City of Beachwood
Watershed Fact Sheet

Beachwood is in 6 watersheds

**Chagrin River** drains 267 square miles from 22 municipalities and ten townships within four Northeast Ohio Counties.

**Doan Brook** drains 12 square miles from 3 communities in Cuyahoga County.

**Euclid Creek** drains an area of approximately 24 square miles from 12 communities in Cuyahoga and Lake Counties.

**Mill Creek** drains approximately 19 square miles from 9 communities in Cuyahoga County.

**Nine Mile Creek** drains an area of approximately 18 square miles from 7 communities in Cuyahoga County.

**Tinkers Creek** drains approximately 96 square miles from 24 communities in four Counties.

Did you know?

- Beachwood has 4.8 miles of streams above ground with an estimated 7.2 miles of additional streams that have been channeled underground in pipes/culverts.

- As water moves across lawns and hard surfaces into storm drains, pollution is picked up and sent untreated to creeks and rivers which eventually empty into Lake Erie.

- Vegetated surfaces, like rain gardens, help water soak into the ground which allows for natural filtration of polluted runoff.

- The rate of extinction for freshwater animals is 5 times greater than that for land animals.

All 6 of these waterways **drain directly** into Lake Erie, Beachwood's source of **drinking water**. Protecting your watersheds from runoff pollution also protects Lake Erie and **YOU**.

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**Only Rain Down the Drain!**

**What is a watershed?**

Flip to find out!
## What is a watershed?
A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow to a common body of water such as a stream, river, or lake. Our landscape is made up of interconnected watersheds.

### We all live in a watershed

![Watershed Diagram](image_url)

- **A Watershed**
  - Watershed Divide
  - River Mouth
  - Ground Water (Aquifer)

## What is in a watershed?

- **How the CITY protects your water**
  - Leaf pickups to prevent clogging of storm drains.
  - Offers household hazardous waste (and other) recycling for residents.
  - Allows rain barrels in community and hosts rain barrel workshops.
  - Works with Cuyahoga County Board of Health on all public health concerns.
  - The City supports the Green Dream Eco-Friendly Showcase, created in 2007 by the Beachwood High School Marketing Education/Junior Achievement class. It is a public venue where businesses and organizations can show how easy it was to "Go Green". This event is recognized as Ohio's largest eco-friendly showcase.

- **How YOU can protect your water**
  - Don't litter, and pick up litter when you see it.
  - Keep grass clippings, paper and other waste out of storm drains.
  - Report illegal dumping! Call the City Service Department (216-292-1922) or the County Board of Health (216-201-2000).
  - Install a rain barrel and/or plant a rain garden.
  - Pick up outside pet waste and put it in the trash.
  - Wash your car on the lawn or at a carwash.

## What is in the Watershed?

### Beachwood within Euclid Creek Watershed
- Beach makes up 7.6% or 1.8 square miles of the entire Euclid Creek Watershed.
- 0.65 miles of Euclid Creek flows through Beachwood, 40.3% of which has been channeled underground.
- There is one 3-4ft. dam in Beachwood, south of Cedar Rd.

### Beachwood within Mill Creek Watershed
- 25% of Beachwood’s land area is within the Mill Creek Watershed.
- 0.31 miles of Mill Creek is within Beachwood, 46% of which has been channeled underground.
- 3,082 of Beachwood residents live within this watershed.

### Beachwood within Chagrin River Watershed
- 0.78% of Chagrin River Watershed is found in Beachwood.
- 16% of land cover is within this area.
- 1.4% of lands in this watershed are protected as of 2009.

### Beachwood within Tinkers Creek Watershed
- 6.2% of this watershed consists of sensitive wetlands.
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### Beachwood within Doan Brook Watershed
- Doan Brook Watershed is about 7,500 acres in size.
- The entire Doan Brook watershed is 38% impervious (paved) surfaces.

### Beachwood within Nine Mile Creek Watershed
- Beachwood is the headwater (beginning) of Nine Mile Watershed.
- All of the streams have been channeled or piped underground.

## Major water quality issues

- **Excess nutrients**, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, caused by urban pollution and fertilizers from gardens, lawn and turf maintenance.
- After major storms, high intensity stream flow (called **flashy flows**) increases **stream bank erosion**.
- **Loss of greenspace and habitat** surrounding streams that provide a buffer zone to filter pollutants and provide shelter/food for bugs and fish.