

## **53100 Portage River Basin Council (PRBC)**

### Goal:

To protect and improve the environmental and water quality of the Portage River Basin by establishing processes and working groups within the Portage River Basin Council to implement the goals set by *A Resource Worth Protecting*.

### Objective:

- Provide assistance, coordination, and planning by furnishing administrative support and participating in the Portage River Basin Council subcommittees

### Goal:

- Maintain the Portage River Basin Council to address environmental and natural resource issues of the Portage River Basin
- Coordinate quarterly meetings of the Portage River Basin Council.

## **Portage River Planning Committee**

### Goal:

A “Committee of the Whole” to conduct watershed planning for the Portage River Basin; develop projects and identify funding sources to carry out the goals of the Portage River Basin Council.

### Objectives:

- Develop a Comprehensive Watershed Plan for the Portage Basin for state endorsement from the *Portage River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy* report
- Participate in the development of the Portage River TMDL during the three year process beginning with water quality assessment in 2008.

## **Portage River Education Committee**

### Goal:

To make communities aware of the benefits of the Portage River ecosystem and promote stewardship of the river.

### Objective:

- Conduct programs for teachers and students to educate them on the uses of the river:
  1. Portage River Basin Education Project - Student Congress
  2. Recruit additional schools to participate in student water testing activities
  3. Secure funding for education project

## Portage River Stormwater Committee

### Goal:

To develop solutions and projects to provide adequate drainage, reduce flooding, benefit the natural habitat and improve and protect water quality in the Portage River Basin.

### Objectives:

- Work with local jurisdictions and agencies to implement floodplain protection and stormwater control ordinances and regulations recommended by the Portage River Hydrological Study (June, 2002)
- Categorize project ideas for soil and erosion control through the Great Lakes basin program.
- Work with local jurisdictions to construct structural projects recommended by the study and identify funding sources to leverage grants
- Utilize hydrological study data to develop and implement flood reduction projects, including upstream stormwater storage through recommended restoration of oxbow and floodplain connections
- Secure funding for projects through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Ohio EPA 319 (EPA§319), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Natureworks and additional funding sources

## Portage River Public Relations & Outreach Committee

### Goal:

To establish programs and events to increase watershed awareness, encourage public involvement and education to protect and improve the Portage River ecosystem, including quality recreation areas, natural habitat areas and wildlife corridors along the Portage waterways.

### Objectives:

- Design new brochure to promote watershed and increase public awareness
- Identify research projects with BGSU environmental students
- Implement programs/events to increase public education and watershed awareness of the Portage River by involving local agencies, communities, universities and volunteers
- Coordinate PRBC projects with community festivals and local events
- Increase public awareness with construction tours on demonstration projects, such as the two-stage ditch projects
- Identify new locations for canoe and kayak access points
- Investigate scenic river designations for sections of the Portage River
- Contact the Chamber of Commerce locations within the watershed
- Meet with the historical society groups in the watershed
- Continue discussion for a whitewater park in watershed
- Work with local agencies for funding and recreation projects
- Work with Ohio EPA coordinators to promote public involvement in the Portage River TMDL process.

## Portage River Wastewater Committee

### Goal:

To ensure high quality public wastewater treatment and promote good onsite sewage treatment.

### Objectives:

- Review and update critical sewage areas
- Provide input to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio EPA for proposed sewage rules
- Work with Ohio EPA and County Health Departments to encourage National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance
- Develop a project addressing onsite sewage treatment issues:
  1. Educating homeowners, government officials, contractors, and health department staff on the proper installation and maintenance of systems
  2. Document the level and mechanism of input Health Departments have on subdivision design standards and site reviews in each County
  3. Investigate potential pharmaceutical collection program in watershed, in partnership with health departments, Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Solid Waste District and Ohio EPA.
  4. Develop schedule and ideas for potential site visits to hold a 2009-10 Portage River Watershed Wastewater Tour event.
  5. Coordinate water quality data with Northwest Ohio Water Quality Workgroup, BGSU and PRBC for the watershed plan and potential project funding.