed, 50 of which came from Otter Creek.

Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership want to thank PCS and all volunteers that helped during this event and are truly making a difference towards the improvement of these two creeks.



## Risk Assessments

In 2007, Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership participated in a grant application, which was submitted by PCS to the Joyce Foundation, to complete Phase II of our Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessments. 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 field work has been completed and the final draft of the reports should be available for distribution the beginning of next year. Please contact our office if you would like a copy of these 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:

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> (located at Toledo-Lucas Library:Oregon Branch)

March 19<sup>th</sup> May 21<sup>st</sup> July 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>



Duck and Otter Creeks  
Partnership, Inc.  
6200 Bayshore Rd.,  
Oregon, OH 43618  
(419) 530-8366  
dopartnership@yahoo.com

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

## Toledo Lutheran Home

In 2006, the Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership received a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a wetland enhancement management project. Through this grant, DOCP installed native wildflowers and grasses on Toledo Lutheran Home property bordering a 150-acre urban wetland near the headwaters of Duck Creek. These native plants replaced approximately two acres of lawn and will provide upland buffer areas to reduce the volume of and filter stormwater runoff and associated pollutants, increase and diversify wildlife habitat, increase groundwater recharge and result in improved water quality in Duck Creek. Gardens of native flowers have been designed to attract butterflies, songbirds, and humming birds and there will be a demonstration garden, a flower cutting garden, a grass prairie and a rain garden.



Next spring a pervious concrete path will be installed as well as educational signs, benches and bird nesting boxes. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy this beautiful native area.

We would like to thank the Toledo Zoo ZOOTEENS as well as all the volunteers who have helped make this project possible.

## Rain Gardens...Our answers to your questions

**What is a rain garden?** A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden that captures and absorbs storm water.

**Why should I install a rain garden?** A properly installed rain garden can capture 90% of the rain coming off your rooftop and driveway, and in turn will remove 65-90% of the sediments, nutrients and heavy metals in the water. This means less pollution entering Duck and Otter Creeks!

**Where should I install a rain garden?** Look for a low-lying area where water naturally pools after a rainfall. Make sure it is at least 10 feet from your home and do not place it over your septic system or other utilities.

**What should I plant in my rain garden?** Native plants are your best choice. Native plants are used to our climate and typically have longer roots, which help absorb the water.

**Will a rain garden attract mosquitoes?** NO! Mosquitoes need standing water for 7 to 12 days to hatch. Rain gardens, when functioning properly, should have standing water for only a couple of hours.

**How do I find out more?** Go to our website at [www.dopartnership.org](http://www.dopartnership.org) to find great links on how to construct a rain garden and a list of native plants that thrive in this type of environment.

