



Watershed Planning in Blackberry Creek

We Save Land. We Save Rivers.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

- The official regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.
- The delegated authority for the region's areawide water quality management plan.
- Provides technical assistance to local governments and non-profits working to develop and implement watershed-based plans.
- Published the *Guide for Developing Watershed Action Plans in Illinois*, a resource for locally-led watershed planning initiatives.



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

604(b) of the Clean Water Act by way of a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Bureau of Water, to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).



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The Conservation Foundation

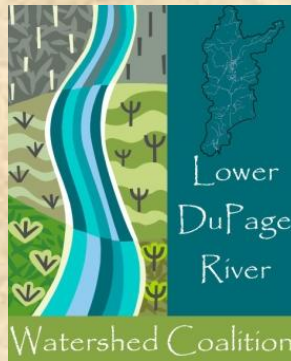
- Not-for-profit land and watershed protection organization.
- Active in northeastern Illinois since 1972.
- TCF's Mission: To preserve natural areas and open space;
To protect rivers and watersheds;
To promote sustainable development and design;
And to promote stewardship of our environment



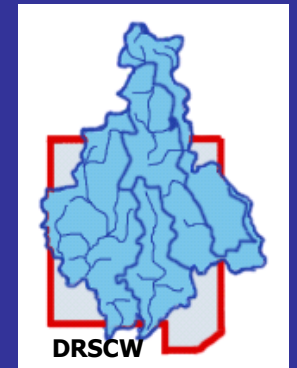
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TCF and Watershed Planning

Blackberry Creek
Aux Sable Creek
Big Rock Creek
Tyler Creek
DuPage River
Salt Creek



*Blackberry Creek Watershed
Alternative Futures Analysis*



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Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

- A not-for-profit, created in 1996, “FREP” is comprised of Fox River Watershed stakeholders.
- One of 41 partnerships of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ Partners for Conservation Program
- Vision is to help balance the uses and demands on natural resources while preserving and enhancing a healthy environment.



