

# BIG

## Darby Watershed



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency**

## What is the Big Darby Watershed?

The Big Darby watershed is a freshwater, aquatic high-quality ecosystem **encompassing 557 square miles in central Ohio** (Madison, Champaign, Logan, Pickaway, and Union counties). **It is drained by Big Darby Creek, Little Darby Creek and other smaller tributaries.** The 80 mile-long stream is home to many rare and endangered freshwater mussels and fish.



**Big Darby Watershed**

On Sept. 11, 2024, U.S. EPA approved Ohio’s water quality management (208) plan update for the Big Darby Creek (**Appendix 9-3**) certified by Governor Mike DeWine in June 2024. The plan describes and promotes comprehensive programs for controlling water pollution from point and nonpoint sources in a defined geographic area.

Appendix 9-3 requires additional protections throughout the entire Darby Watershed while still supporting the needs of future growth. The protections focus on avoiding development in wetlands, stream setbacks, and large forested areas by setting permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses in these areas as described below. Alternative proposals may be approved if the protections are not feasible for the intended use of specific sites.

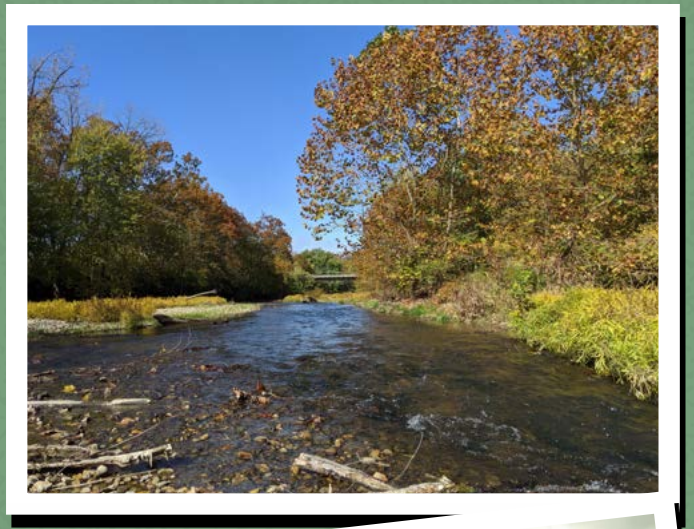
### Summary of Protections

	Protected areas unless an alternative protective proposal is approved		
	<i>Stream Setbacks</i>	<i>Wetlands</i>	<i>Forested areas &gt; 1 acre</i>
Permitted Uses	Arterial streets Public utilities	Arterial streets	
Prohibited Uses	New structures Dredging and filling	Motorized vehicles Disturbance of natural vegetation	Parking lots Application of wastewater
Conditional Uses	Other activities must be approved on a case-by-case basis		
Other	Plans must specify who will own these areas, and how they will be maintained and permanently protected		

# — PROTECTIONS —

The protections only apply to new development that triggers the need for an Ohio EPA individual permit or loan such as residential, commercial, or public wastewater treatment projects.

Protections are implemented through Ohio EPA permitting unless local regulations that are as protective as 9-3 have been adopted. Local jurisdictions are encouraged, but not required, to adopt such local regulations.



Scan for more information on  
**Big Darby Creek Watershed**

