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Ohio EPA Invites Public to Ottawa River Meeting, Streamside Programs

Area residents have a chance to get an in-depth look at the Ottawa River on June 20 when Ohio EPA, in partnership with the Ottawa River Coalition, hosts a streamside program before a public meeting to discuss the river's water quality and related issues.

From 1-3 p.m., Ohio EPA and the Ottawa River Coalition will have exhibits in the Riverwalk area on Elm Street near Pine Street. It is an opportunity to learn more about the river and talk to those involved in protecting and improving the river.

The event will feature live fish and macroinvertebrate species from the river. Ohio EPA scientists collect fish and other aquatic life as part of their water quality evaluation process. A stream dominated by pollution-sensitive species indicates good water quality while a stream populated by pollution-tolerant species indicates poor water quality.

Events also include a brown-bag lunch meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the green space area near the riverwalk with a guest speaker from the Ottawa River Coalition.

After the riverside activities, a public meeting will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. at the nearby Cambridge Center, 418 N. Central Ave. Ohio EPA staff will present findings from a 2010-11 water quality study which examined conditions in the mainstem of the river and its major tributaries in Allen, Hardin and Putnam counties.

People may attend either or both meetings. The same information will be presented at each. Discussion will include the status and trends of water quality conditions and the causes of stream impairments. Participants are encouraged to provide feedback on proposed recommendations in the water quality improvement strategy.

The written report is scheduled for release later this year. Ohio EPA works closely with local stakeholders, including local governments and groups such as the Ottawa River Coalition to identify issues and implement projects and programs that lead to water quality improvements.

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