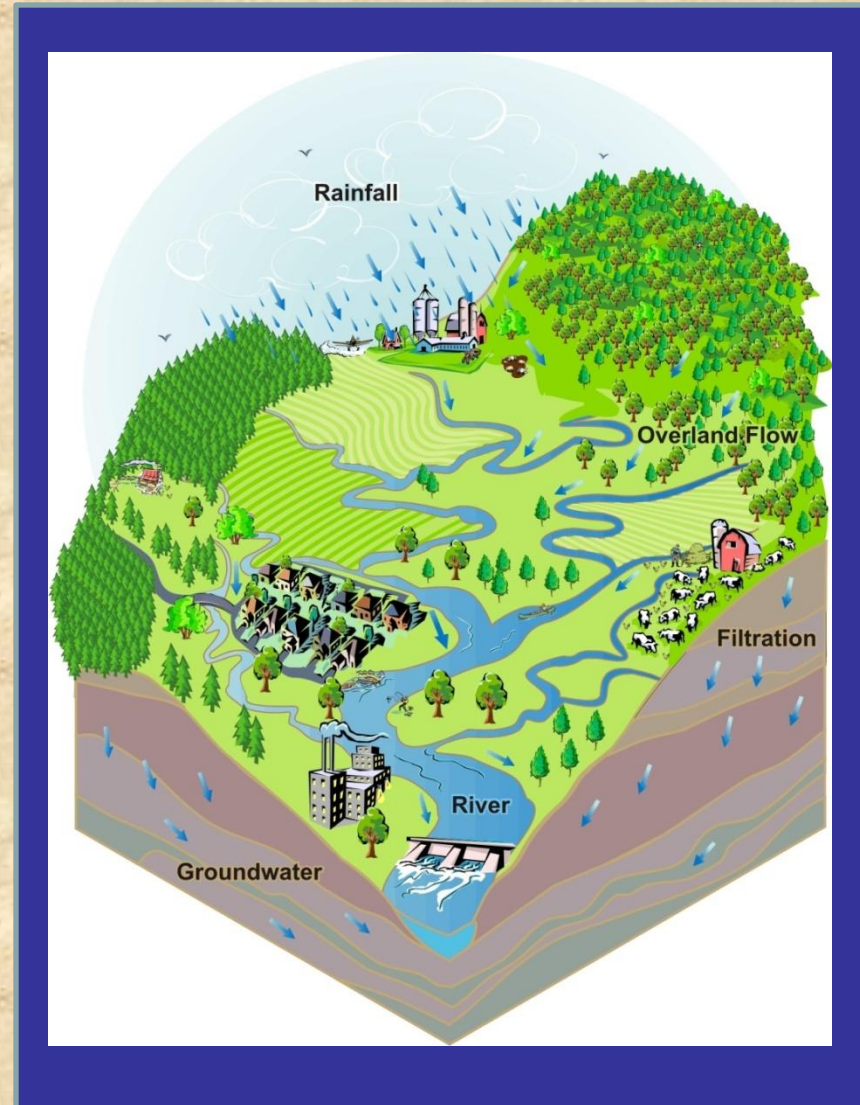
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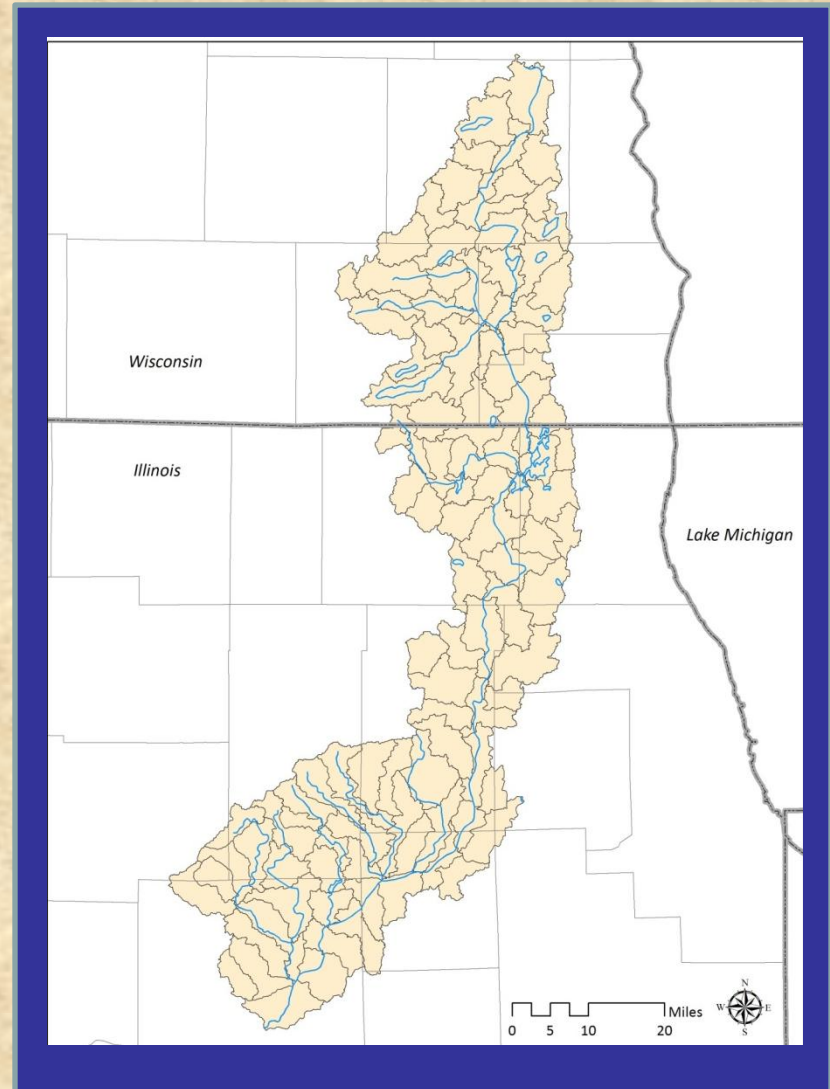
What is a watershed?

