



CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS, INC. 2005 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Claridon Township Joins CRWP, Growing Membership to 90% of the Watershed: We welcomed **Claridon Township** and now have 34 members. Calfee, Halter, and Griswold LLP and BioHabitats also joined as Sponsoring Members, raising to 15 the number of organizations supporting CRWP.

\$400,000 Awarded for Land Preservation: We successfully partnered with the Chagrin River Land Conservancy on a **\$400,000** application to Ohio EPA for land preservation with interested member communities.

Members Defend Zoning: CRWP members joined together in 2005 to support an *amicus brief* in the pending Ohio Supreme Court case of *Jaylin Investment Inc. v. Village of Moreland Hills*. CRWP partnered with Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District to submit this brief that articulated the storm water management rationale for low-density development. The results of this case are pending.

Members Continue to Improve the Rules for Development: We worked with members across the watershed to adopt and implement **Comprehensive Storm Water Management, Erosion and Sediment Control, Conservation Development, and Riparian and Wetland Setbacks**. **Russell** adopted conservation development, and **Hunting Valley** and **Claridon** are considering such regulations. We supported these members by reviewing regulation drafts and addressing questions from their Planning Commissions, Trustees, and Councils. With our watershed Geographic Information System and work with communities across the region, we provided technical support necessary to address concerns about this non-traditional approach to development. We worked with **Orange** and **Wickliffe** on storm water management and erosion and sediment control. We assisted **Aurora, Auburn, Bainbridge, and Kirtland** with implementation of their existing riparian setbacks. We also prepared draft riparian setback maps and/or regulations for **Chagrin Falls Township, Mentor, and Orange** as they consider this regulation as part of Phase II compliance for 2006.

With overwhelming member support, we received \$200,000 from the Ohio Water Development Authority and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission to participate in the Balanced Growth Pilot Program. The Balanced Growth Program is Ohio's effort to better align state spending and incentives with local conservation and development priorities. Over the next 3 years CRWP will work with members to identify local priority development and conservation projects, effectively communicate these to state agencies such as the Departments of Transportation, Development, and Natural Resources, and facilitate funding for these projects. The goals of this effort are a member and state endorsed Balanced Growth Plan for the watershed, increased funding for members, and additional technical support for local zoning.

We also received \$61,520 from the Lake Erie Protection Fund to address member concerns about the implementation of riparian setbacks and comprehensive storm water management.

Development Projects Improve with CRWP Assistance: In 2005 we worked closely with members to enhance their review of development projects. Members asked for our assistance on these projects because they presented particular concerns such as potential downstream storm water impacts or difficult topography with significant streams and wetlands. Our assistance on the sites listed below included field evaluations to verify stream and wetland delineations, review of site plans in conjunction with the Geauga County Planning Commission to suggest alternative layouts to minimize resource impacts and storm water problems, meetings with developer consultants, and testimony before the Geauga County Planning Commission on variance requests.

- **Auburn:** Fireside, Hidden Lakes, LaDue Trails, and Moreland subdivisions.
- **Bainbridge:** Judson Retirement Community, Fine Alpaca and Fireside subdivisions, and The Shops at Marketplace.
- **Chagrin Falls Township:** Single family home development.
- **Mentor:** Newell Creek subdivision.
- **Munson:** Nottingham Woods and Falling Water subdivisions.
- **Newbury:** Proposed commercial development.
- **Kirtland:** Foxwood Farms, Stone Creek, and Courtney Lane subdivisions.
- **Russell:** Rivendell subdivision.
- **Willoughby:** Willoughby Crossing subdivision.

Members Comply with Phase II Using CRWP Presentations, Tools & Support: In addition to helping members adopt and implement regulations as part of their Phase II programs, we helped members meet their storm water management commitments by:

- Partnering with the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District and the Geauga County General Health District to **provide a series of four evening programs for residents across**

CRWP Helps Your Community...

- *Compete for state and federal funding.*
- *Review development proposals to minimize infrastructure costs.*
- *Comply with Ohio EPA Phase II storm water requirements.*
- *Implement regulations to control flooding and erosion problems.*
- *Address resident's flooding and erosion concerns.*

western Geauga County on septic systems, rain gardens, and other storm water topics.

- Hosting a **storm water case study** workshop for local officials, engineers, site designers, and other professional advisors. Seventy people attended this workshop.
- **Presenting the model comprehensive storm water management regulation** to engineers throughout the watershed including the staff of CT Consultants and the members of the Municipal Engineers Association of Northeast Ohio.
- Partnering with Lake County General Health District and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to develop an Ohio EPA approved model ordinance for **detection and elimination of illicit discharges**. Communities must adopt such a regulation as part of compliance with Phase II Minimum Control Measure #3 and many will be considering this model for 2006.

CRWP works with Members and Residents on Low Cost Solutions to Flooding & Erosion: As land use intensifies, residents face yard flooding and stream bank erosion that may threaten homes, driveways, and other property. While traditional solutions such as culvert widening and replacement, regional retention, and gabion baskets may be necessary in certain situations, they are costly and may transfer problems to other communities and landowners downstream. We worked with members such as **Auburn, Aurora, Bainbridge, Chagrin Falls Village, Cleveland Metroparks, Eastlake, Gates Mills, Hunting Valley, Munson, Newbury, Russell, Willoughby, and Willoughby Hills** and their residents on low cost, lot based solutions to these problems such as rain gardens, rain barrels, floodplain benches, and streamside plantings. We also partnered with the **Geauga SWCD** to construct a **rain garden demonstration site** at the Geauga County Fairgrounds.

Funding Members Restoration and Preservation Efforts: Under certain circumstances, developers must mitigate their impacts to streams and wetlands. We worked with community officials and interested residents in **Aurora, Bainbridge, Chester, Geauga County, Kirtland, Mentor, Munson, Newbury, South Russell, Wickliffe, Willoughby, and Willoughby Hills** to find sites in these communities where landowners – both local governments and residents – can fund their restoration and preservation efforts through payments from developers to address impacts elsewhere in the watershed.

Watershed projects: Through these projects we gathered information to support member land use decisions, implementation of model regulations, and improved grant applications. In 2005 we -

- **Provided stream management information to 113 headwater stream landowners and their community officials.**
- **Produced the report Updating Parking Requirements to Minimize Impervious Cover.**
- **Produced the report Alternative Sewage Treatment Systems & Conservation Design in Unsewered Areas.**
- **Revised The Chagrin River Watershed Action Plan for full endorsement.**
- **Updated the report Riparian Setbacks: Technical Information for Local Decision Makers.**

Watch for in 2006

- **Demonstration Projects for Storm Water Management:** A request for possible projects will go to members in early 2006. This is made possible through the \$750,000 grant CRWP received from USEPA.
- **Training for Riparian Setback Implementation.**
- **Demonstration Projects for Floodplain Restoration during Development.**
- **Dam Safety Workshops.**

For More Information Contact

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Regular Members: Auburn, Aurora, Bainbridge, Bentleyville, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Twp., Chester, Claridon, 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.

Sponsoring Members: BioHabitats, Calfee, Halter, and Griswold LLP, Chagrin River Land Conservancy, 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., Partners Environmental Consulting, Inc., TranSystems Corporation, URS Corporation, and Western Reserve Federation of Conservationists.

Other 2005 Funders: The George Gund Foundation, Great Lakes Commission Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, Lake County Stormwater Management Department, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management and Division of Soil and Water Conservation.