

GOOSE CREEK WATERSHED

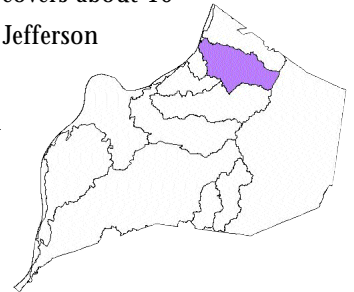
The Goose Creek watershed covers about 19 square miles in northeastern Jefferson

County and consists of two sub-basins: Goose Creek and Little Goose Creek. This

watershed still has some good-quality natural habitat;

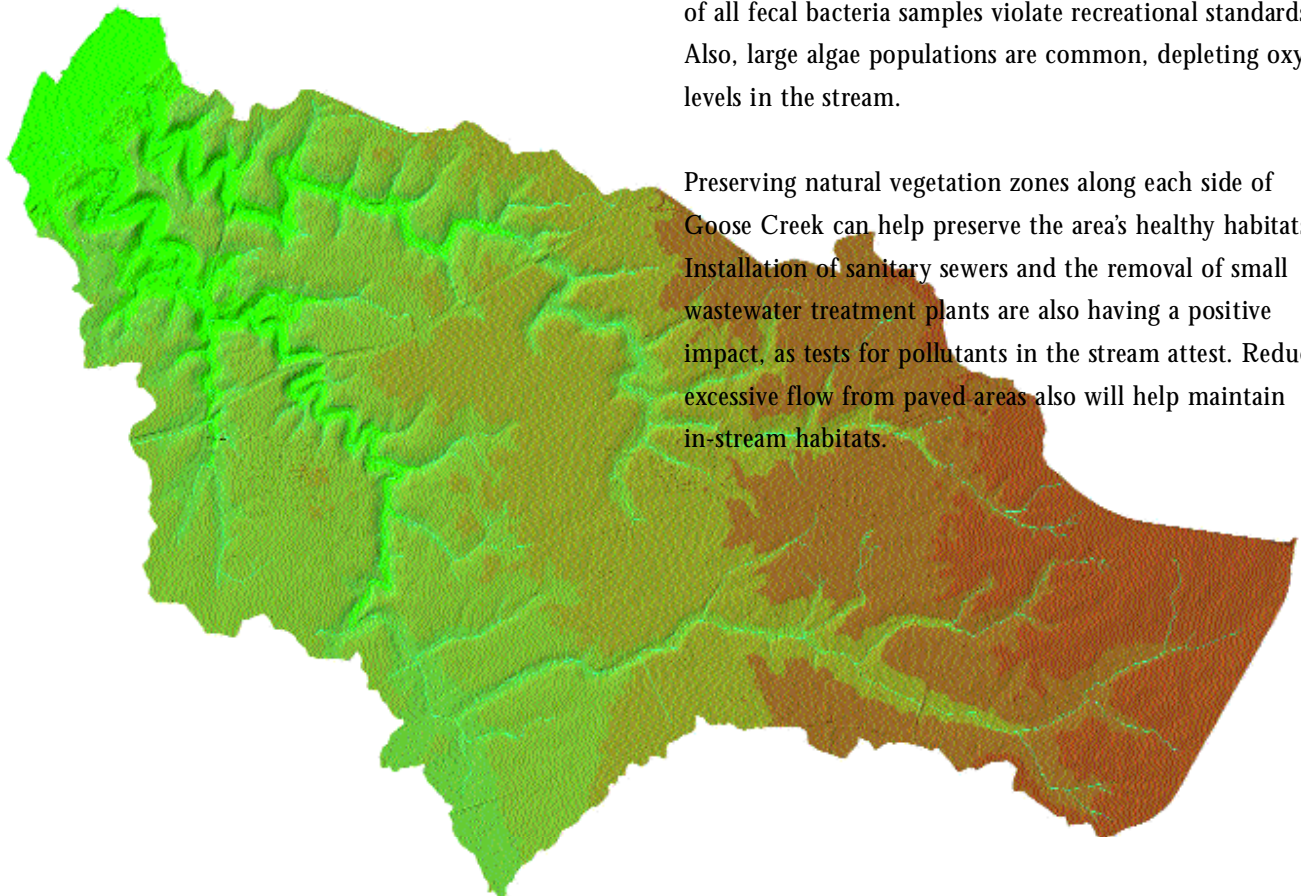
however, the area is

undergoing intense development, and moderate water quality damage has occurred in some areas.



Construction sites have caused erosion, runoff and sedimentation, all of which have harmed water quality and aquatic habitats. High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus can be attributed to the use of lawn chemicals. About one-third of all fecal bacteria samples violate recreational standards. Also, large algae populations are common, depleting oxygen levels in the stream.

Preserving natural vegetation zones along each side of Goose Creek can help preserve the area's healthy habitats. Installation of sanitary sewers and the removal of small wastewater treatment plants are also having a positive impact, as tests for pollutants in the stream attest. Reducing excessive flow from paved areas also will help maintain in-stream habitats.



