



## CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS, INC. 2004 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Growing membership.** We welcomed **Geauga County** and **Mentor** in 2004 and now have 33 members, representing 90% of the watershed. We began two new categories of membership – **Supporting** and **Sponsoring Members**. This enables private and public organizations to support the work of CRWP and to be recognized by CRWP member local governments. We have 15 Supporting and Sponsoring Members.

**Funding for member projects.** We worked with the **Cleveland Metroparks** and the **Gates Mills Land Conservancy** for successful Clean Ohio Funding for **\$495,000** for preservation in the Beecher's Brook watershed. We also partnered with the **Chagrin River Land Conservancy** and **Hunting Valley** for **\$950,000** for preservation along the Chagrin River Main Stem. We assisted **Solon** in the award of **\$30,000** from the Great Lakes Commission's Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control for stream restoration along Boulder Creek. These 2004 funding successes represent **\$1,475,000** for member projects. We have also partnered with the Chagrin River Land Conservancy on a **\$500,000** application to Ohio EPA's 319 Program for land preservation with interested member communities.

### **Benefits of CRWP Membership**

- *Cost saving solutions to flooding, erosion, and water quality problems.*
- *Funding for open space, storm water management, and community projects.*
- *Access to CRWP professional staff.*

**Implementation of model regulations.** We continued our partnership with the Geauga County Planning Commission and the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to assist townships implementing riparian setbacks, erosion and sediment control, and storm water management. **Auburn** and **Russell** adopted erosion and sediment control and storm water management, and **Munson** and **Auburn** are considering riparian setbacks. **Willoughby**, **Willoughby Hills**, and **Wickliffe** adopted erosion and sediment control. We also worked with Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Lake SWCDs to develop a **Phase II Compliant Storm Water Management Ordinance**, under consideration by several communities.

*We received our largest grants to date in 2004. Working with Congressman Steven LaTourette and Senator Mike DeWine, CRWP was included in the **National Decentralized Demonstration Project** for **\$750,000** over three years. With this award, we will work with interested members to advance Low Impact Development in the Chagrin watershed through demonstration projects, model codes, and trainings.*

*We were also awarded **\$192,000** over six years from ODNR and Ohio EPA through the Watershed Coordinator Program. With this funding we will hire staff and implement an endorsed **Chagrin River Watershed Action Plan**. This Plan is necessary to ensure Chagrin communities and stakeholders are able to access federal and state funds for land preservation and storm water management.*

**Member technical support.** We worked with members and landowners on a variety of watershed management issues, such as assisting:

- **Aurora, Bainbridge, Hunting Valley, and Kirtland** with **implementation** of their riparian and wetland setback regulations.
- **Aurora, Chagrin Falls, Chester, Eastlake, Kirtland, Munson, Pepper Pike, Russell, and Solon** with **direct assistance to residents** experiencing significant and on-going erosion and flooding problems.
- **Lake County Coastal Plan Committee** with projects along the Lake Erie coast including potential solutions to sediment problems at the Chagrin's mouth in **Eastlake**.

**Phase II member assistance.** In addition to helping members with adoption and implementation of model regulations, we helped members meet their Phase II commitments through a variety of services and products, including:

- Developing a **Phase II Annual Report Template** and assisting members in preparation of their annual permit reports to Ohio EPA.

- Assisting members with their responses to **Ohio EPA Reviews** of their Storm Water Management Programs.
- Partnering with the Geauga County General Health District and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to provide **workshops on storm water management and home sewage disposal systems**. Participating communities included **Bainbridge, Bentleyville, Chagrin Falls, Chester, Gates Mills, Hunting Valley, Mayfield Village, Moreland Hills, Pepper Pike, Orange, Russell,** and **South Russell**.
- Partnering with the Lake SWCD and CT Consultants to provide **training to Mentor and Wickliffe** staff on erosion and sediment control best management practices.
- **Printing** the USEPA brochure **After the Storm** for members at a reduced price.
- **Producing** the **Recipes for a Healthy Chagrin River Watershed** with distribution of 200 free copies to each interested Phase II designated member.

**Representing member interests:** In 2004 we continued to advocate for member concerns at the state level. We worked with **Ohio EPA** to clarify issues related to **NPDES Phase II implementation** and are partnering with members and interested conservation organizations to ensure that the **Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is fully funded for Rounds 3 and 4.**

**Watershed projects.** Through these projects we gather information to support member land use decisions and implementation of model regulations.

- ***Impervious Cover Study – Storm Water at Build Out:*** Much is made about the impact of impervious cover on storm water quantity. Prior to our work, however, little was known about which land use tools – riparian setbacks, narrower roads, structural storm water controls, etc. – are best to manage these impacts in the Chagrin watershed. CRWP developed watershed impervious cover data and examined various build out and land use scenarios. We have this data specific to each member. Please contact us if you would like to see your community's **runoff future** and **examine which management practices will work best** for the long-term.
- ***Maintaining Wetland and Stream Function:*** We developed inventories of **25,000 linear feet of streams** and **26 acres of wetlands eligible for restoration or mitigation**. This will assist members in ensuring that the flood control, erosion control, and water quality protection services of these resources are not lost when land is developed. We held workshops on these tools for over 100 landowners, developers, engineers, and wetland consultants and continue to match these projects with mitigation needs throughout the watershed.

#### Watch for in 2005

- **Low Impact Development:** CRWP will demonstrate the effectiveness of bioretention and other low impact storm water management techniques, provide training, and develop design manuals. CRWP will work with landowners to implement better storm water management and assist members to address storm water on-going problems.
- **Chagrin River Watershed Action Plan:** CRWP will work with watershed stakeholders to finalize and implement this Plan.
- **Storm Water Management & Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:** Many Phase II communities have committed to adopting regulations for storm water management and illicit discharge detection and elimination in 2005. We are finalizing model regulations to meet these requirements.

#### For More Information Contact

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**Regular Members:** Auburn, Aurora, Bainbridge, Bentleyville, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Twp., Chester, Cleveland Metroparks, Eastlake, Gates Mills, Geauga County, Geauga Park District, Hunting Valley, Kirtland, Kirtland Hills, Lake County, Lake MetroParks, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Mentor, Moreland Hills, Munson, Newbury, Orange, Pepper Pike, Russell, Solon, South Russell, Waite Hill, Wickliffe, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, and Woodmere.

**Supporting and Sponsoring Members:** Chagrin River Land Conservancy, CW Courtney, CT Consultants, Inc., EMH&T, Inc., EnviroScience, Inc., FMSM Engineers, Inc., The Holden Arboretum, North Coast Fly Fishers, Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders, Ohio Stream Preservation, Inc., Greg Studen, TranSystems Corporation, URS Corporation, and Western Reserve Federation of Conservationists.

**Other 2004 Funders:** Cleveland Foundation, George Gund Foundation, Great Lakes Commission Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, Lake County Storm Water Management Department, Lake Erie Protection Fund, ODNR Office of Coastal Management and Division of Soil and Water Conservation, and Ohio EPA.