

Ohio's waterways fail state environmental tests

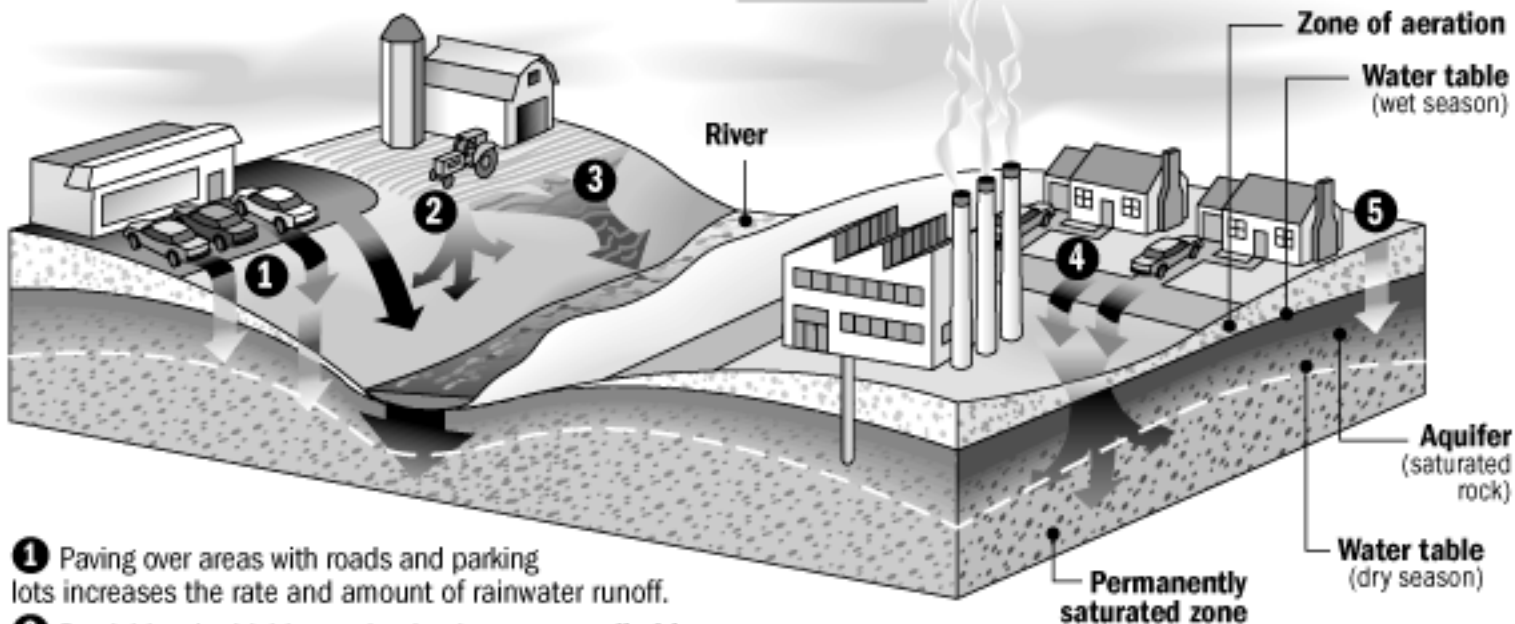
An Ohio Environmental Protection Agency report found unacceptable levels of pollution in the state's rivers, lakes and streams and a need for them to be cleaned up.

To gauge the pollution, the agency surveyed watersheds, which are drainage basins for geographical areas. Every raindrop or snowflake that falls in a watershed drains to a stream, river, bay or wetland. Watersheds are vital to the environment because they are nature's way of collecting and recycling water that ultimately drains into oceans and seas.



Water threats

Pollutants get into the water in various ways.



- 1** Paving over areas with roads and parking lots increases the rate and amount of rainwater runoff.
- 2** Pesticides, herbicides and animal waste run off of farm fields.
- 3** Farm tilling and construction bulldozers loosen soil, sand and dirt that clog rivers.

- 4** Oil, gasoline, metal and other vehicle-related fluids run off driveways and roads.
- 5** Chemical fertilizers and pesticides run off treated lawns.