



Position Statement of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

The Beaver Creek Wetlands Association (BCWA) protection area is in the corridors of Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Creek in Greene County, Ohio. The following statements are summarized and modified from previous documents produced by our organization. We hope that you will read them and become aware of how we view the protection of the corridor. It is always the hope of BCWA that we can work cooperatively with regulatory agencies, developers, municipalities, and the conservation community to meet our goal of protecting and preserving the Beaver Creek Wetlands

BCWA Supports Wetlands Restoration and Conservation

- BCWA accepts the [1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual](#) and [Midwest Regional Supplement](#) for determining the extent of wetland.
- BCWA wishes to protect all land that lies within Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Creek [100-year flood zone](#).
- Beyond the [flood zone](#), BCWA advocates for protecting a 50-250 foot buffer zone with development restrictions.
- BCWA supports retention of all wetlands, of any size, within the protection corridors. We support mitigation of wetland losses by restoration only when the situation has revealed that no alternatives are practical or ecologically sound.
- BCWA supports the restoration of wetland within the protection corridors and the restoration of transitional upland habitats such as forests and prairies in the zones adjacent to the corridors.
- When management research shows that any undesirable plant or animal species threatens the stability or natural biodiversity of the wetland habitat, those species should be controlled.
- All tributaries to the Beaver Creek Wetlands streams should be protected from activities that negatively impact the wetland ecosystems.

BCWA Encourages Responsible Development

- Under [Ohio Sunshine Law](#), BCWA asks that all regulatory officials provide BCWA with notification of any construction planned within 1000 feet of the 100 year flood zone of the Beaver Creek Wetlands.
- BCWA asks that any construction or activity that occurs in the watershed of the protection area and lies over the aquifer as described by the [Miami Valley Regional Planning Council](#) be subject to notification of BCWA under Ohio Sunshine Law.
- BCWA requests that all jurisdictional areas employ inspectors to assure that day to day construction practice does not cause environmental damage within the protection corridors. In addition, we request that local rules be made that would halt development work that is out of compliance with best management practices for the environment.
- BCWA requests that construction phase seeding be required on all projects to reduce erosion.
- BCWA supports development plans that maximize the amount of permeable surface within the watershed of the protection area.
- All developments should design their storm water management systems to meet the requirements of the 100 year precipitation event. All calculations for storm water should be done through an independent contractor and double checked by the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Given that maintenance of the water table is essential to the survival of the wetlands, BCWA asks that regulatory officials and developers carefully evaluate any groundwater withdrawal associated with a proposed development project that is adjacent to the Beaver Creek Wetlands.

BCWA Supports Responsible Recreation

- BCWA recognizes that limited hunting for the purpose of wildlife management may be needed.
- BCWA supports the use of the wetlands for recreational activities along trails and boardwalks established for that purpose. To protect sensitive plant and animal populations, BCWA discourages public incursions into other parts of the wetlands for recreation.
- BCWA supports the use of the wetlands for educational purposes and research.

BCWA encourages local governing bodies to develop policies that complement and reinforce these positions.