- The area of land that catches rain and snow and drains into a stream, river, lake or groundwater.
- How land is used in a watershed effects water quality.
- The watershed has become the planning and management unit of choice for many water resource issues.



What is a watershed?

It's a matter
of scale...

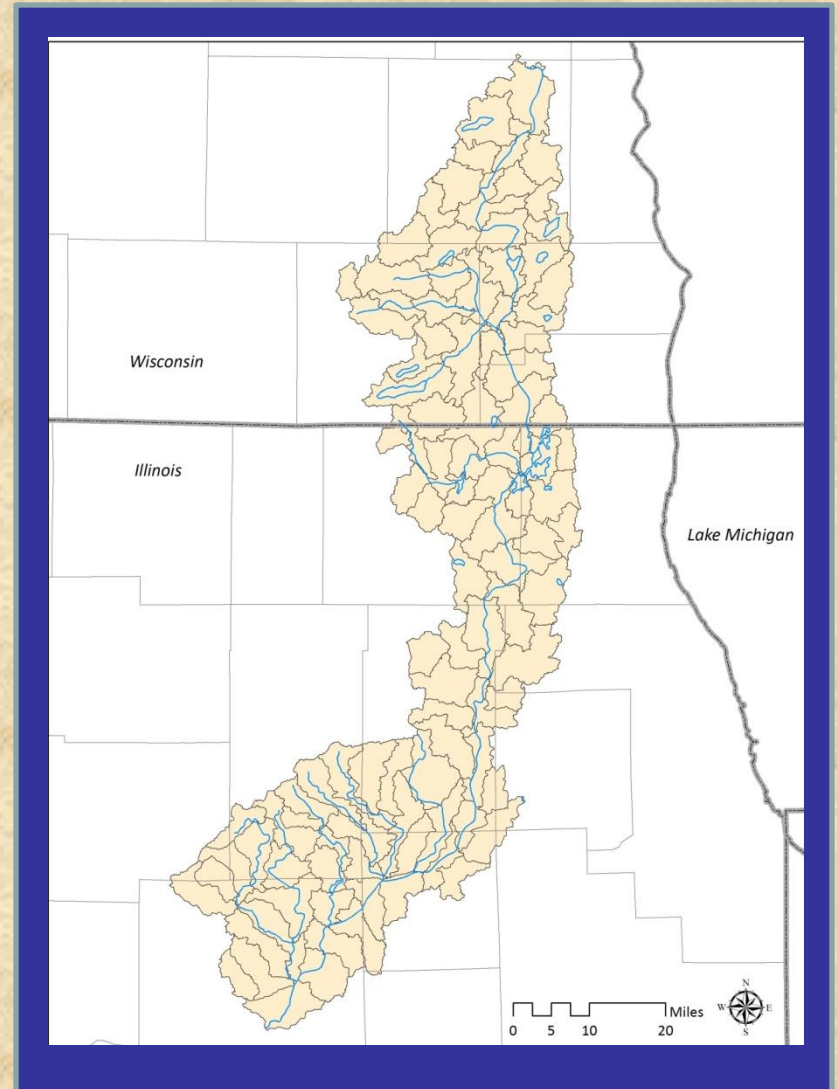


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The Fox River Basin *Facts*

- Third-largest tributary to the Illinois River
- 185 miles from Waukesha, WI – Ottawa, IL
- 2,658 sq. miles (1,720 in IL)
- 2,300 river & tributary streams (IL)
- Parts of 11 IL counties; 11% of Illinois' population.



