Deep Into Solving Issues of Water

The university’s aquatic gateway to campus, The Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetlands Research Park is a cornerstone to the college’s focus on water issues. While a great deal of research and teaching happens through that venue, the college also is engaged in programs throughout the state that have a direct impact on Ohioans and water quality.

- **Field to Faucet:** This effort seeks end-to-end solutions, in partnership with other universities, government agencies, organizations, and businesses. Its initial focus is on best-practices when applying fertilizer; real-time identification of toxins and treatment protocols for municipal water treatment facilities; identifying “hot spots” in the Maumee Watershed to target resources and develop management nutrient management plans; and creating a Data Cooperative to address and handle regional farm- and university-specific data.
- **On-Field Ohio:** Scientists are sampling water runoff from 30 farm fields in the Scioto River, Western Lake Erie Basin and Grand Lake St. Marys watersheds.
- **Stone Lab:** Scientists here do long-term monitoring of Lake Erie’s water quality. Located at Put-In-Bay, the lab hosts the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s annual algal bloom forecast.
- **Two-Stage Ditch Design:** Co-developed by college researchers and employed by more and more farmers, the advanced design reduces nutrient runoff, soil erosion and upkeep costs.
- **Ohio Watershed Network:** Specialists with the network team up with communities to protect rivers, lakes, streams and the lands around them. One goal – keeping sources of drinking water safe.
- **Healthy Water Ohio:** The university, through the college’s leadership, is an active member and participant in this initiative that is focused on water quality, use, data collection, economic impacts, infrastructure and natural hazards.