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Ohio EPA Conducting Water Quality Sampling in Tenmile Creek-Ottawa River Watershed This Summer

Ohio EPA is beginning an intensive study of the [Tenmile Creek-Ottawa River](#) watershed this summer. It will be the most thorough investigation of the watershed in 20 years.

The diverse watershed includes heavy agricultural, industrial, rural, suburban and urban areas. It has its headwaters in the small streams in Fulton and Lucas counties and southeastern Michigan. Ohio EPA staff will look at water chemistry, bacteria, biological, sediment and habitat conditions of the main streams and smaller, feeder streams to evaluate the impacts of pollution from unsewered communities; municipal wastewater treatment plants; and agricultural, industrial and mineral extraction activities, including discharges from quarries and a landfill.

The data gathered will help the Agency target activities and funding to improve water quality. Ohio EPA works with local communities and watershed groups such as Partners for Clean Streams and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) to develop water quality goals and implement programs and improvements to achieve those goals. A number of public meetings will be held to gather local input as Ohio EPA releases reports on its findings and then develops a watershed improvement plan, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report.

Samples will be collected from many sites, some more than once. The area includes all or part of the communities of Lyons, Metamora, Berkey, Sylvania, Ottawa Hills and Toledo. Among the streams being sampled are Bear Creek, Prairie Ditch, Tenmile and North Tenmile creeks, Halfway Creek, Mud Creek, Shantee Creek, Silver Creek, Detwiler Ditch, Lake Olander and the Ottawa River upstream of river mile 9.25. The lower portion of the river will not be evaluated because of the dredging to remove contaminated sediments in 2010.

Most sampling will be done from public access points. Ohio EPA staff will request permission from private landowners if access to their property is needed. Ohio EPA employees carry photo identification. For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160.

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