



# Black River Watershed Action Plan

Lorain County - Community Development Department

Funding provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources



Coldwater assisted the Lorain County Community Development Department with completion of the Black River Watershed Action Plan. Watershed Action Plans are comprehensive planning documents that include an inventory of existing conditions within a watershed and a list of the problems, priorities, and activities that a local community must address in order to improve the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of their watershed. Watershed Action Plans must be endorsed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Our scope included facilitating public meetings, coordinating with stakeholders, identifying problems, best management practices, and projects, calculating loadings, and compiling the final plan.

The results showed that the soils in the Black River Watershed are highly erodible and are especially problematic for home sewage treatment systems (HSTS). Consequently, soil erosion and failing HSTS are among the priority problems identified within the plan, both of which result in increased sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus loadings into the stream system. Soil erosion is occurring within upland areas of the watershed (e.g., agricultural land uses) and along stream banks (e.g. channelized streams). Therefore, repair of stream bank erosion and installation of agricultural best management practices are among the high priority projects identified within the plan. In addition, remediation and restoration within the highly industrialized lower 6 miles of the Black River are also identified as important implementation priorities. The plan has been written as a living document and will be updated as additional information becomes available.



- Full Attainment
- Partial Attainment
- Non Attainment

**Many of the streams within the Black River watershed are not currently meeting water quality standards**

