

About the Bull Creek Stakeholders Association

BCSA's mission is to protect and enhance the water resources of the Dead River watershed in an environmentally responsible and economically efficient manner, while respecting the interests of stakeholders throughout the watershed.

This mission is being fulfilled through projects and activities that emphasize public awareness, landowner education, coordination among all stakeholder jurisdictions and cooperative planning and restoration. Funding to support BCSA and its projects comes from member donations, public and private watershed assistance grants, and other in-kind contributions.

To join BCSA, please fill in the information requested below and return this panel with a \$10.00 tax deductible donation to:

BCSA - Membership
9975 Paxton Dr.
Beach Park, Illinois 60099

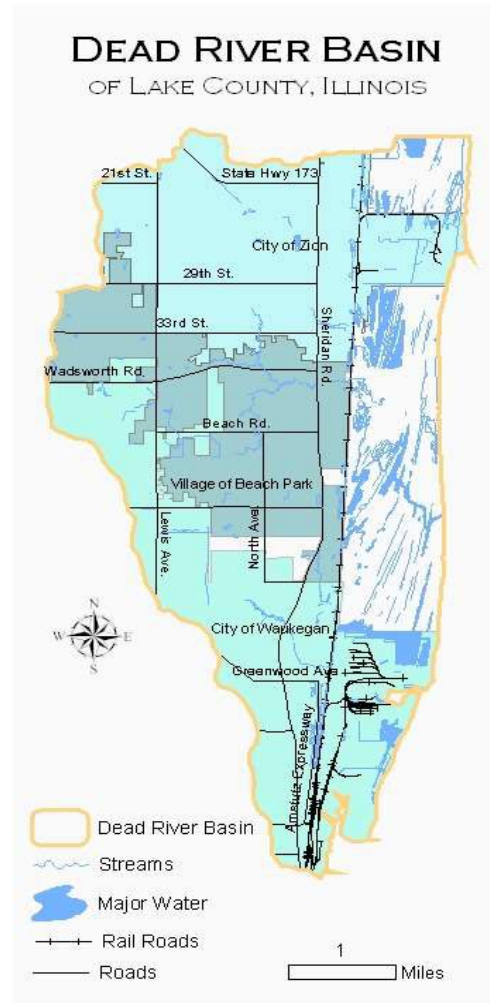
 Name

 Address

 City, State and Zip

 Telephone (indicate day or evening)

 Email Address



BCSA
9797 Paxton Dr.
Beach Park, Illinois 60099

Production of this brochure made possible by a Watershed Assistance Grant from the River Network and in-kind contributions provided by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

THE DEAD RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

Growing the watershed partnership



Photo: Micheal R. Jeffords

Bull Creek Stakeholders Association

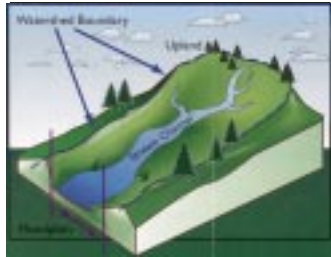


Photo by Michael R. Jeffords

Take a Look at the Dead River Watershed

The Dead River watershed drains approximately 18 square miles of land in Beach Park, Waukegan and Zion. It includes the Bull Creek and Glen Flora tributaries, which form a system of ravines that flow into the Dead River - a complex of small lakes, wetlands and slow moving channels - in Illinois Beach State Park.

Approximately 60% of the land in the Dead River watershed is developed. Land uses include a regional airport, a large forest preserve, a state park and several golf courses.



What is a watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that drains into a given stream, river, lake or wetland. The health of a given water body is a direct reflection of how the land in its watershed is used. Some of the benefits of a healthy watershed are:

- improved water quality,
- fewer flooding problems, reduced flood damage costs,
- opportunities for recreation, environmental education,
- enhanced wildlife habitat
- aesthetic value and increased property values.



Flood Hazards, Streambank Erosion and Water Quality

Urban rivers like the Dead River, Bull Creek and Glen Flora Tributary face special challenges to balancing drainage, water quality and habitat concerns.

As communities grow, a spreading shell of streets, parking lots, rooftops and concrete covers the soil in urbanizing areas, limiting water's ability to soak into the ground after rains or during snow melts. This water runs over streets and lawns, through storm sewers and other drainage structures and into the river with a charge of pollutants, ranging from salt and motor oil to lawn pesticides, fertilizers and pet wastes. This kind of pollution is called urban runoff, a type of nonpoint source pollution (NPS).

Increased water flow into the river causes erosion and can worsen flooding problems. Erosion further pollutes the water with sediment, destroys river habitat, and damages riparian (streamside) land. Flooding is a safety risk and threatens damage to homes, buildings, roads, bridges and other structures.



What's Happening in the Dead River Watershed?

Growth in urban development over the last several decades has added stress to the natural drainage system provided by Bull Creek and the Glen Flora Tributary. Increased runoff causes more water to enter the streams at a faster pace. The limited capacity of these waterways to carry increasing amounts of runoff leads to flooding and storm sewer backups in upstream areas.



Further downstream, the water rushes through deep ravines, eroding stream banks at an alarming rate. Streamside vegetation is ripped away, culverts are at risk of washing out, and sanitary sewer lines are becoming exposed. Eroded soils are eventually deposited in sensitive wetland areas, damaging wildlife habitat and threatening numerous rare and endangered species.



Your Stake in the Dead River Watershed

Landowners, businesses, local governments, county, state and federal agencies all have a stake in the watershed. Whether you live in the upper headwaters or downstream reaches, your actions make a difference.

Flood hazards, streambank erosion and water pollution are affected incrementally by all of our actions in the Dead River watershed. The actions of a few individuals alone won't solve these problems.

Getting involved now and learning what you can do to make a difference reduces the need for costly solutions later. Participate by attending upcoming informational presentations, watershed tours, landowner training workshops and other events being sponsored by the Bull Creek Stakeholders Association and other watershed partners.

For more information, contact the Bull Creek Stakeholders Association by emailing Bullcreek4@home.com or writing BSCA, 9797 Paxton Dr., Beach Park, IL 60099.