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The Fox River Basin *Inventory*

- Abundant recreational opportunities and high quality natural resources attracts population growth.
- Four segments and 14 glacial lakes, “biologically significant.”
- 150 state-threatened and endangered species found within watershed.



The Fox River Basin *Impairments*

- Impact from urban development and agriculture.
- Nonnative vegetation has led to streambank erosion.
- 14 of the 17 segments in nonsupport for aquatic life.
- All segments in nonsupport for fish consumption.
- Seven of ten assessed segments in nonsupport for primary contact.
- One of two segments used for public water supply is in nonsupport.



ILLINOIS INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY REPORT
AND SECTION 303(d) LIST - 2010

Clean Water Act Sections 303(d), 305(b) and 314

Water Resource Assessment Information
and Listing of Impaired Waters

Volume I: Surface Water

April 2010

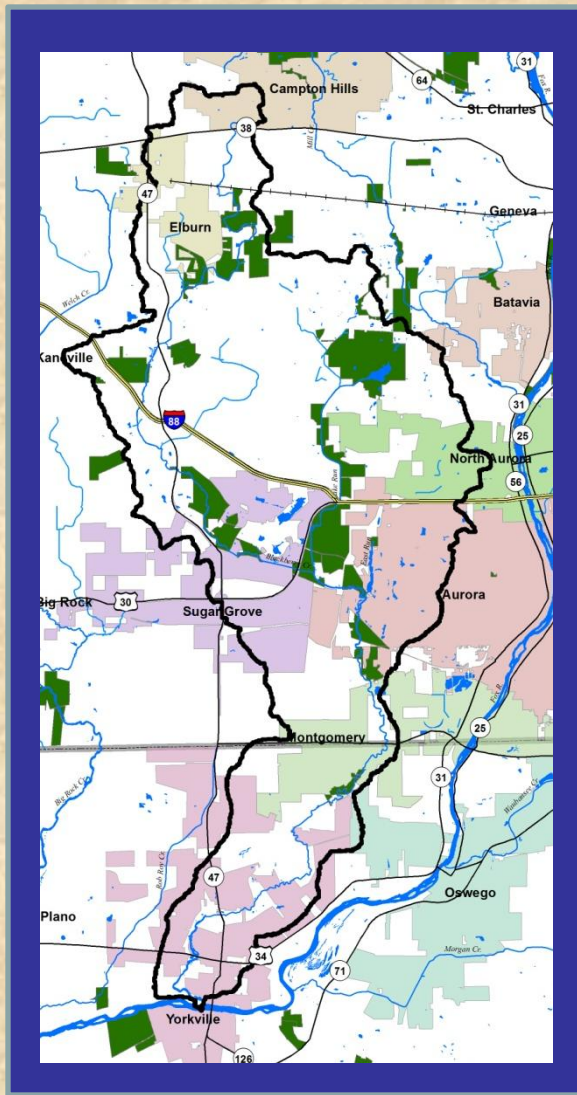
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Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water

