

## What Do Watersheds Do For Us?

- Protect water quality
- Secure water supplies
- Store precipitation in soils, wetlands and aquifers
- Provide water for drinking, cleaning, recreation, navigation, hydroelectric power and manufacturing
- Sustain natural flood control
- Filter sediment and contaminants
- Keep critical habitat for flora and fauna
- Maintain quality of life

## How Have We Altered Watershed Functions?

- Created surfaces such as roads, rooftops and parking lots which prevent rainfall from soaking in and increase runoff
- Drained wetlands
- Culverted and buried water channels
- Straightened stream courses
- Removed streamside vegetation and trees
- Farmed

These activities add sediment and chemicals to runoff, eliminate natural habitats and limit biodiversity. The use of Best Management Practices can create a balance and let nature work for us.

## Why Do We Need a Watershed Action Plan?

A Watershed Action Plan that is endorsed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will make us eligible for state and federal funding for projects to reduce flooding and repair channels.

Arcola Creek does not meet State and Federal water quality standards. Ditch digging, overuse of water, algae, pesticides and lack of oxygen have severely damaged the aquatic life habitat in the watershed.

## How Can You Be Watershed Wise?

All that we do on the landscape has an impact on the watershed. There are many things you can do at home to protect and improve our water quality.

1. Use environmentally friendly household products.
2. Pick up pet waste and flush, bury or put it in the trash.
3. Inspect and pump your septic system every 2-3 years.
4. Test your soil and fertilize accordingly.
5. Compost yard waste instead of throwing it in the street or stream.



## Find Arcola Creek on Facebook!

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# ARCOLA CREEK WATERSHED

## Madison, Ohio

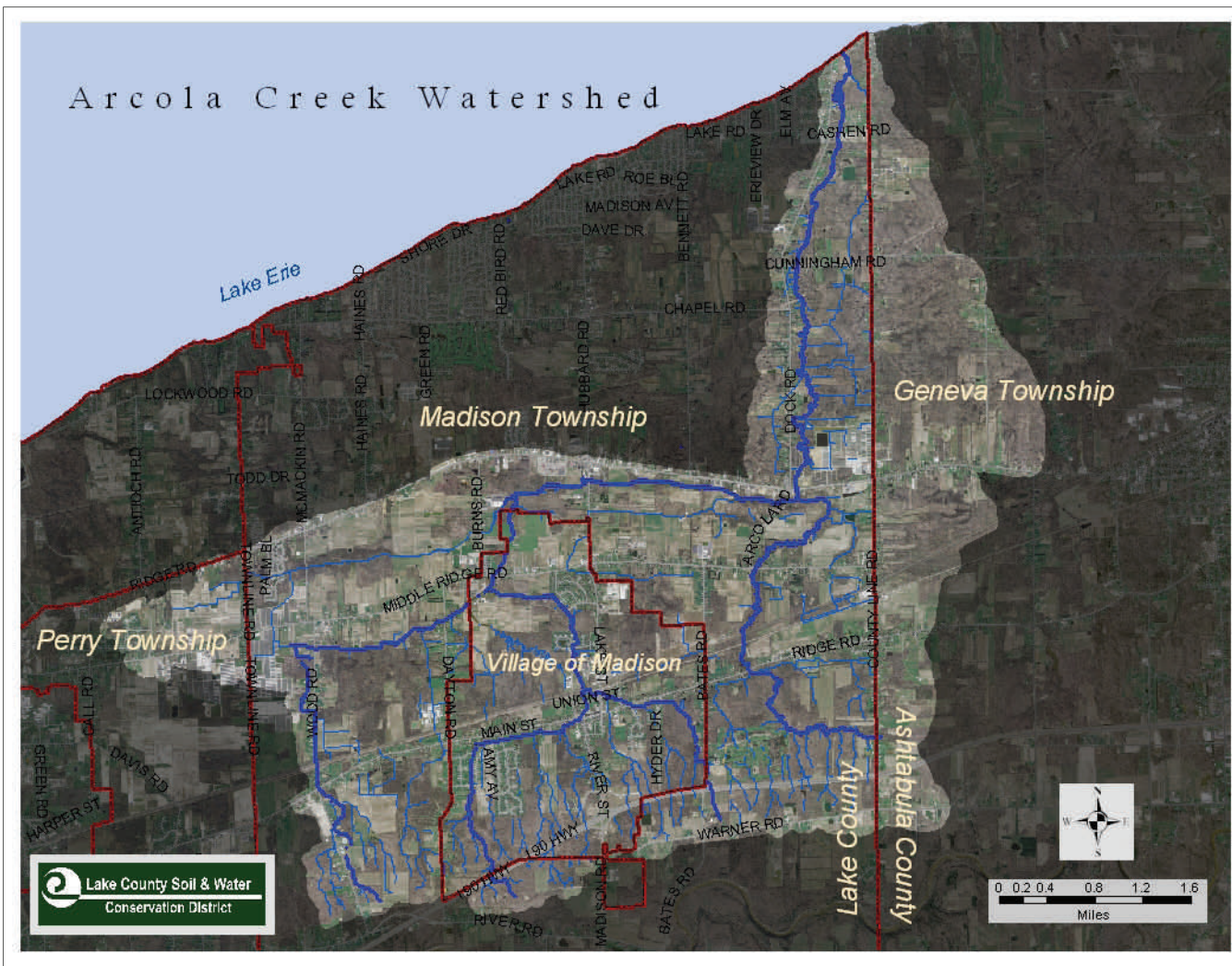
Your watershed. Your community.

Starting in the Summer of 2011 Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District will be guiding the community to develop a watershed action plan for the Arcola Creek Watershed.

Human activities have changed the natural function of the watershed, and residents are affected by frequent flooding, routine periods of drought, and limitation of economic and recreational opportunities.

What is a watershed? A watershed is the area of land that drains to a common body of water, such as a stream or lake. We all live in a watershed, even if we do not have a stream in our backyard. Each of us can play a role in the health of our watershed and our community.





### Where is the Arcola Creek Watershed?

The Arcola Creek Watershed begins on the ridge north of the Grand River valley and drains to the north, encompassing all of Madison Village and the midsection of Madison Township. It runs east along Route 20 and heads north again along Dock Road, to drain into Lake Erie through the Arcola Estuary. The watershed drains about 25 square miles.

The Arcola Creek Estuary is one of only two natural estuaries that remain along the southern Lake Erie shores in Ohio. Estuaries are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, as they are mixing zones between rivers and lakes. Over 25 species of plants, animals, reptiles and birds listed as endangered, threatened or rare are found in the Arcola Estuary.

### How Can We Heal Our Watershed?

Water management is no longer just the responsibility of the government. Citizens are just as important as scientists in managing an ecosystem. Get involved in the Arcola Creek Watershed and play a role in improving the quality of life in Madison Village, and parts of Madison, Perry and Geneva Townships.

- Become a stakeholder in the watershed planning process
- Participate in identifying and addressing our local water quality issues
- Educate others
- Monitor stream quality improvements
- Plan for sustainable growth of the community
- Help clean up the beach and estuary
- Have a voice in your quality of life

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

