

February 1, 2012

From: Barry Allan, Executive Director

Oak Creek Watershed
COUNCIL



Dear Oak Creek Watershed Resident...

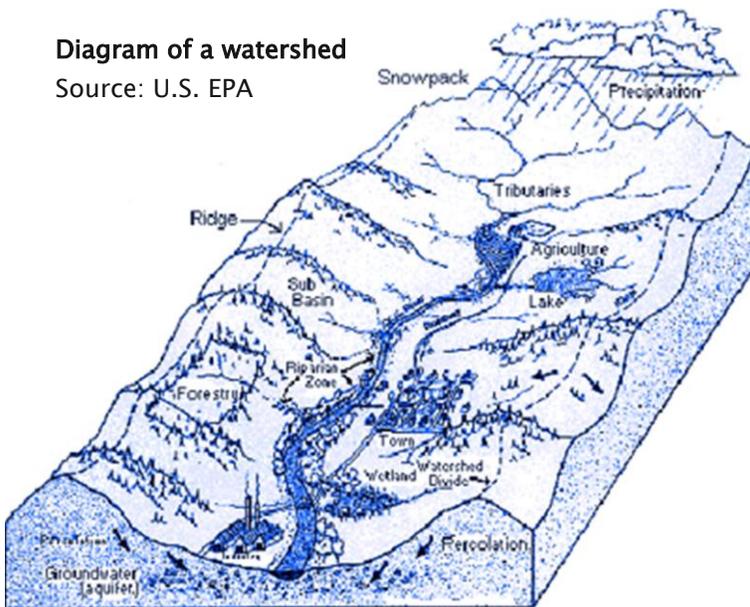
Oak Creek is the 50 mile thread that weaves together the fabric of our watershed community, as well as being vital to its economic, recreational and natural future. The Oak Creek Watershed Council is committed to preserving the integrity of Oak Creek and recognizes that its stewardship must be a part of the watershed community culture.

Funded by a grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) our group has submitted a draft of the Oak Creek Watershed Improvement Plan, which will be ready for public review very soon. The Plan identifies problems associated with the impairment of Oak Creek by the fecal coliform *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), as well as solutions to those problems.

We need your help discovering how best to inform other members of the public on ways to protect Oak Creek, and the health of people who recreate in it.

Diagram of a watershed

Source: U.S. EPA



This survey is designed to obtain residents' opinions on human behaviors that affect water quality. It will be used to guide projects to improve water quality in Oak Creek, and its five tributaries.

The enclosed survey takes approximately 15 minutes to fill out. Please print and take the time complete it, then mail to the Oak Creek Watershed Council or scan and email to info@oakcreekwatershed.org

We highly value your opinion, and it matters a lot to us! Your time is very much appreciated, and every survey we receive back helps Oak Creek. Thank you for your participation!

For more information about how you can help protect Oak Creek please visit our website at www.oakcreekwatershed.org. We also sponsor a website for visitors to Oak Creek Canyon at www.oakcreekcanyonaz.org in which we promote good stewardship and outdoor protocols.

Look for information on safe-guarding the water quality in Oak Creek through the Oak Creek Community Outreach Program in the spring of 2012 through radio, television, newspapers, as well as community groups. Your ideas at work along with hundreds of other watershed survey residents. *Together, we ARE making a difference!*

Oak Creek Watershed Resident's Website Survey

1) **Of the following, which best fits your definition of what a watershed is?**

- Area that retains water like a swamp or a marsh
- Water intake area that feeds a water treatment plant
- The area of land where all of the water that drains off of it goes into a single creek, river or other water body
- None of the above
- Don't know

2) **How concerned are you with the health of the Oak Creek Watershed?**

- Not concerned Somewhat
- Concerned Very concerned

3) **How many times a year do you visit/recreate along Oak Creek?**

- Never 1-5 6-10
- 11-15 16-20 20+

4) **What activities do you undertake while visiting Oak Creek? Please mark all that apply.**

- Hiking Camping Fishing
- Swimming Biking Dog walks
- Equestrian Other:

5) **Which is the most important source of information affecting your perception of the Oak Creek Watershed's health?**

- Personal observation

- Newspaper Radio Internet
- State or federal reports
- Local environmental groups

6) **What sources do you think are the biggest contributors to creek contamination that can cause human illness? Please number 1, 2 and 3 for your top choices.**

- Litter Dog feces
- Baby diapers Human feces
- Wildlife feces Livestock waste
- Septic systems Don't know
- Waste water treatment plants
- Other (specify)

7) Are you a pet owner?
If no please go to question 10.

8a) *If so, does/do your pet(s) go outside?*

8b) Do you clean your yard of pet waste?

9a) Do you own a dog? **If no please go to question 10.**

9b) Do you walk your dog in the Oak Creek Watershed?

9c) How often do you pick up your dog's waste when on a walk?

- Never Rarely Sometimes
- Most of the time Always

9d) If you pick up dog waste, how do you dispose of it?

- Bag and leave it Trash
- Toilet Compost Toss in ditch

Yes	No

9e) Would you use dog waste stations (plastic bag dispensers with or without trash can), if more were made available at parks and trails?

- Yes No

10) Would you be willing to volunteer your time to help preserve Oak Creek and/or educate others about Oak Creek? *(If yes, provide contact information on next page.)*

- Yes No

11) How old is the head of the household?

- <34 35-44 45-54 55-64
- 65-74 75+

12) How many people live in this household?

- 1 2 3 4 5+

13) Is this residence a second home?

- Yes No

14) What is your approximate annual household income in thousands of dollars?

- 0-20 20-50 50-100
- 100-200 >200

Please complete the reverse side, then fold and staple or tape survey closed and mail to the Oak Creek Watershed Council.

For more information, please visit our website at www.oakcreekwatershed.org

15) In your opinion, how much do the following threaten Oak Creek water quality?

0 = not sure 1 = not a problem 2 = slight problem
 3 = moderate problem 4 = large problem

Please mark with an X

	0	1	2	3	4
Agricultural runoff					
Livestock manure					
Fertilizers and pesticides					
Animals					
Dog feces that are not picked up and disposed properly					
Wildlife feces					
Wildlife attracted to water by discarded human food waste					
Erosion and sedimentation due to the following:					
Construction and maintenance of irrigation diversions					
Building and road construction					
Road maintenance					
Low water creek crossings					
Unmaintained "social" trails					
Jeep/ORV trails					
Other sources (specify)					
Recreation					
Human feces deposited outdoors					
Trash					
Used and improperly discarded baby diapers					
Lack of public toilet facilities near creek and at trailheads					
Lack of trash receptacles at recreation sites and trailheads					
Urban areas					
Stormwater runoff					
Lawn fertilizers and pesticides					
Pet feces not collected from yards					
Wastewater					
Inadequately maintained sewer system					
Improperly built or maintained residential septic systems					
Improperly built or maintained commercial septic systems					
Other					
Lack of riparian buffers (natural vegetation next to the water)					
Disturbance of "sediment reservoirs" on the bottom of Oak Creek that hold bacteria and viruses that can cause human illness					
Other (specify)					

Please, write any comments here:

Fold here

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