Blackberry Creek Watershed

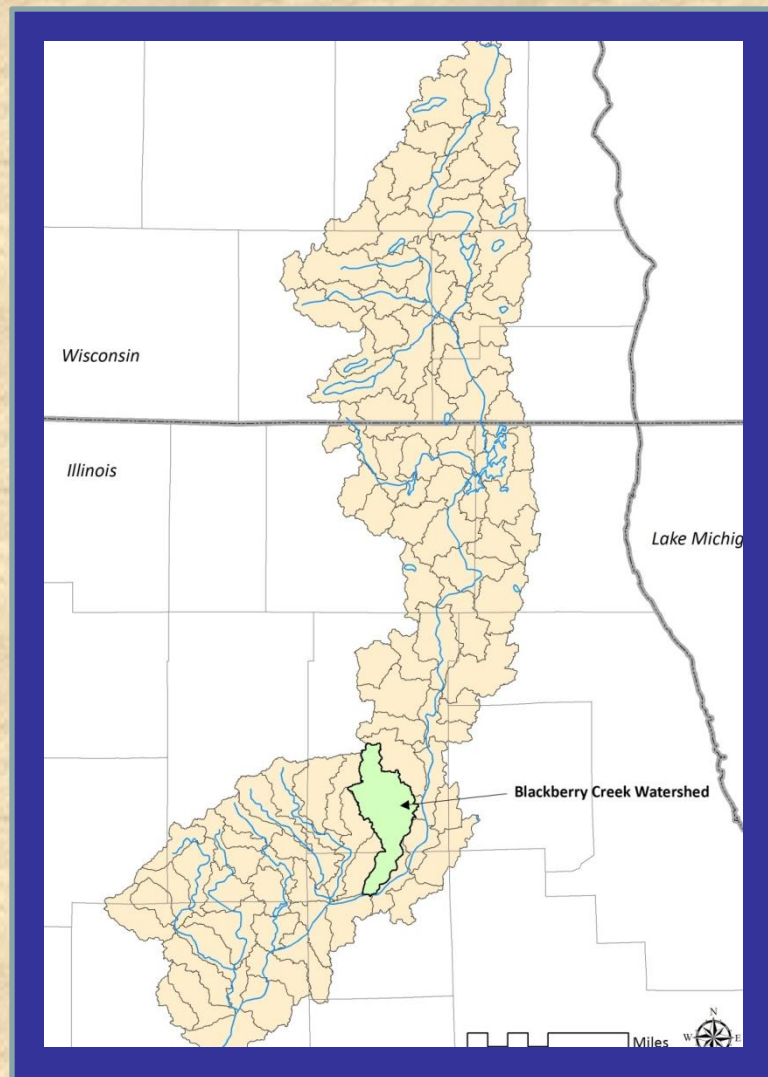


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Blackberry Creek Watershed *Facts*

- 32 miles
- 73 sq. miles
- Kane & Kendall
- Aurora, Elburn, Montgomery, North Aurora, Sugar Grove, and Yorkville
- 25,374 population
- 56% agricultural



