

**Hamilton County  
Soil and Water Conservation District**

**2005 Annual Report**



*Message From The Chairman.....*

For millions of Americans, this world-famous photograph of a frisky sailor kissing a surprised nurse captured the ecstatic emotions of V-J Day in 1945. It was the celebration of the end of World War II and the moment which launched the beginning of a new American way of life.



Sixty years ago, the citizens of Hamilton County the United States and the world were dealing with getting on with life after World War II. Technological advances were being brought forth every day. From the computer, which was the size of a small house, that could do simple mathematic computations, to a newly invented ballpoint pen, which sold for \$12.50, advances have always spurred change.

Change starts with a vision. It was a vision that created the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and our need to conserve our natural resources and thus the need for change. With this same exuberant spirit, the District set off blazing trails with new farm practices and productivity. During the last 60 years, those who came before us as well as the current Board of Supervisors have found our time in service a study of change. I am thankful for current and past supervisors and staff who had the courage to redevelop our work processes and to look to the future, to change. Whether through agriculture conservation, earthworks, education, or storm water districting, our SWCD has always been willing to change. In addition to the employees, we have been successful because the citizens and the legislators have always been supportive of our programs and we thank them for that.

This past year we experienced another success in our venture in urban conservation through the Earthwork Regulations. The District took over these regulations in 1992. A better part of the past 13 years has been spent educating developers and builders on erosion and sediment control. For the past 10 years, we have lobbied to strengthen these regulations. Finally, after all these years, HB 411 which was introduced by our own State Representative Bill Seitz and supported by Representatives Schneider, Barrett, Driehaus, Raussen and Yates, became law in February 2005.

I have heard it said that success is when thousands of hours of preparation meets one moment of opportunity – This is an example of that truth.

And so, we progress as we did in 1945, meeting new challenges. Promoting sustainable growth with a view on the long-term impact, not just the short-term gain. My best wishes to all for the future and the changes that it will bring.

*Patrick Arnette, Chairman  
Hamilton County SWCD*

## 2005 General Office Stats

### Telephone Contacts

Earthwork/erosion/hillside stability calls	1,081
Watershed/Stream/Pond calls	380
Drainage calls	241
Farm programs calls	242
Education calls	615
Miscellaneous Calls	1,452
Visitors	583
Soil Surveys	<u>91</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,685</b>

### Landowner On-Site Visits

Ponds/Lakes/Streambank/Drainage	125
Stream Contamination	8
Groundwater	4
Log Jams	7
Erosion	86
Fill Sites	22
Landslides	18
Farm Related Visits	<u>123</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>393</b>



**Website Hits - 107,675**      **Visitors per year – 17,520**  
**Number of page views: 40,150**

### Farm Bill Programs

Amount of USDA Cost-Share funds totals      \$ 73,348.00

### Environmental Quality Incentives

#### Program-EQIP

Pasture & hay land planting	16.3 ac.
Fencing	8,637 ft.
Gates	8 no.
Pipeline	950 ft.
Heavy Use Protection Area	10,760 sq. ft.
Access Road	15,020 sq. ft.
Underground Outlet	800 ft.
Watering Facility	1 no.

#### Conservation Reserve Program CRP

Grassed Waterway	2.1 ac.
Subsurface Drainage	3,810 ft.
Grade Stabilization Structures	5
Tree Planting	53.2 ac.



West Homes-Crosby Township. "Before" Waterway installation.



"After" Waterway installation.

**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program WHIP**

Riparian Forest Buffer	12.0 ac.
Tree Stand Improvement	5.0 ac.
Tree Planting	1.5 ac.
Wetland Enhancement	1.0 ac.
Native Grass Planting	0.5 ac.



625 trees were planted on the Johnson Property - Green Township.

**Earthwork Program**

Plans reviewed	2,251
Zoning Reviews	14
Earthwork permits issued	116
# of active sites	128
Acres cleared for development	531ac.
Site inspections	1,399
New Fill sites	33

Armrel Byrnes at Hearthstone Estates

Education Programs for development community. 4 for 235 participants



Mulch/woodchip berm acting as dam in the drainage swale to function as a temporary sediment trap.

