



Photo of Sharon Woods Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. Taken by Carl P. Mills  
1st place winner-Photo Contest, adult category.

# 2003 Annual Report

**Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District**

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# 2003 Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District



## Board of Supervisors

Chairman.....Steve Sandfort  
Vice-Chairman.....Thomas W. Reininger  
Secretary.....Karen Heyob  
Treasurer.....Patrick Arnette  
Program Chairman...Joe Allen

## Associate Supervisors

Dennis Heyob Stanley Strimple Melissa Krieger

## District Staff

Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator  
Barbara Connole, Administrative Assistant  
Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist  
Chey Alberto, Urban Technician  
Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist  
Michelle Brotherton, Education Assistant  
Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist

## Consultants to the District

Mohammad Islam, Geo-technical Engineer  
Willie Potter, Design Technician II

## Natural Resources Conservation Service

Steve Boeder, Acting District Conservationist  
George Cummings, District Conservationist

**Mission Statement**-A public organization committed to assisting the citizens of Hamilton County through education, technical assistance and leadership to be stewards of our soil and water resources.

**Vision**-To be a dynamic leader in soil and water conservation working to achieve the sustainable use of our soil and water resources on a local and regional basis.



Photo of Gardner Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. Taken by Vincent Bonomini and Donald Robison, Withrow High School. 1st place winner-Photo Contest, youth category.

The objective of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote soil and water conservation, proper land use and the improvement of water quality and resource development in Hamilton County.

District statistics and accomplishments for 2003.

## General Office Statistics

Total of phone calls /inquiries.....5,432  
\*Education program.....642  
\*Earthwork calls.....2,820  
\*Watershed/stream/log jams.....350  
\*Farm programs/ponds.....68  
\*Streams/drainage calls.....176  
\*Miscellaneous calls.....1,376  
  
Office visitors.....582  
Trees and Groundcover sold.....5,800  
Number of maps supplied (CAGIS).....18  
Number of soil surveys supplied.....136

## Landowner On-Site Visits

(erosion, drainage/flooding, streambank erosion, landslides).....238  
\*Pond/lake visits.....10  
\*Farm related visits.....12  
(3 WHIP, 6 EQIP, 1 Animal Waste, 2 Forestry)  
\*CAUV reports furnished.....49  
\*Log jams removed.....22

## Earthwork Program

\*Site inspections.....1,180  
\*Zoning reviews..... 21  
\*Earthwork permits.....115

## Education

\*Total presentations, events and workshops..... 251  
(Number of participants).....10,581

## School and Youth Programs

\*Classroom presentations.....196  
(Students served).....4,978

## Education

(continued)

\*Teacher workshops.....19  
(Teachers served).....367  
*These workshops included: Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, Soils, Worms as Recyclers, Land and Water Workshop, Fostering a Sense of Wonder and Window on Waste.*

- \*16 presentations on Hamilton County soils at the Hamilton Co. Land Lab.
- \*Forest Park Boy Scout Troop - Conservation and non-point solution- filmed and shown on Community Access T.V. Scouts installed 44 labels on storm drains.
- \*Butler County Waterfest.
- \*Hamilton County Waterfest.
- \*Arbor Day and Earth Day programs.
- \*Child Wellness Fair, Sharonville Health Fair and Taylor Elementary Health Fair.
- \*Cincinnati State and Technical College-Earth Jam.
- \*Ohio Envirothon.

### Earthworks

Number of trainings.....6  
(Number of participants).....54  
\*4 classes on *Erosion and Sediment Control Training* for Metropolitan Sewer District tappers.  
\**Erosion and Sediment Control* - Millcreek Restoration Project.  
\**Using Compost as an Erosion Control BMP*-OFSWCD-All Employees Meeting.

Political Jurisdictions and General Public.....15 presentations  
(663 participants)

- \**SW Ohio Pollution Prevention Workshop* for business and government entities.
- \**Stormwater 101* for jurisdictions- presented to City of Montgomery, Milford and Colerain Township, Planning and Zoning Boards.
- \*Symmes Township Zoning Board- Presentation on using riparian buffers when considering new development.

All District programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

- \*Columbia Township-Phase II educational programs.
- \*Ohio Planning and Zoning Conference- presented stormwater *Best Management Practices (BMPs)*.
- \*OFSWCD-All Employees Meeting-*Utilizing Watershed Planning to Avoid Stormwater Disaster*.
- \*Great Miami Watershed Network- Presentations on using signage to I.D. watersheds.
- \*Floodproofing Workshop.
- \*OSU Extension Land Use Workshop.
- \*Conservation Education at the Colerain Township, Izaak Walton League meeting.
- \*Held an Annual Planning Meeting.