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Blackberry Creek Watershed *Conditions*



- Full support for aquatic life designated use.
- Nonsupport for primary contact.
 - Fecal coliform
 - Source unknown
- Flooding.
- Quality of Lower Fox River Basin gives context for Ferson-Otter Watershed.

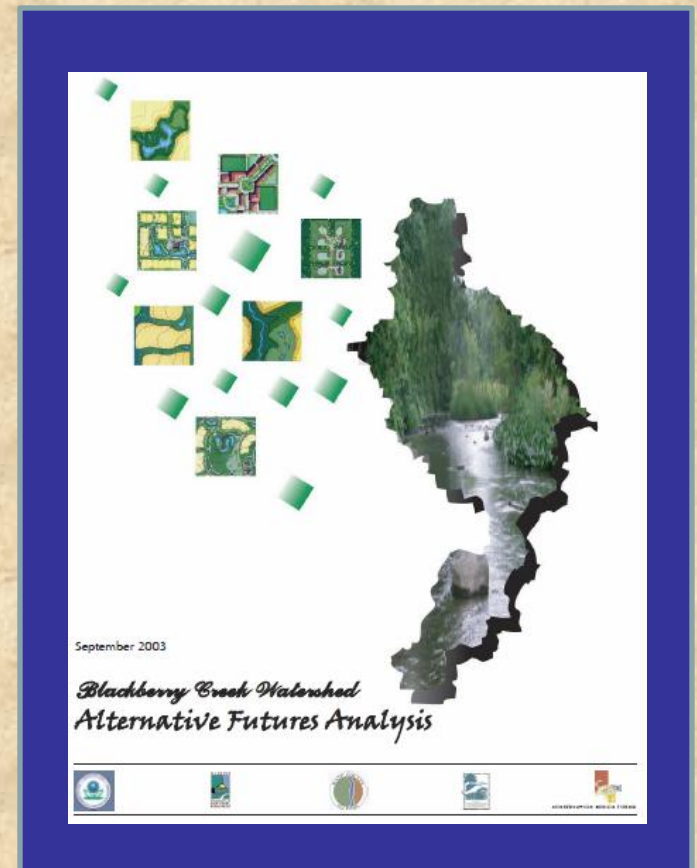
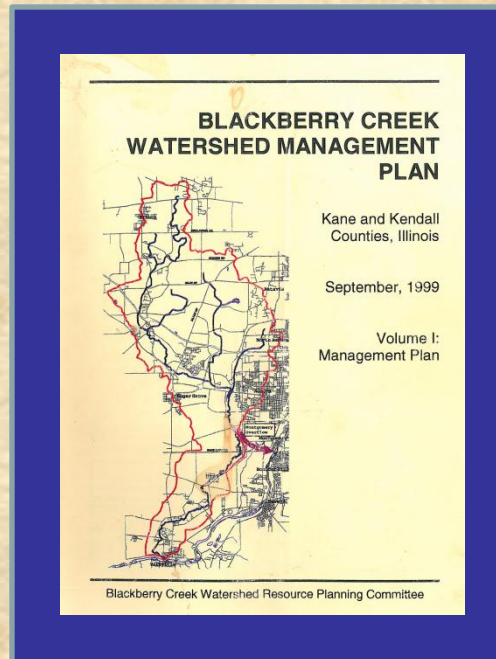


