

All of the land that drains into a river, lake or stream is called its *watershed*

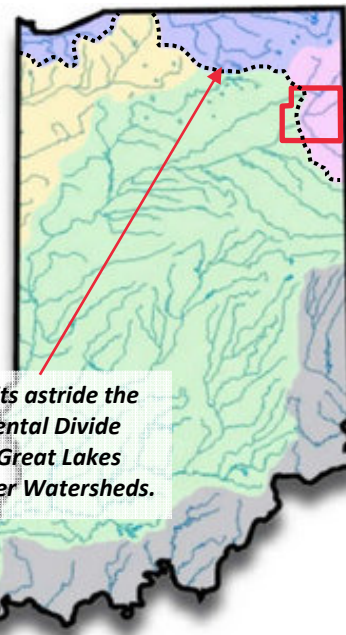
The **Maumee River** is the largest of the Great Lakes watersheds draining a land mass of over 4 million acres. From Fort Wayne, IN it travels in an unusual Northeasterly direction until it reaches Toledo, OH where it empties into Lake Erie at Maumee Bay.

Lake Erie is the smallest volume of water in the Great Lakes (5%) but contains the largest amount of biodiversity (70%).

The **Great Lakes** comprise one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water.

Indiana Watersheds

- Lake Michigan
- Illinois River
- Maumee River
- Wabash River
- Ohio River



Allen County sits astride the Eastern Sub-continental Divide that separates the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Watersheds.

OTHER ALLEN COUNTY WATERSHEDS

- Little (Wabash) River/Wabash
- Eel River/Wabash
- Flat Rock Creek/Maumee
- Saint Joseph/Maumee
- Saint Mary's/Maumee

5 WAYS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

- 1) Don't litter or dump anything down storm drains
- 2) Read and follow directions on any lawn care products
- 3) Never apply chemicals in or under the threat of wet weather
- 4) Cover or seed any bare ground
- 5) Use local recycling programs

DON'T MISUSE STORM DRAINS

Remember that storm drains are not trash cans. Household hazardous waste (HHW) such as motor oil, antifreeze and cleaning agents should be disposed of properly at a collection facility.



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Please, Don't Feed the



STORM DRAIN!

A Reference Guide



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STORMWATER

EVERY TIME IT RAINS, the water that is not absorbed by the ground runs off rooftops, lawns, driveways, and streets. When water falls on our lawns and roads picks up contaminants like oil and anti-freeze, fertilizers and pesticides, litter and pet waste. As it goes down the storm drain, this stormwater is taken directly to the nearest body of water.

The water going into storm drains is not treated before it empties into the rivers.

EVERY PROPERTY WITH PAVEMENT PRODUCES A HIGHER VOLUME OF STORMWATER RUNOFF.

YOUR RUNOFF, ALTHOUGH SMALL, JOINS WITH RUNOFF FROM OTHER PROPERTIES AND MAY CAUSE FLOODING FURTHER DOWNSTREAM.

PROPERLY FUNCTIONING STORM SEWERS HELP TO REDUCE NEIGHBORHOOD FLOODING.

WAYS TO "GREEN" YOUR WATER

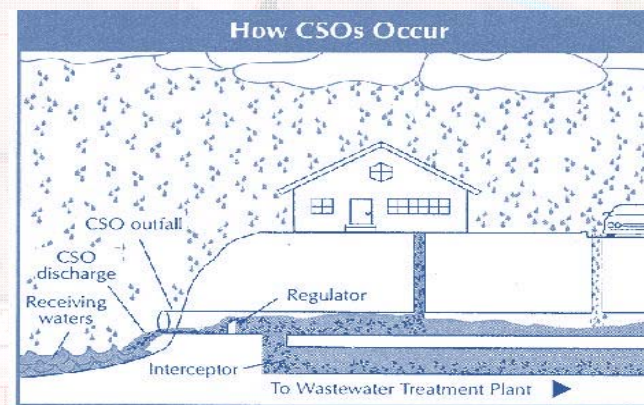
- Plant a Rain Garden or use native plants
- Disconnect your downspouts
- Use rain barrels
- Minimize non-porous surfaces
- Protect natural buffers around waterways
- Protect wetlands



COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS (CSO)

IN THE PAST, MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEMS WERE DESIGNED TO ACCEPT AND TREAT BOTH SANITARY AND STORM WATERS TOGETHER. THESE ARE REFERRED TO AS "COMBINED SEWER SYSTEMS" OR "CSO."

THIS WAS DONE TO PREVENT SEWAGE BACKUP INTO THE RESIDENCES AND BUSINESSES CONNECTED TO THE SYSTEM. THE ATTITUDE OF THE TIME WAS "THE SOLUTION TO POLLUTION IS DILUTION."



IN NORMAL WEATHER, ALL OF THE WATERS WOULD BE TREATED AND RELEASED THROUGH THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT. THESE CSO SYSTEMS ALSO HAVE AN EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SYSTEM THAT DIVERTED THAT FLOW DIRECTLY INTO THE RIVERS.

SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE 1972 "CLEAN WATER ACT," COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED TO CLEAN UP THE RIVERS.

THIS CHALLENGE IS BEING MET BY EITHER ELIMINATING THE COMBINED SEWER SYSTEMS ALTOGETHER OR INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF TREATMENT SO AS TO GREATLY REDUCE THEIR FREQUENCY, OR "EVENTS."

THE DESIRE TO MITIGATE AND/OR REPLACE THESE SYSTEMS IS EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE AND RESULTS IN DELAYED PROJECTS DUE TO BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS.

Become a part of the Storm Drain Marking Program.

By affixing a special "No Dumping, Drains to River" emblem on storm sewers, people become aware that what flows down these drains is not treated before reaching the river.

The ACPWQ will forward your Information to the appropriate Storm Drain Marking Coordinator. That coordinator will provide the materials and instruction necessary to help you mark these drains in your community.

Please, call today.