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**We Need Your Voice!**  
***Maintaining What We Value:***  
***A Survey to Guide the Nippersink Creek Watershed Plan***

In collaboration with the Nippersink Watershed Planning Committee researchers from Illinois State University will be conducting a social assessment of values, attitudes, and practices with a randomly selected group of households within the Nippersink Creek watershed. The social assessment is in support of the Nippersink Watershed Management Plan. The objective is to help us to gauge the public's responsiveness to the watershed plan and prioritize implementation steps in the watershed plan based on feedback from the public.

The Nippersink Creek watershed is considered among the finest of Illinois streams. Surveys for the presence of pollution-sensitive fish found that the Mainstem rates as a 'B' quality stream and the North Branch received a 'Class A' ranking. This provides a critical and important opportunity to be proactive in the protection of the watershed for its ecological health and the quality of life for its residents. The social assessment of residents within the Nippersink Creek Watershed will facilitate effective and targeted implementation of various conservation efforts (as outlined in the Nippersink Creek Watershed Plan) through a more accurate understanding of current values and attitudes towards the natural resources within the watershed. This understanding, in turn, will be utilized to develop place-specific outreach and education efforts to improve stewardship of water quality and natural resources within the Nippersink Creek Watershed.

**The survey will arrive in the mail to a randomly selected group of households in the Silver Creek, Nippersink Headwaters, Lower Nippersink, and Wonder Lake subwatersheds in mid-late May, 2010.** *There will also be an opportunity for those that do not receive a mail survey to complete the survey on-line at the Nippersink Creek Watershed website starting in mid-May – [www.nippersink.org](http://www.nippersink.org).* We want to encourage you to watch for the survey and please fill it out. Your opinions and perspectives are critical to the future of the watershed management plan and related activities. To learn more about the Nippersink Creek Watershed or to review the Watershed Plan, please visit [www.nippersink.org](http://www.nippersink.org). If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Dr. Joan Brehm, Illinois State University, [jmbrehm@ilstu.edu](mailto:jmbrehm@ilstu.edu) or Randy Stowe, Nippersink Creek Watershed Manager, [lakemanager@gmail.com](mailto:lakemanager@gmail.com).

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