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**Marietta Goes Electrofishing with Ohio EPA,
Learns How to Protect and Restore Quality of Ohio River and Tributaries**

Dozens of fishermen, students, watershed activists and local leaders are gathering on the banks of the Ohio River in Marietta tonight to interact with Ohio EPA biologists and water quality experts. Ohio EPA is giving a live electrofishing demonstration in this outdoor classroom and discussing studies of the river and its tributaries that the Agency has either [participated](#) in or is currently conducting.

In the Washington County area over the past decade, Ohio EPA has studied the main stem of the [Muskingum River](#) and [Duck Creek](#) which both flow to the Ohio River in Marietta. More recently, Ohio EPA studied [other Ohio River tributaries and watersheds](#) in Washington, Monroe, Belmont and Jefferson counties. Last year, Ohio EPA launched studies of Ohio River tributaries in the [Portsmouth](#) and [Wheeling](#) areas. These studies are part of the Agency's continuous effort to monitor and report on the quality of rivers and streams throughout Ohio.

The public is invited to join Ohio EPA in today's learning laboratory for a chance to closely observe fish and aquatic insects. An abundance and diversity of species, including those sensitive to pollution, reflect better water quality. Ohio EPA collects biological data in the field from fish, aquatic insects and other macroinvertebrates to measure water quality; this includes the practice of electrofishing (during which fish are caught, measured, recorded and then released).

Ohio EPA is teaming up with [Friends of Lower Muskingum River](#) (FLMR) to highlight conservation practices and simple steps that are important to adopt to protect water quality; these include planting streamside buffers that reduce polluted runoff into local waterways.

Ohio EPA partners with watershed action groups and soil and water conservation districts to encourage farmers and homeowners to implement land management practices that help maintain or improve water quality. Ohio EPA also regulates industries and wastewater treatment systems.

Ohio EPA encourages residents of the Ohio River and its watersheds to get involved in preserving and restoring local water quality to protect human health, fishing and other recreational activities and aquatic life.