

WATER

1970s



Cuyahoga River catches fire and helps spark the environmental movement in the United States.



Sampling wastewater treatment plant discharges helps to ensure permit limits are achieved.



Ohio EPA river sampling crew with fish sampling equipment. The Agency is the first in nation to evaluate stream quality by studying aquatic life and habitat.



Chemical fire threatens Dayton's drinking water source and leads the city to develop and implement the first drinking water protection plan in Ohio.



Ohio EPA works with the Ohio Department of Transportation to increase public awareness in drinking water protection areas.



Drinking water testing requirements help ensure safe drinking water is provided to the public.



Ohio EPA staff educate students and the general public on the importance of water protection.

Clean Water Act sets goal of "fishable, swimmable" waters.

U.S. and Canada agree to control pollutants entering the Great Lakes, lowering phosphorus levels that were "killing" Lake Erie.

Safe Drinking Water Act passed.

Ohio EPA distributes \$1.6 billion in grants to help communities construct and improve wastewater treatment plants.

Ohio EPA uses a mobile laboratory to sample streams and investigate pollution.

Ohio's water quality standards reflect biology of streams, an innovative approach in which Ohio remains a leader.

1980s

Public drinking water supplies are required to use chlorine to prevent bacterial infections.

Ohio EPA receives award for best regional program to regulate wastes discharged to sewers.

Ohio adopts strategy to protect ground water— a drinking water source for a majority of Ohioans.

All municipalities must meet 1988 deadline to improve wastewater treatment. Ohio EPA expands sampling program to help many qualify for federal grants. Eighty percent of Ohio's large municipal dischargers receive financial assistance.

Ohio EPA assists many communities with water shortages due to severe drought.

Lake Erie emerges as a world-class fishing and recreational destination.

A low interest loan fund is created to fund projects that protect and improve waterways and aquifers.

1990s

Lake Erie Protection Fund established to support research and projects that improve the Lake.

Ohio creates a program to help farmers reduce runoff to streams.

Fish sampling is begun to help inform Ohioans about safe fish consumption levels.

A low interest loan program is created to help communities improve drinking water supplies.

New rules provide additional protection for streams in the Lake Erie basin.

New rules adopted to protect wetlands.

Ohio EPA's program to protect drinking water sources called "one of the best" by U.S. EPA.

Stream quality is improved with 55% of streams meeting standards, up from 35% in 1988.

2000s

Consumers will receive more information about their drinking water, while Ohio EPA helps communities expand protection programs and meet tighter standards.

Ohio's low-interest revolving loan program passes the \$2 billion mark for financial assistance to improve wastewater treatment and protect Ohio streams.

Ohio EPA begins working with communities and watershed groups to develop stream-by-stream plans to help waterways meet water quality standards. Success will require broad public commitment, because more problems now come from small, diffuse sources like parking lot runoff, lawn chemicals, and erosion than from factories or sewage treatment plants.



Lake Erie beaches close due to pollution.



Fish with deformities. Ohio EPA river sampling crews assess pollution using biological indicators.



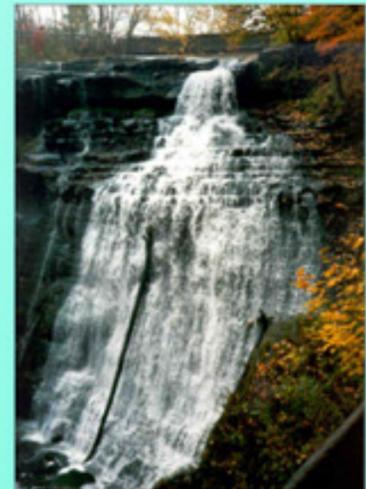
Fish kills continue due to chemical spills and nonpoint source pollution.



Ohio EPA staff assist water and wastewater plants that have been affected by flooding.



The flats area along the once-burning Cuyahoga River in Cleveland is now the third largest attraction in the state.



The percentage of streams meeting the state's biological standards for clean water has improved from 35% in 1988 to 55% in 2000.



Lake Erie's water quality shows significant improvements and the resource is enjoyed by the public.