













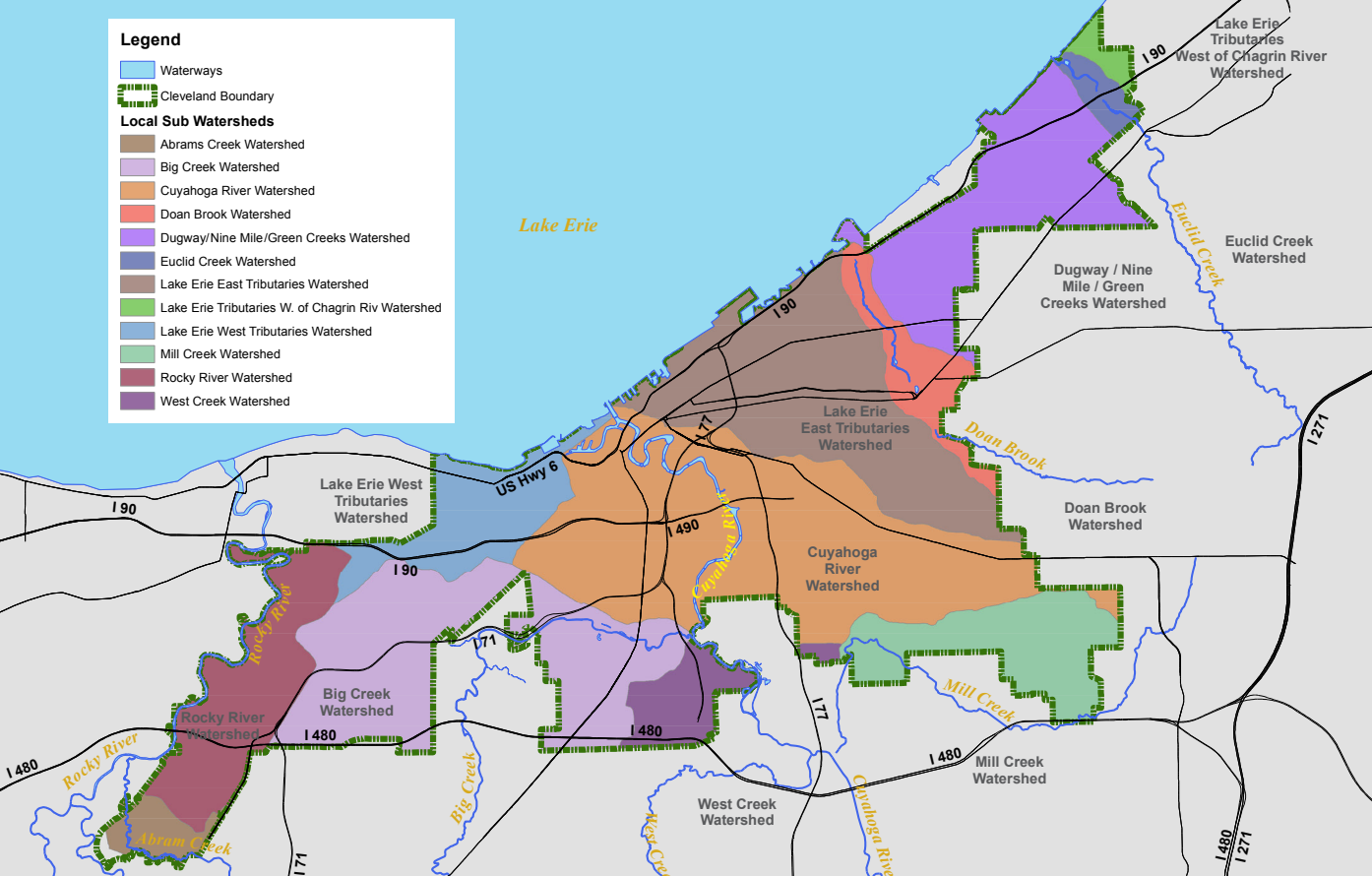


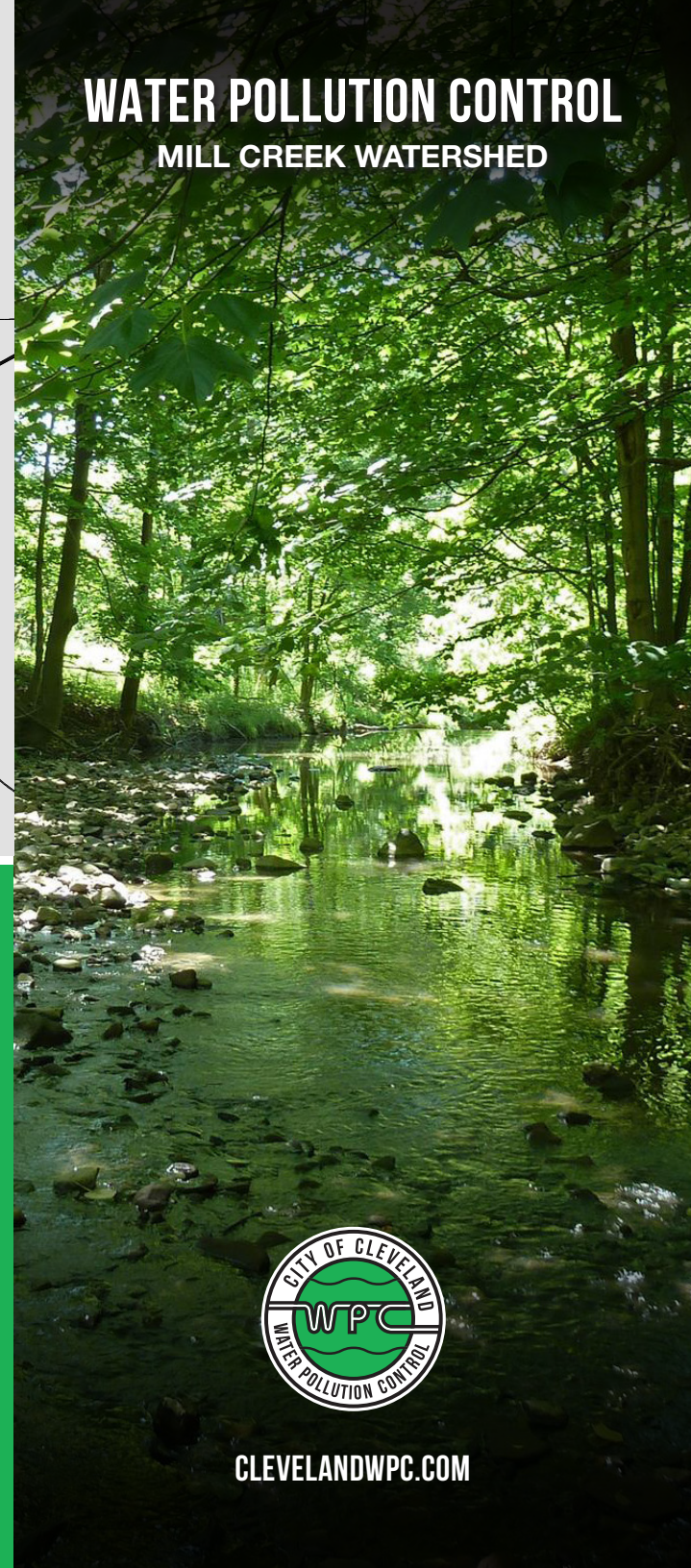
Legend

-  Waterways
-  Cleveland Boundary
- Local Sub Watersheds**
-  Abrams Creek Watershed
-  Big Creek Watershed
-  Cuyahoga River Watershed
-  Doan Brook Watershed
-  Dugway/Nine Mile/Green Creeks Watershed
-  Euclid Creek Watershed
-  Lake Erie East Tributaries Watershed
-  Lake Erie Tributaries W. of Chagrin Riv Watershed
-  Lake Erie West Tributaries Watershed
-  Mill Creek Watershed
-  Rocky River Watershed
-  West Creek Watershed



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

MILL CREEK WATERSHED



To learn more about stormwater management,
 visit the Cleveland Water Pollution Control website at
clevelandwpc.com



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

12302 Kirby Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44108
 216.664.2513 | clevelandwpc.com



CLEVELANDWPC.COM

Cover photo courtesy of Mill Creek Watershed Partnership.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that drains, or sheds, rain and snowmelt into a specific larger waterway, such as a river or lake. Everyone lives in a watershed, and our actions on the land have a significant impact on water quality.

The largest watershed in Northeast Ohio is Lake Erie Watershed, which is made up of dozens of smaller watersheds. Protecting the Lake Erie watershed is important to the environment, public health and the economic well-being of Greater Cleveland. Lake Erie is Northeast Ohio's source of drinking water and major fishing and water recreation area.

Non-point source water pollution is the biggest threat to watersheds. When stormwater (rain or snow melt) flows over the ground it carries away natural and human pollutants from sidewalks, parking lots, yards and construction sites. That water flows to a nearby waterway and eventually makes its way to Lake Erie. Common non-point source pollutants are automobile fluids, paint, pet waste, cigarette butts, and even soil.

Stormwater runoff can result in flooded streets and properties, sewer overflows, land erosion, and polluted waterways.

ABOUT MILL CREEK WATERSHED

Mill Creek Watershed covers nine communities in Cuyahoga County—some of the most densely populated areas in the state. About 49% of the watershed's drainage area of 19 square miles is in urban areas. Much of the creek flows under and alongside major roadways and railroad tracks, and is largely ignored except when flooding occurs. Few people even know that Northeast Ohio's largest waterfall is located within Mill Creek watershed.

