



Map Provided by Arkansas Watershed Information System

## Did You Know?

- The Scull Creek Watershed is about two square miles in size. Scull Creek is a sub-watershed of Mud Creek which drains 17.6 square miles of Fayetteville and is a tributary of Clear Creek. Clear Creek is a 76.6 square mile sub-watershed of the square mile Illinois River Watershed which is 1,700 square miles in size.
- A sub-watershed is a drainage area that drains water such as rainfall into a larger watershed.
- A watershed is an area that drains rainfall to a body of water such as a lake, stream, or ocean.
- The Clear Creek Watershed is designated as impaired from bacteria which comes from pet waste within the cities of Fayetteville, Johnson, Springdale, and Tontitown.
- A stream is designated as impaired when it does not meet one or more designated uses.
- Designated uses for Clear Creek are: Primary Contact (wading), Secondary Contact (boating), Fish Consumption, Agriculture/Industrial Use, Fishery, and Drinking Water.
- Excessive bacteria levels of Fecal Coliform and E. Coli have impaired Clear Creek from meeting the primary contact designated use.

## How Many People Live in the Scull Creek Watershed?

- About 3,376 people or about 1,668 people per square mile live within the Scull Creek Watershed. If every one in three people owned a dog that would mean that there were 355 dogs in the Mud Creek Watershed. The average amount of dog poo per year from these dogs would be 17.15 Tons. Now that's a lot of pet waste to pick up! Did you know picking up and properly disposing of pet waste is good for water quality?

## Why Should You Pick-up and Dispose of Your Pet's Waste?

- When Pet waste is not picked up and properly disposed of, it can be picked up by stormwater runoff and washed into stormdrains or nearby waterbodies. Since stormdrains don't usually connect to treatment facilities, untreated animal feces often end up in lakes and streams, causing significant water pollution. Pet waste carries bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can threaten the health of humans and wildlife.



*Remember, it's everyone's responsibility to protect water quality. Find out the ways that you can protect and improve the water quality of Scull and Mud Creeks on the other side of this fact sheet.*

# What is a Best Management Practice (BMP)?

A best management practice or BMP is an action that any individual, group, or organization can take to protect or improve water quality. Any practice that is considered as a BMP has undergone scientific evaluation to ensure that the practice can work to reduce the amount of pollutants entering a waterbody from the surrounding landscape.

## What are some BMPs that I can use that will protect and improve the water quality of Scull Creek?

- **Pick Up Your Pet's Waste** - When your pet has to follow nature's call they don't have a sanitary toilet to use. When waste is not picked up and thrown away it will not be treated and will sit on the land's surface until it rains enough to carry the pollutants (nutrients, parasites, and bacteria) in the waste to a nearby storm drain or stream. Once these pollutants are in a stream they can degrade the water quality resulting in an impaired stream that can't support all of its designated uses. Picking up pet waste might not be fun, but it's better than wading in it!
- **Do Not Remove Streamside Vegetation** - The streamside area, also known as the riparian zone performs critical functions such as stabilization of streambanks, filtration of pollutants, providing wildlife habitat and shading of the water body. When vegetation is removed from the riparian zone streambanks become more at risk for erosion, pollutants can enter the stream easier, and wildlife lose their habitat. All of the functions performed by riparian zones are critical to maintaining good water quality and wildlife habitat.
- **Put Litter In It's Place** - When trash is not properly thrown away it will end up in a stream sooner or later where it will cause harm to water quality or aquatic life. A good way to prevent litter from ending up in streams is to pick up trash when you see it, encourage your friends not to litter, and report littering to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (1-866-811-1222) whenever you see littering happen.
- **Soil Test Before Fertilizing** - Excessive fertilizer applications to lawns and gardens can degrade water quality when runoff from rainfall transports the extra fertilizer that wasn't used by the plants to a nearby storm drain or stream. The best way to prevent over application of fertilizers is to contact your local Extension Office (479-444-1755), ask for a free soil test kit, and test your soil to receive recommendations.
- **Do Not Store Trash or Hazardous Materials Near a Streambank** - In large rain events items stored near a stream or in its floodplain can be washed into the creek. Trash and hazardous materials can harm water quality and wildlife when they are washed into creeks.
- **Implement a Riparian Buffer in Your Yard** - A riparian (streamside) buffer can filter pollutants in runoff, slow runoff, prevent streambank erosion and property loss, provide wildlife habitat in your backyard, and provide up to \$50,000 in tax credits!
- **GET INVOLVED!** - Join an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Stream Team, the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, your local school environmental club, the City of Fayetteville Adopt-A-Trail program another organization that actively works to keep our streams of Arkansas clean.