*Storm Drain Labeling-assisted with 1 event, 14 people.*  
*Stream Walk-1 event, 12 people.*  
*Signage-2 consultations*  
*Number of Community displays. Exhibits-12 to 1000's of participants.*

## Special Projects and Grants

- \*Yard Waste Compost Demonstration Project as erosion control.-Partners: Meyer Builders, Rumpke and Evans Landscaping.
- \*Brandywine Stream Restoration in Glendale planting and maintenance of the stream restoration with Diamond Oaks Park Services students.
- \*Taylor Elementary School Land Lab development and Arbor Day tree planting.
- \*OEPA 319 Water Quality Grant, partner with OKI - Regional Council of Government for oil/grit separator installation and development of a Mill Creek wetland.
- \*Clean Ohio Fund grant partner with Colerain Township for wetland development.

## District Staff Served on the Following Committees

- \*Citizens Land Conservancy of Hamilton County
- \*Hamilton County Wet Weather Initiative Network *Education Chair*
- \*Clean Ohio Fund NRAC Committee-*Vice Chair*
- \*Hamilton County Stormwater Study Committee
- \*Community Compass Advisory Committee
- \*Diamond Oaks Career Center-Horticulture Program Advisory Board

**District Staff Served on the Following Committees** (continued)

- \*Hamilton Co. Emergency Management Agency Natural Hazard Mitigation Committee
- \*Miami Valley RC&D Council
- \*Hamilton County Science RPDC
- \*Ohio Stormwater Task Force-Communication Chair
- \*Friends of the Great Miami River-Vice President
- \*Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition, Vice-Chair
- \*Waterfest Committee

**District Staff Attended the Following Training**

- \*International Erosion Control Association - *The Muddy Water Blues Conference*
- \*ODNR Technician Development Training Program - Level 1
- \*OEPA Primary Headstream Habitat Evaluation workshop
- \*ODNR Standard Operating Procedures/Complaint Handling Training for Ag Pollution Abatement
- \*NRCS 2002 Farm Bill-Working with Minority and Limited Resource Farmers
- \*Ohio NEMO Workshop Developing an Effective Stormwater Management Program
- \*Little Miami Partnership Water Quality Symposium
- \*Ohio Lake Management Society Conference
- \*WMAO Floodplain Management Conference
- \*Healthy Water/Healthy People workshop
- \*Education Standards Based workshop
- \*Access software training

**Special Honors and Recognition**

- \*The District received a *Superior* Rating in the Ohio Conservation Award Program
- \*Gwen Roth, Education Specialist, received, on behalf of the Hamilton County Waterfest Committee, the National Association of Counties (NACo) *Acts of Caring* award
- \*Gwen Roth, Education Specialist, Barb Connole, Adm. Assistant and Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator, received *Certificates of Appreciation* from the Hamilton County Commissioners for their roles in developing and overseeing the annual *Waterfest* event.

- \*Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator received the *2003 Outstanding Staff Member* award from the Miami Valley RC&D Council.
- \*Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist and Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator received the *Great Partners in Planning* award for outstanding collaboration and volunteer services with the Stormwater Management Education Task Force of the Hamilton County Planning Partnership

*Appreciation and recognition is expressed to the Hamilton County Commissioners, the Ohio Legislature, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil & Water Conservation, the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commissioner and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for their continued support.*

**Funding obtained by the District to support conservation education and practices on the land in Hamilton County.**

**MSD-Consulting/Training Fees and in support of major events.....\$30,000.00**

**Waterfest Donations.....\$14,125.00**

**Arbor Day Tree Value.....\$ 350.00**

**Hamilton County Environmental Services Yard Waste Demo Project.....\$40,000.00**

**Education Fund Raising Donations.....\$ 3,000.00**

**Total.....\$87,475.00**

**Financial Report**

January 1, 2002 thru December 31, 2002

**District Account**

Balance on Hand.....	\$ 23,791.10
Income.....	105,810.09
Expenditures.....	107,593.84
Balance to Date.....	\$ 22,007.35

**Special Account**

Balance on Hand.....	\$124,816.36
Income:	
County Appropriations.....	283,638.00
State Matching Funds.....	245,638.29
Expenditures:	
Earthwork Contract.....	144,036.00
Other.....	407,419.14
Balance on Hand.....	\$102,637.51

*\*This is an audited financial report for the period January 1, 2002 thru December 31, 2002.*