Annual Report 2016

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Hamilton County
Soil and Water
Conservation District

Your Partner
in Conservation
Since 1945

Word from the Board

Newly Elected Board Members for 2017

Who Are We?
Hamilton County SWCD was established in 1945 to assist agriculture landowners in reducing soil loss on their fields. The District has always been run by a publicly elected Board of five volunteer supervisors that serve three-year terms.

Another important role the District historically played was in developing farm ponds and lakes. Since Hamilton County has no natural lakes, farmers often had to make several trips a day to the nearest stream to haul water for livestock. Hundreds of farm lakes have been surveyed and sited by the District and our Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partners.

In 1992, the District took on the administration of the Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations that govern earth movement on development sites. This includes erosion, sediment control and hillside stability. In 2003, the District was asked to also be responsible for the Education, Community Involvement and Pre-Construction components of Phase II of the Clean Water Act that addressed non-point source water pollution.

What Can We Do For You?
Our highly trained SWCD Technical staff is available to address erosion, hillside stability, stream stability, water quality as well as storm water issues. We offer hands on training through our monthly water quality lab located within the Miami Whitewater Forest.

Our education department provides educational speakers and programs for all age levels, from pre-school to seniors, on anything conservation. In addition to providing classroom programs, we have unique programs for High School students such as "Caring For Our Watersheds" that challenges students to come up with ideas on how to improve their local environment. The fun twist to this program is that the top 10 winners and their schools not only win sizable cash prizes, but also money to actually implement their ideas.

The avid gardener can increase plant vigor and productivity with our soil fertility testing kit and fall cover crop program. Our newsletter, website, Facebook & Twitter pages and blogs are packed with timely news and information.

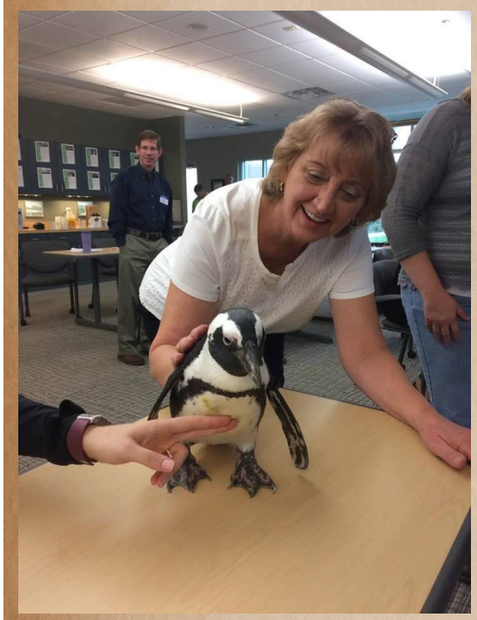
The Board and Staff are extremely grateful for the support and partnership we receive from our area residents, County Commissioners, County Storm Water District, Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Soil & Water Commission. We are committed to provide our services with the same quality and integrity in the years to come.

