Clean Your Streams

Description:
Clean Your Streams is an annual event that brings together community groups, businesses, organizations and individuals in the Lower Maumee River watershed (northwest Ohio) to clean stream banks and adjacent floodplains. Cleanup sites are selected along Maumee River, Swan Creek, Ottawa River, Shantee Creek, Duck Creek, and Otter Creek. Clean Your Streams is a cleanup effort aimed at raising community awareness on water pollution. Clean Your Streams is coordinated by Partners for Clean Streams a local environmental non-profit organization and many community partners.

Background:
The Maumee Watershed Clean Your Streams Day began in 1997 as part of Ohio’s Coastweeks Celebration. All Coastweeks events are held in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup by the Ocean Conservancy. Data compiled from this event is sent to The Ocean Conservancy for publication in National and Coastal Cleanup Results books. A local non-profit organization, Partners for Clean Streams, and many of its community partners coordinate Clean Your Streams. The City of Toledo plays a key role as one of the organizing partners and event supporters.

The day begins before 8 am at eight kick-off locations where volunteers are placed on teams. Volunteers remove litter and attempt to record what they found on data cards. After a few hours of picking up trash, volunteers from all sites gather at a local park where they are treated to a free hot lunch and Clean Your Streams t-shirt.

Results:
Over 56 tons of trash has been collected from local stream banks. Over the years the Clean Your Streams event has grown in the number of sites cleaned, volunteers and participating groups. In 2008 a record 768 volunteers were recorded, which was 150 more than those who participated in previous years. Volunteers cleaned 51 sites, including a boat crew, along Swan Creek. Interesting items such as a compass, gas can, necklace, seat from a car, Lego man, computer, respirator, baby bottle, golf club, dog kennel, pillow, lampshade, 18" concrete pony, hospital mask, brief case, bowling ball, old school desk, and Big Wheel tricycle were found and hauled away for proper disposal.
Contact:
To learn more about Clean Your Streams visit the Partners for Clean Streams website:
www.PartnersForCleanStreams.org

Marilyn DuFour
City of Toledo, Division of Environmental Services
348 S. Erie St.
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone: (419) 936-3015
Marilyn.dufour@toledo.ohio.gov

Cherie A. Blair
Ohio EPA, Maumee RAP Coordinator
347 North Dunbridge Road
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
Phone: (419) 352-8461
cherie.blair@epa.state.oh.us