

# NEWS FROM ENVIROSCIENCE

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## **First Company to Adopt Local River**

*EnviroScience a Leader in Northeast Ohio Conservation Movement*

**STOW, Ohio** (March 4, 2002) –The state of Ohio has more than 200,000 acres of inland waterways and more than 7,000 miles of river. And EnviroScience, Inc., a locally based environmental consulting company, has just committed to clean up and maintain a very important two-mile stretch of one of Ohio’s rivers near downtown Akron.

The company’s adopted section is on the Little Cuyahoga River, and it runs through an urban area in northeast Akron near the North St. Bridge. Until now, not one private company in northeast Ohio had taken advantage of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Adopt-A-Waterway program. The program was started 10 years ago, and has had modest success in other portions of the state. The adopted section is an important piece of the Cuyahoga River watershed, because it is in a high traffic area alongside the recently developed Cuyahoga Towpath and lies only two miles south of the Cuyahoga River confluence.

“We know from previous surveys that the native aquatic species in that section of the river have been impacted. We hope that a consistent clean-up effort will help to repair some of the habitat damage that’s been done,” said Jamie Krejsa, vice president and director of Ecological Services for the company.

As a state strong in manufacturing, agriculture and tourism, Ohio’s inland waterways, including those in the greater Cleveland area, have been subjected to a tremendous amount of environmental strain. Ever since heavy industrial pollution caused the Cuyahoga River to catch on fire in the 1960s, the greater Cleveland area has had the dubious reputation of a manufacturing-intensive region with little regard for its environmental resources.

However, since Cleveland’s “rebirth” that was heralded by the development of the Tower City Mall and Jacob’s Field, the region has undergone a new trend of revitalization. This initiative has also carried on to other cities in the region, such as the addition of the new Aeros baseball stadium and commercial development in downtown Akron. The hope of EnviroScience is that projects such as this will help to inspire a community commitment to revitalizing the environmental resources in the region.

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“We saw a valuable opportunity to not only make a difference in the environment, but to also make a difference in the community,” said Marty Hilovsky, president of EnviroScience.

One of the major goals of the ODNR program is to educate the public on the benefits of clean waterways and how community stewardship will enhance Ohio’s natural resource potential. The ODNR emphasizes that this goal will only be reached through the combined cooperation of the public, private and government sectors.

“It took more than 20,000 volunteer hours to clean up just 380 miles of river last year. The fact is that the government doesn’t have the necessary resources to clean and maintain all of the state’s waterways – we need the community and private organizations to take responsibility too,” said Myron DeBrosse, ODNR Waterway Sweep Coordinator.

This issue is very relevant to northeast Ohio. Prior to EnviroScience’s action, only two miles of river in the region had been adopted through the program, and one outdoor enthusiast made that adoption. DeBrosse’s goal is to have at least one river adopted in each county. “Every stretch of river adopted in the northern part of the state is a big help,” he added.

EnviroScience will hold two annual cleanups during its two-year commitment to the ODNR. The cleanups provide an important opportunity to rid the waterway of dangerous and unsightly litter. Items that are commonly littered in Ohio’s waterways, such as cigarette butts, Styrofoam and plastic, can be mistaken as food and very harmful or even fatal to wildlife. Other commonly littered items, such as automobile tires, can be dangerous to boaters and/or create man-made breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes. It is also important to note that many of the items that litter Ohio’s waterways, such as glass, plastic and aluminum, can be recycled—otherwise, many of those items can take several hundred years to biodegrade. More information about the Adopt-A-Waterway program, as well as important environmental information, can be found at [www.dnr.state.oh.us/watercraft](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/watercraft).

### **Company Background**

EnviroScience, Inc., has been helping its clients with cost-effective, high-quality and innovative environmental consultation since 1989. Since the beginning, EnviroScience has successfully met the biomonitoring needs of federal, state and municipal governments, as well as industrial, engineering and private clients. The company was founded on wastewater management studies, but now employs more than 35 scientists that specialize in biomonitoring surveys. These include studies of wetlands, streams, lakes and terrestrial environments. Visit [www.enviroscienceinc.com](http://www.enviroscienceinc.com) for more information.

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