Thank you,
Board of Supervisors
& Staff

Caring For Our Watersheds

Cover Crop Demo

2016 in Pictures



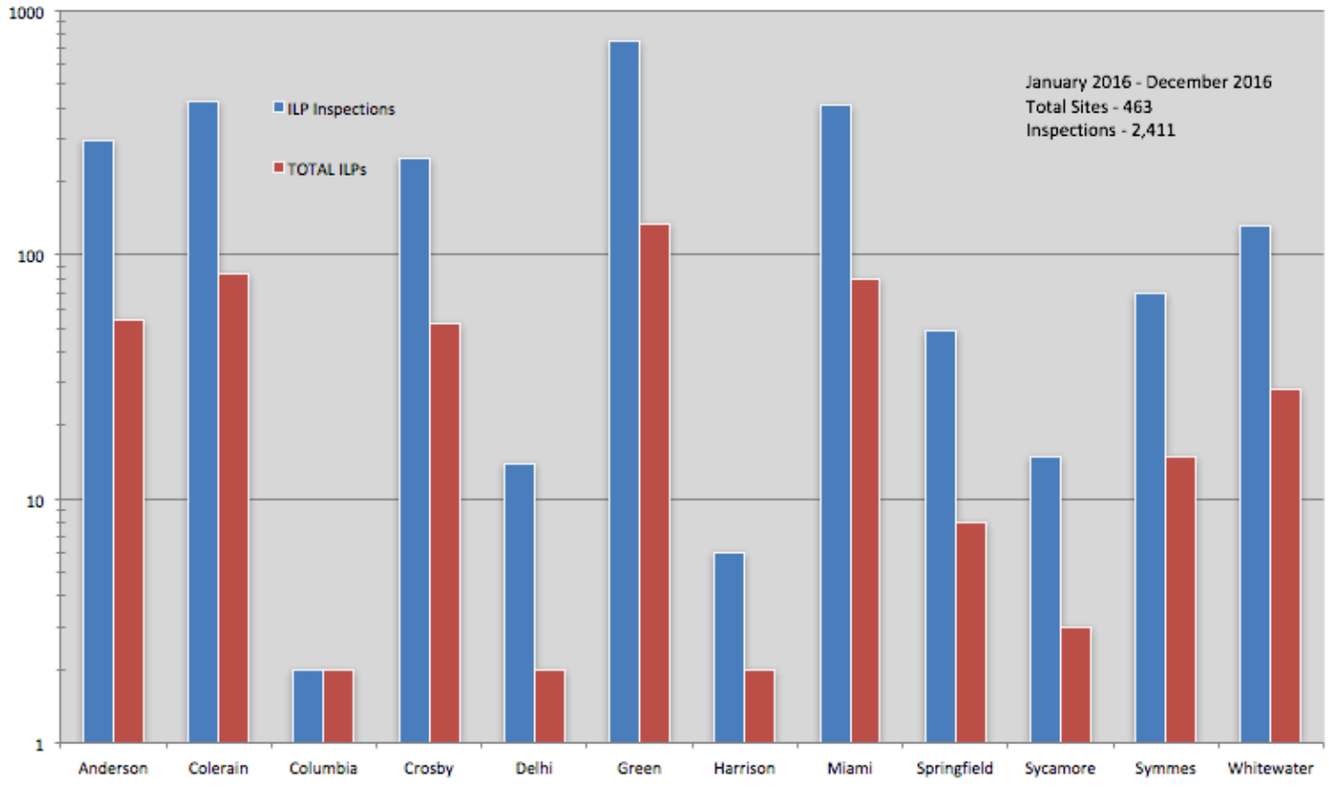
African Penguin from the Newport Aquarium teaching us about going green.