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The Blackberry Creek Watershed *Previous Plans*

The Blackberry Creek Watershed Management Plan - 1999

The Blackberry Creek Watershed
Alternative Futures Analysis - 2003



Why do watershed planning?

- To protect and improve the health of the watershed.
- To address problems that go beyond political and geographical boundaries – problems that are often too costly and complex for just one.
- To facilitate partnerships to solve problems.
- To outline management activities to improve water quality.



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Issues of concern



Issues of concern



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Issues of concern



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Issues of concern



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CMAP

Issues of concern



Established 1977



CMAP

Issues of concern



How do we do watershed planning?

- Stakeholder Involvement
 - Local buy-in increases the probability of long-term success through trust, commitment and personal investment.
- Identify the issues
 - Problems: poor water quality
 - Pollutants: nutrients, metals, chlorides
 - Stressors: dissolved oxygen, lack of habitat



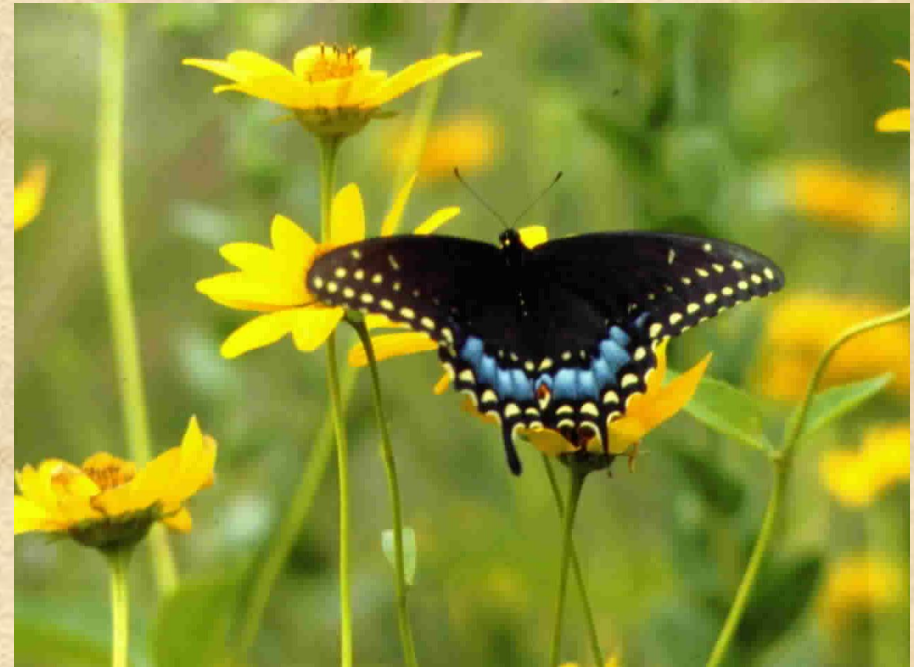
Develop Goals and Objectives

- Driven by problems.
- Need to be measurable or quantifiable.
- Explain how each goal will be accomplished, identify who is responsible, and provide a timeline.
- Goals and objectives are prioritized.



What does a watershed plan include?

- Written document, website
 - Overview of current conditions
 - Potential sources of impairment or problems
 - Goals and strategies on how to solve the problems
 - Timeline for completion, estimation of costs
- Dynamic – changes over time



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A watershed plan is **NOT**...

- a zoning map
- a land-use map
- a comprehensive plan
- a means to designate land uses
- a legally binding document
- a required part of local comprehensive plans



A watershed plan DOES...

- Focus on a waterway and its tributaries.
- Involve stakeholders in a cooperative partnership.
- Establish missions, goals, and objectives.
- Analyze watershed problems.
- Provide recommendations to help with point and nonpoint source pollution issues.



- Recommend voluntary methods to protect and enhance water quality
- Develop an action plan for restorative and preventative efforts.



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Nine Elements of Watershed Plans

- Identify and quantify causes and sources of impairments.
- Estimate expected load reductions following implementation.
- Identify BMP's needed to achieve load reductions and critical areas.
- Estimate needed financial and technical resources.
- Provide a public information/education component that is designed to change social behavior.
- Include a schedule for implementing BMPs
- Identify and describe interim measurable milestones.
- Establish criteria to determine if load reductions are being achieved.
- Provide a monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation over time for criteria in number 8.



Regional Criteria

1. Develop a vision for watershed land use by evaluating the collection of local comprehensive plans and estimating the cumulative impact on future water quality.
2. Set target pollutant-load reductions for impaired waters taking into account both point- and nonpoint sources.
3. Consider groundwater protection from both water quality and water quantity perspectives.
4. Compare municipal codes and ordinances against the US EPA developed Water Quality Scorecard.



Watershed Planning Philosophy

- A bottom up approach
- Create a useful plan with specific problems and solutions (so stakeholders can apply for grant money to implement projects).



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BBC Watershed Plan Timeline

Date	Meeting Agenda
September 2010	Introductions/ Project purpose
October 2010	Watershed Plan Goals and Objectives
November 2010	Watershed Vision
December 2010	Groundwater Protection
January 2011	Ordinance Review Exercise
February 2011	Open Space/ Green Infrastructure Framework
March 2011	Review of Plan Chapter 1/ Impairments/Ordinance Analyses
April 2011	Review of Watershed Inventory Chapter/ FORTRAN (HSPF) pollutant-load model/Load-reduction targets



BBC Watershed Plan Timeline

Date	Meeting Agenda
May 2011	Plan recommendations/ Project selection
June 2011	Plan recommendations/ Project selection
July 2011	Plan recommendations/Tech and financial assistance needs
August 2011	Public education components
September 2011	Monitoring and Assessment chapter
October 2011	Implementation schedule/ Measurable milestone and successes
November 2011	IEPA feedback/ Finalization of remaining issues
December 2011	Final draft plan approval/ Next steps



How can I be involved?

- Participate in the planning process by attending monthly stakeholder meetings.
- Provide input and information
 - Comprehensive Plans
 - Ordinances
 - Maps



To receive monthly meeting announcements, or for any questions, please contact Tara Neff: 630-428-4500 x 23;
tneff@theconservationfoundation.org.



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