

# News Release

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## Coming Soon To A Stream Near You

**Summit County** - All of the streams in Summit County are soon to be mapped in detail as part of a program initiated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Clean Water Act, a law passed in 1977, supports this initiative. The Clean Water Act was designed to help stem the flow of pollutants into navigable waterways. By mapping any pipes or outlets which discharge into area streams, the EPA hopes to create a useful tool with which it can continue to insure the health of our nation's waters.

Responsibility for this program has been passed onto the local government. City, Village, and Township governments are best suited to judge how the maps should be created. In this way, the maps can be tailor made to serve each community's specific needs.

Work on this project has already begun in some parts of Summit County. Private landowners who have a stream running through their property may soon see a familiar face from the local community government walking along the stream bank. The mapping is done fairly quickly with the help of a GPS unit, or Global Positioning System. This technology is similar to what is used by "OnStar", the popular in-vehicle security system. The initial data collection for this mapping program should be completed within the year.

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