Native Tree and Shrub Sale

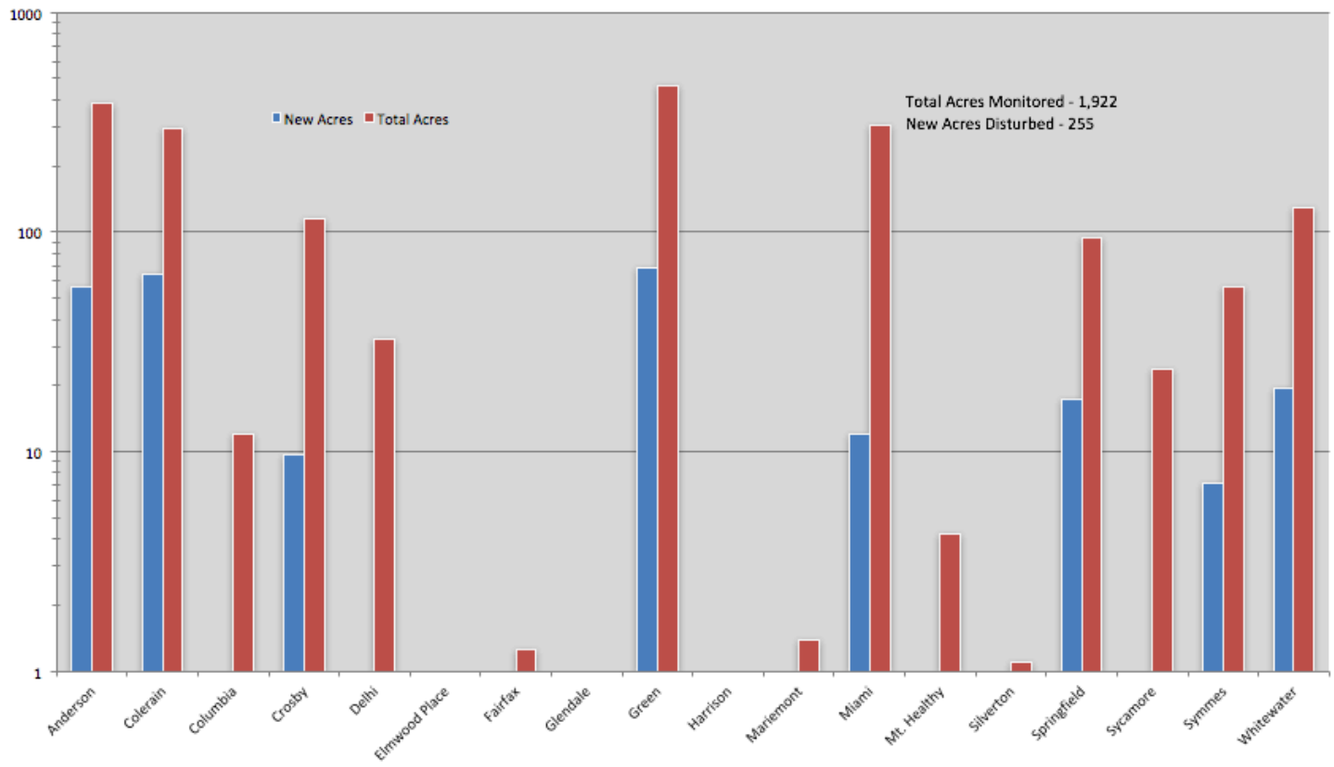
Greater Cincinnati Home and Garden Show

Earthwork

Individual Lot Permits



Acres Monitored



New Team Members

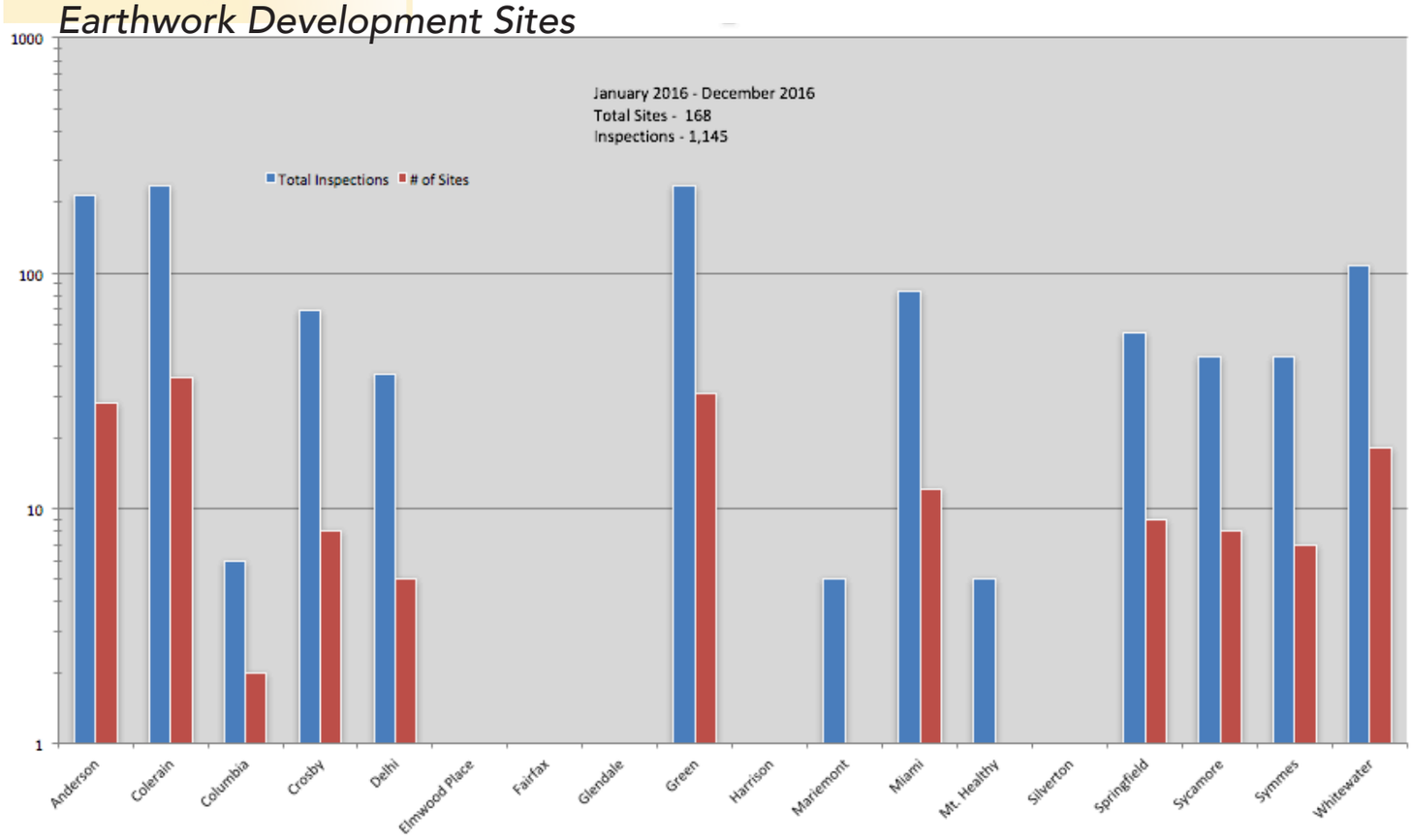
Jim Gleason

Sarah Kitsinis

Aaron Habig

Landslide Remediation

Earthwork Development Sites



Streams and Water Quality

District Working with Local Jurisdictions

Our New Stream Specialist

Adam Lehmann

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River

Boy Scouts Labeling Storm Drains

Girl Scouts at the GMR Water Quality Lab

Complaints and Inquires
15 Drainage & Flooding
25 Streams and Watersheds
46 Pollution Control
6 Storm Water Related Services
8 District Services
6 Erosion/Hillsides/Landslides

9 Citizen Water Quality Monitoring events:
170 volunteers March thru November, 805 samples tested for 8 water quality parameters each

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River:
24 volunteers retrieved 1.28 tons of waste.
(53 garbage bags + 2 couches + 1 mattress + 1 shopping cart + 177 tires)

Education

Bennett Heyn winner of CFW 2016

Passport to Fishing

Program Stats

360 School Programs
9027 Students

5 Scout Programs
116 Scouts

47 Library Programs
1038 Participants

5 Teacher Workshops
106 Teachers

4 Summer Camps
194 Participants

Special Event Stats

Caring For Our Watersheds
99 Entries, 275 Students

Envirothon
3 teams of 5 members.

Rothenberg Rooftop Garden which was partially funded by the Odegard Diebel Education Grants