**Education**

- School and Youth Programs
  - Classroom presentations (students served) 141 3,963
  - Student events 10
- \*Fairview German Math Night  
 \*Butler County Water Festival  
 \*Arbor Day @ Little Flower School  
 \*Area IV Envirothon– High school students

Earth Jam at Cinci. State & Technical College  
 Bugfest at the Cincinnati Museum Center  
 Earth Day at Sawyer Point  
 Envirothon  
 Free Tree Program  
 Ohio River Paddlefest # of students served –thousands



Supervisor and Registered Forester, Steve Sandfort talks to students on Arbor Day.

**Teacher Workshops 14**

Cincinnati Public Schools Soils Workshop (2nd grade)	49
Cincinnati Public Schools Environmental Issues Workshop	46
4 - Worm Composting Workshops	82
Project WILD	10
2 - Project Wet Workshop.	36
Hamilton County Non Point Source Curriculum Workshop	15
Project Learning Tree	16
Wild Aquatics Workshop.	20
U.C/Ohio Farm Bureau Ag. Workshop	21
Splash Connection Workshop	18
Teachers Served – 313 that will impact minimally 7,825 students	



Students take soil samples at wetland.

Winner of the Odegard/Diebel Education Scholarship—Anna Kelly/Little Flower Elementary.

## Storm Water District Education & Outreach

### Watershed Signage Installed

3 communities – Montgomery, Anderson Twp, Cincinnati  
29 Signs Installed

### Storm drain labeling

3 communities –Anderson, Indian Hill, Symmes Township  
251 storm drains labeled, 42 participants



Storm drain labeling with the University of Cincinnati students in Mt. Washington.

### Special Projects and Grants

District played an instrumental role in the passage of HB 411, which strengthened enforcement for the Earthwork Program. USDA allocated \$50,000 through NRCS for the Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP) to provide cost-share for farmers to install conservation measures.

Developed criteria for Water Quality Education Mini-Grants and distributed a total of \$10,000 to watershed groups to promote public education.

Designing and publishing a K-12 educational curriculum on Water Quality specifically for Hamilton County.

Received \$5,000 from OEEF, \$5,000 from Greenacres and \$2,000 from Hamilton County

Environmental Services to develop an interactive *soils tent*. The tent debuted at the Hamilton County Fair.

Received \$250.00 donation from Lucille Diebel for the Diebel/Odegard Memorial Scholarships.

Received \$300.00 from The Brickman Group, LTD for the annual *Photo Contest*.



The Governor's signing of HB 411.

Signage at Stream Crossing for Watershed Identification -29 signs installed.

Signs installed by Project Signs through SWD Mini-Grant

Storm Drain Labeling – 9 Communities  
763 Labels applied/294 participants

Media Presentations & Video – 5

News Releases – 14 Press Articles - 9

8 Billboards posting advertising Water Quality and the SW District Hotline. A total of 304,842 cars pass these billboards each day based on an 18-hour day.

The District sincerely appreciates the support received from the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the Hamilton County Commissioners. Also the Ohio Legislature, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for their continued support.



Commissioner Todd Portune



Commissioner Pat Dewine



Commissioner Phil Heimlich

### **Board of Supervisors**

**Chairman.....Patrick Arnette**  
**Vice-Chairman.....Joe Allen**  
**Secretary.....Steve Sandfort**  
**Treasurer.....Tim Boehmer**  
**Program Chairman.....Thomas W. Reininger**

### **Associate Supervisors**

**Karen Heyob, Melissa Krieger and Stanley Strimple**

### **District Staff**

**Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator**  
**Barbara Connole, Administrative Assistant**  
**Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist**  
**Chey Alberto, Technician**  
**Nate Sturm, Technician**  
**Gwen Roth, Education Specialist**  
**Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist**  
**Mohammad Islam, Geotechnical Engineer**  
**Willie Potter, Design Technician II**

**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.

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.