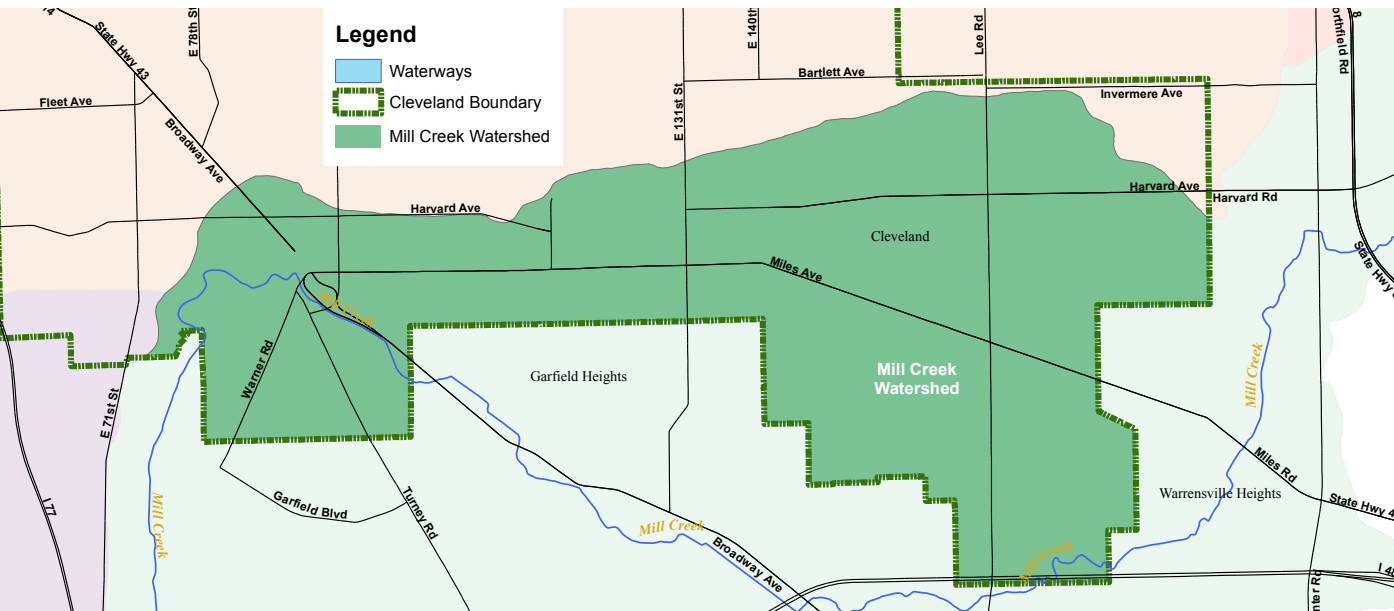
From its headwaters in Beachwood and Shaker Heights, Mill Creek takes a winding southerly course through Cleveland's east side suburbs for its first half, its watershed becoming progressively more urbanized as the creek passes I-480 and turns north along Broadway Avenue, then takes a sharp turn southward where Cleveland and Garfield Heights meet near Turney and Warner roads. Then it travels more south to join the lower Cuyahoga River at the border between Cuyahoga Heights and Garfield Heights. Mill Creek Falls is located in the Cleveland Metroparks' Garfield Reservation at the intersection of Turney and Warner roads.

One of Cleveland's two stormwater detention basins also is located in Mill Creek Watershed, in Kerruish Park. The basin absorbs stormwater runoff during rains to lessen erosion and prevent street and basement flooding.

Explore *How's My Waterway?* at <https://mywaterway.epa.gov> to learn about the current water quality of Mill Creek Watershed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

- Treat waterways with respect—all life depends on it.
- Pick up trash, such as snack wrappers, Styrofoam and plastics.
- Avoid using pesticides, herbicides, and anti-bacterial products—they end up in water and harm wildlife.
- Reduce pervious pavements and create more green spaces to let the rain soak into the ground so soil bacteria can break down pollutants.
- Remove invasive weeds without using pesticides.
- Use native plants in your garden.
- Pick up your dog and cat poop and dispose of it in the trash.
- Wash vehicles at a car wash so detergents and toxins can drain into a bay.
- Recycle used oil, paint and other hazardous materials properly. Do not pour them down house or street drains.
- Use a rain barrel to capture rainwater and gray water for landscaping and gardening.
- Plan and/or participate in water quality events, such as stream or neighborhood cleanups.
- Join a watershed group; learn more and help educate others.



MILL CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

info@westcreek.org

P.O. Box 347113
Cleveland, Ohio 44134

www.millcreekpartnership.org