Gwen and Sara Graduated with a Masters of Arts

Public Relations & Outreach

Springfield Township Touch-A-Truck Event

Commissioner Todd Portune at the Rain Barrel Art Project

Websites:
hcswcd.org
Visitors: 8,988
Pageviews: 28,533

SaveLocalWaters.Org
Visitors: 5,245
Pageviews: 13,642

Facebook
District Impressions: 116,254
District Page Likes: 687

SaveLocalWaters
Impressions: 153,596
SaveLocalWaters Likes: 1,339

2 Print Ad in City Beat

Twitter
Total Impressions 5,197
Total Followers: 685
Total Tweets: 762

Youtube:
District Views: 4,844
District Minutes: 22,858

SaveLocalWaters Views: 439
SaveLocalWaters Minutes: 937

Television Spots
241 Spots
Impressions: 3,012,344
Reach: 868,900

8 Press Releases

2016 Rain Barrel Art Project

Phone, Emails and Office Visits

General Units of Govt – 57 calls, 462 e-mails
Administrative – 465 calls, 2,266 e-mails
Office Visitors – 134

Earthwork
Contractor/developer/builder – 312 calls, 1,499 e-mails
Complaint/inquiries – 5 calls, 3 e-mails
Unit of Govt – 90 calls, 775 e-mails

Landowner
Drainage/erosion – 101 calls, 172 e-mails
Pond/Lake/Wetlands – 9 calls
Storm water – 6 calls
Farm programs (storm system, road, backyard, etc) – 52 calls

Outreach
Public events – 21 calls, 235 emails
General public – 206 emails
Collaboration with groups – 203 calls, 1,211 e-mails
Public relations – 89 calls, 600 e-mails
Storm Drain Labeling – 3 calls, 121 emails
District services & products (soil fertility kits, cover crop, maps, etc) – 143 calls, 384 e-mails

