

Dear Business Owner or Manager,

You are probably aware of research showing that in addition to price, quality and convenience, many consumers want to know that the businesses they patronize are involved in the local community. One way to demonstrate that involvement is in stewardship of local natural resources. The City of Gahanna and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District launched the *Water Quality Partner* (WQP) program to encourage and recognize business involvement in protecting the quality of water in our rivers and streams.

To be a *Water Quality Partner*, you sign a **voluntary** pledge to use simple best practices that protect the quality of local streams and rivers. Examples of these best practices include:

- Keeping the lid of your dumpster closed and checking that the plug is in place
- Sweeping rather than hosing off sidewalks
- Dumping mop buckets into a drain leading to a sanitary sewer line rather than letting it enter a storm drain

If you have landscaping, you can also consider a rain garden, planting trees or installing a rain barrel. If you are in a business center, you may not have control over some of these practices, but you can pledge to encourage the management company to use them.

The reason behind the *Water Quality Partner* program is that drains in parking lots, alleys and streets carry rainwater and snowmelt directly to local streams without any filtration or cleaning. As a result, litter, soap, grease, spilled de-icers and improperly stored chemicals all enter local waterways causing problems for both wildlife and municipalities.

Included with this letter are a brochure on some best practices, the voluntary pledge and a pre-addressed envelope. In return for pledging your support, you will be provided with a water quality partner window cling and occasional updates on programs and services that help support Gahanna's water quality efforts.

Please return your completed pledge to our office in one of the following ways: using the self-addressed envelope provided, faxing a copy to (614) 486-9614 or by emailing it to either:

- David Reutter at [\(dreutter@franklinswcd.org\)](mailto:dreutter@franklinswcd.org) (614) 486-9613 Ext. 127
- Brooke Frusher at [\(bfrusher@franklinswcd.org\)](mailto:bfrusher@franklinswcd.org) (614) 486-9613 Ext. 114

Any questions you may have about the Water Quality Partner program or about how you can help keep our waterways clean and healthy can be directed to either David Reutter or Brooke Frusher at Franklin Soil and Water.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Fish, Director