

# How to Delineate a Watershed on a Map

by Christopher H. Kodani, Ph.D.

Clayton State University

## Materials:

One topographic map.

Two colored pencils (one color for features within your watershed, another contrasting color for features outside of your watershed).

## Methods:

- 1) Obtain a topographical map.
- 2) Determine the sampling point on the stream that you are interested in, and place an "X" there on the map. This sampling point defines the farthest downstream boundary of the watershed.
- 3) Using a colored pencil or highlighting marker, mark all parts of the stream system upstream of the sampling point. Solid lines (\_\_\_\_\_) represent streams which always have water, whereas dashed lines (- - -) represent temporary streams. All of these will be in your watershed.
- 4) Using a differently colored pencil, mark all other neighboring streams in the area. By definition, these must be outside your watershed.
- 5) Using the color for your watershed, place an "X" on the high points on the land surrounding your stream system.
- 6) Using the color for your watershed, draw a line starting with your sampling point, going from high point to high point, and back to your sampling point. Make sure that this watershed boundary includes the entire stream network you delineated in step 3 above.

# Reynolds Nature Preserve Watershed Delineation Exercise