Stream
Stream bank stability – 11 calls, 2 emails
Flooding – 4 calls
Permits/Regulatory – 2 calls
Soils/erosion/hillside – 1 call
Landslides - 2 Calls

Public Events in 2016

Event	Month	Participants
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Jan-16	5
Fly Fishing Show	Feb-16	400
Read Across America	Feb-16	450
National Park Teacher Prev.	Feb-16	50
Home and Garden Show	Feb-16	730
Tri-State Green Industry Conference	Feb-16	400
Building Your Soils	Mar-16	62
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Mar-16	2
Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Lab	Mar-16	16
Farmer's Breakfast - Cover Crop Program	Mar-16	12
Rain Barrel Press Conference	Apr-16	16
Rain Barrel Presentation at OKI RCC	Apr-16	75
Cincinnati State Earth Jam	Apr-16	250
Presentation to County Commissioners	Apr-16	10
Cincinnati Flower Show	Apr-16	650
Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Lab	Apr-16	22
P&G Earth Day Event	Apr-16	250
Earth Day at Sawyer Point	Apr-16	675
Washington Park Earth Day	Apr-16	350
Envirothon	Apr-16	550
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Apr-16	12
Party for Planet/Rain Barrel Art Auction	Apr-16	975
Civic Garden Center Plant Sale	May-16	185
Caring For Our Watersheds Finals	May-16	100
Children's Health Fair	May-16	520
Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Lab	May-16	18
Biochar for Fruit and Nut Crops	May-16	16
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	May-16	12
Master Composters	Jun-16	13
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Jun-16	5
Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Lab	Jun-16	16
Passport to Fishing	Jun-16	50
BugFest	Jun-16	500
Springfield Township Touch a Truck	Jul-16	300
Storm Water Issues in Urban Areas	Jun-16	18
Red White and Blue Ash	Jul-16	330
4H-Fair	Jul-16	600
College Hill Farm Market	Jul-16	80
Sycamore Festival	Jul-16	440
Agronomy Field Day	Jul-16	28
Bee a Pollinator!	Jul-16	200
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Jul-16	15
Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo	Jul-16	550
Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Program	Jul-16	20
Kids Fun Day	Aug-16	145
Living Lands & Waters - Ohio River	Aug-16	221
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Aug-16	12
HANDS Health Fair	Aug-16	200
Annual Meeting	Aug-16	100
Storm Drain Labeling	Aug-16	27
Taste of Colerian	Aug-16	200
Paddlefest	Aug-16	500
Days in the Park	Aug-16	25
Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Program	Aug-16	19
GCEE Expo	Sep-16	200
Scope Out	Sep-16	150
Student Leadership Conference	Sep-16	200
Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Program	Sep-16	15
Caring For Our Watersheds Implementation	Sep-16	45
Who Works the River	Oct-16	150
Sunflower Festival	Oct-16	180
Agricultural Education Day	Oct-16	550
XU Pre-service Presentation	Oct-16	25
GU Best Ed Practices Day	Oct-16	25
Butler County WaterFest	Oct-16	135
Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Program	Oct-16	18
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Oct-16	8
2016 GMR Cleanup	Oct-16	24
Sustainable Backyards	Oct-16	24
Green Brand Workshop	Nov-16	25
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Nov-16	15
Storm Drain Labeling	Nov-16	32
Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Program	Nov-16	26
Global Day of Jewish Learning	Nov-16	250
Developer/Builder Sediment & Erosion Control Training	Dec-16	5

The District participated in 75 events in 2016, with a total participation of 13,529. In the public events, we interact and engage county residents on environmental issues. We have designed hands-on-activities like the Wheel of Conservation, Conservation Cornhole, Conservation Mini-golf for the larger public events. Workshop attendees receive more in-depth training on a specific topic.

Agriculture & Soil Fertility

Soil Test Kits and Trees:

469 Soil Test Kits
161 Sample submitted for analysis

1288 Native Trees And Shrubs sold.

Soil Samples Submitted by Location in 2016			
Amberley Village 6	Anderson Twp 14	Arlington Heights 1	Blue Ash 5
Cincinnati 25	Colerain Twp 10	Crosby Twp 4	Deer Park 3
Delhi Twp 10	Elmwood Place 1	Evendale 11	Glendale 2
Greenhills 1	Green Twp 2	Indian Hill 11	Lincoln Heights 2
Madeira 10	Montgomery 13	Mt. Healthy 11	Newtown 2
Springfield Twp 6	Sycamore Twp 9	Terrace Park 1	Whitewater Twp 1
161 Total			

Cereal Rye Cover Crop

Community Garden in Lincoln Heights

The District partnered with Great Parks of Hamilton County for the 2016 Native Tree and Shrub Sale.