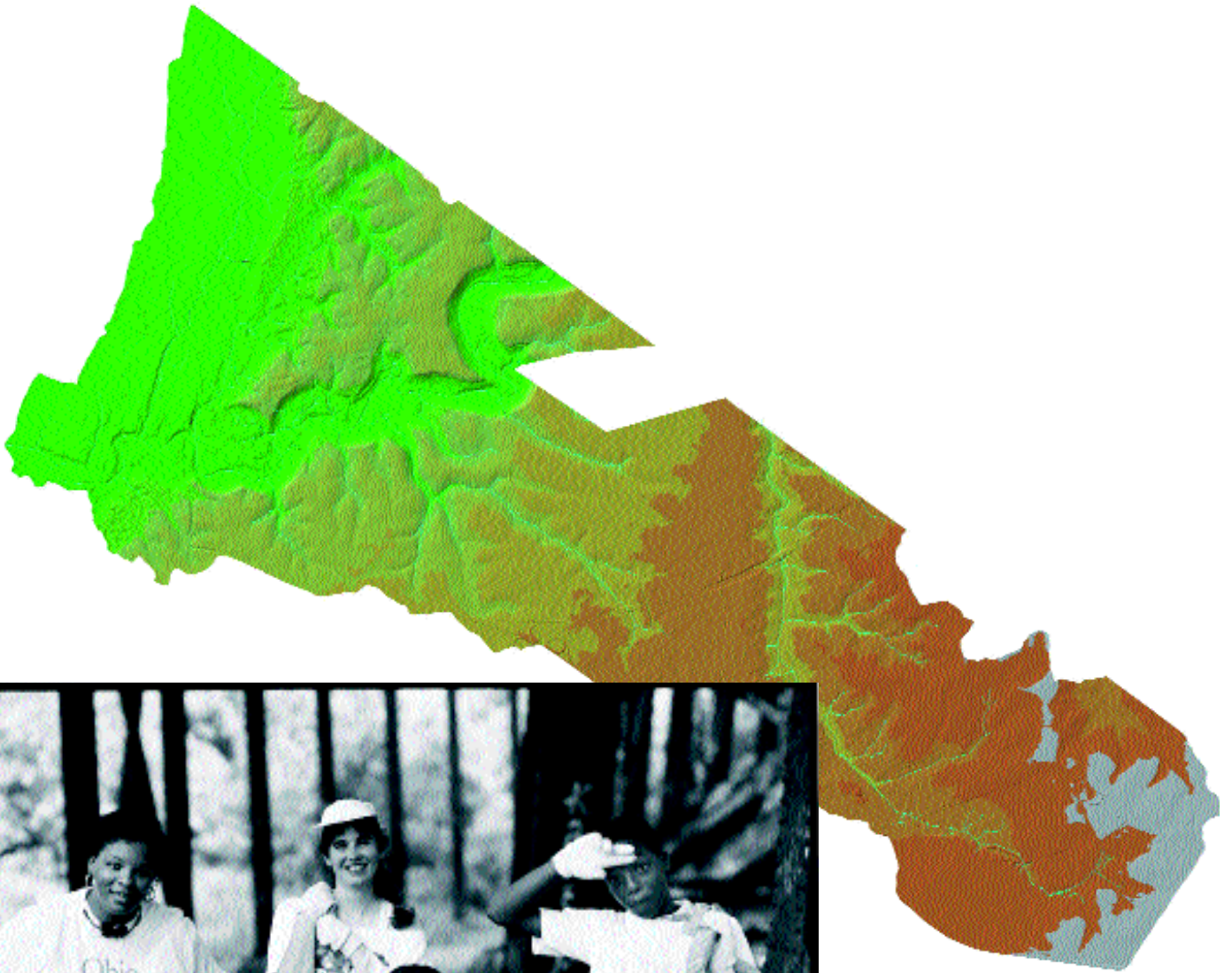


Collect animal waste.

Animal waste contributes significantly to the bacteria and organic matter in storm water runoff. Collecting animal waste and disposing of it in closed containers can reduce pollution in waterways.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Excessive algae growth absorbs oxygen, stealing this vital resource from fish and other aquatic species.



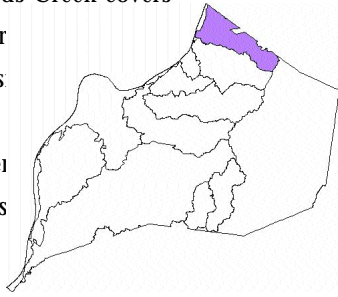
Marty Blenier



Volunteers of all ages participate in the Ohio River Sweep, a project that spans the meandering Ohio River watershed.

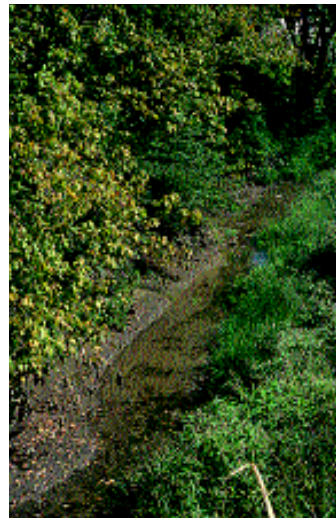
HARRODS CREEK WATERSHED

The drainage basin for Harrods Creek covers about 92 square miles, primarily in Jefferson County but also including a small portion of northeastern Madison County. Storm water runoff from construction sites along with agricultural and commercial development, has produced a degraded stream with dramatically reduced habitat.



Levels of phosphorus and nitrogen are very high because of fertilizers used on lawns, golf courses and farmland. Faulty wastewater treatment plants and seepage from septic systems add nutrients too. About one-third of all fecal bacteria samples exceed recreational standards. Tree removal along stream banks has contributed to elevated water temperatures and algae growth, reducing oxygen in the stream. In addition, dredging has removed in-stream habitats.

Solutions include protecting remaining vegetation on the banks. This vegetation moderates water temperatures and creates a buffer from construction. Pollution will also be reduced as a result of MSD's recent agreement with the city of Prospect to assume operation of Prospect's small wastewater treatment plants. As MSD shuts down those plants, that sewage will be diverted to MSD's Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant. Also, various community groups have begun sponsoring citizen-action programs dedicated to improving water quality in the watershed.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Adopt a stream.

MSD sponsors an "adopt a stream" program to encourage stewardship of local waterways and watersheds. MSD will provide bags and gloves for any group that will "adopt" a section of a local stream and pick up debris along the stream. MSD will pick up everything collected and dispose of it.