Farm Bill Programs 2016:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):
No practices completed in 2016

Established 3 Urban Gardens
(1- Corryville, 2- Lincoln Heights)
41 Conservation Technical Assistance/Drainage visits

Financial Report

District Account	
January 1, 2016 beginning balance	$55,790
Income	4,714
Expenses	(4,765)
December 31, 3106 ending balance	$55,739
Special Account (Soil & Water Conservation)	
January 1, 2016 beginning balance	$409,369
General Fund Subsidy	201,130
State match	111,138
Other Revenue	180
Total Expenditures	(372,552)
December 31, 2016 ending balance	$349,265
Less 20% Contingency Fund and Payroll Liabilities	(165,094)
Total	$184,171
Special Account (Storm Water)	
January 1, 2016 beginning balance	$536,407
General Fund Subsidy	190,930
State match	192,199
Other Revenue	24,538
Total Expenditures	(481,803)
December 31, 2016 ending balance	$462,271
Less 20% Contingency Fund and Payroll Liabilities	(217,756)
Total	$244,515
Special Account (Save Local Waters)	
January 1, 2016 beginning balance	$62,953
Collaboration Funding	53,533
Other Revenue	1,265
Total Expenditures	(27,273)
December 31, 2016 ending balance	$90,478
Special Account (Caring For Our Watersheds)	
January 1, 2016 beginning balance	$-
Contributor Funding	25,000
Total Expenditures	(4,378)
December 31, 2016 ending balance	$20,622

This is an unaudited financial report for the period of January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016.

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Past & Present Board of Supervisors with terms served

Edward Seitz	1945-1954	Robert Schultz	1982-1983
Meade C. Pottenger	1945-1954	Thomas W. Reininger	1983-2008
Clifford Wittmeyer	1945-1954	Steve Sandfort	1985-1988, 1992-2007
Frank Bauer	1945-1950	Lou Elva Imhoff	1987-1989
Philip Huss	1945-1950	Dennis Heyob	1988-1993
Gene R. Abercrombie	1950-1956	Bob Davis	1990-1991
E. J. Kluener	1950-1953	Melissa Rumpke	1994-2001
J. Frederick Vogel	1954-1956	Karen Heyob	1998-2004
H. David Diebel	1955-1985	Patrick Arnette	1999-2005
Tom Pottenger	1955-1957	Joe Allen	2002-2007
Ray Hollmeyer	1955-1958	Tim Boehmer	2004-2006
Harry Eisman	1957-1959	Dave Dyke	2006-2008
J. C. Jenkins	1957-1958	Nate Holscher	2008-2010
Jack Palmer	1958-1960	Craig Abercrombie	2009-2011
Stanley Strimple	1958-1997	Pete Mallow	2011- 2013
George Kase	1958-1974, 1979-1981	Dennis Benson	2007-2012, 2013- present
Wayne Dittmer	1960-1997	Sam McKinley	2008-2010, 2011- present
William Kuhlman	1961-1975	Steve Johns	2009 -2014, 2015- present
Norma Hergert	1975-1987	Scott P. Huber	2012-2014, 2015 - present
Donald T. Hester	1976-1978	Pam Simmons	2013- present

Denise Driehaus

Todd Portune

Chris Monzel

Hamilton County Commissioners

The District sincerely appreciates the support we receive from the Hamilton County Commissioners: Commissioner Denise Driehaus, Commissioner Chris Monzel, Commissioner Todd Portune. We also appreciate the support we receive from the Hamilton County Storm Water District, Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Legislature, the Ohio Soil & Water Commission and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A Publication of:
Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
1325 East Kemper Rd. #115 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246
(513) 772-7645 | www.hcswcd.org

Mission Statement: A public organization committed to assisting the citizens of Hamilton County through education, technical assistance and leadership in the conservation of our soil and water resources.

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.