



2018 annual report



Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
1325 E. Kemper Rd. #115, Cincinnati, OH 45246

Ph: (513) 772-7645

www.hcswcd.org

About Us



HOLLY UTRATA-HALCOMB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 29 YEARS OF SERVICE

Holly Utrata-Halcomb has been employed with Hamilton County since 1990. Holly started her career in the Soil and Water District in education and administration. She now serves as the Executive Director. Holly's leadership was key in transitioning the District from its agrarian roots to serving the community with urban and storm water issues. In 2019, Holly announced her retirement. She will continue to serve the District in her current capacity till December 2019. The District wishes Holly the very best in her future endeavours.

MISSION

We are 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.

Our Board Of Supervisors



**Scott P.
Huber**

CHAIRPERSON



**Kaniz
Siddiqui, Ph.D**

VICE CHAIRPERSON



**John
Mangan**

TREASURER



**Michael C.
Miller, Ph.D**

SECRETARY



**Jane
Wittke**

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

Our Services

THE DISTRICT STRIVES TO BE A LEADER IN SERVICE DELIVERY. WE OFFER A RANGE OF INDUSTRY SPECIFIC SERVICES. HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF EACH AREA.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Our education focuses on children and adults alike. Our robust program assess the needs of the community and provides programs to help improve the quality of life in Hamilton County.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As the old adage goes, action speaks louder than words. That is exactly what we do in community involvement. We at the district look to go beyond the words and help residents take action to help improve water quality.



EARTHWORK PERMIT & ENFORCEMENT

The Board of County Commissioners has entrusted the District to implement and enforce the earthwork permit. The permit ensures that minimal sediment leaves a construction site and also protects landowners from risk of landslides.

QUALIFIED AND TRAINED STAFF

All of our staff are trained and experienced in their respective fields. 100% of our staff have a bachelor's in their area of expertise. Four members of our staff possess a Master's in their respective areas. All of our inspectors are currently certified or working toward their certifications.



WATERSHED PLANNING & RESTORATION

The goal of the District is to take a holistic approach to improve stream health and water quality in our local streams, with the end goal of providing long-term solutions.



LANDOWNER CONSULTATION

The District prides itself in its historic roots. One of the traditional roles of the Soil & Water District is to provide landowner consultation. We still respond to our landowners as they need help with agriculture, surface erosion and streambank erosion



MORE...

The District is always looking for ways to improve and expand our services. We look to opportunities and industry trends that keep us relevant and growing.

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

In keeping with our historic roots of education, we always take an educational approach to our services. Even in areas of enforcement, our first approach is to educate and help people into compliance.

community education & involvement

EDUCATION IS AT THE CORE OF ALL OUR SERVICES. WE TAKE PRIDE IN REACHING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.



10,046 STUDENTS & 1,688 PARTICIPANTS

A total of 10,046 students were reached in 406 classroom presentation. A total of 1,688 participants were reached in 69 non-classroom presentations.



9,760 PARTICIPANTS

154 events (e.g., workshops, field events, volunteer stream sampling and water quality monitoring, storm drain labelling, and the Caring for Watersheds program) with 9,760 participants

FACEBOOK

District Website & SaveLocalWater.Org
 impressions 227,498
 reach 137,574

TWITTER

District Website & SaveLocalWater.Org
 impressions 13,130
 total tweets 891

WEBSITES

www.hcswcd.org

visitors 7,380
 pageviews 21,601

www.savelocalwaters.org

visitors 6,498
 pageviews 17,002

www.hcswd.org

visitors 2,118
 pageviews 6,287



**Take Back Your Home
 Television Campaign
 Local 12**

impressions 1,755,300
 reach 476,527

WLWT

impressions 1,755,300
 reach 476,527

**Take Back Your Home
 Digital Campaign**

**Display
 Advertisements**

impressions 275,000
 clicks 517

**Streaming
 Advertisements**

impressions 490,00
 clicks 134

Website

visitors 3,822
 pageviews 7,268

The Innovative & Award Winning: "Take Back Your Home" Campaign





Earthwork Permit & Enforcement



THE DISTRICT'S EARTHWORK TEAM REGULARLY VISITS CONSTRUCTION SITES TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE COMPLIANT WITH REGULATIONS. THEY ALSO RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS AND QUERIES FROM LANDOWNERS ACROSS HAMILTON COUNTY

1,139 SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL REVIEWS

District staff reviewed a total of 1,139 plan for sediment and erosion controls in 2018

609 PROJECTS

District staff were actively involved in monitoring 609 projects that were under construction.

4,242 INSPECTIONS

District staff performed 4,242 inspections for compliance in 2018

1,009 GEOTECHNICAL REVIEWS

District staff reviewed a total of 1,009 plans for geotechnical issues in 2018

361 PERMITS

Our District staff issued a total of 361 new permits in 2018

1.28 INSPECTION RATE

The permit requires an average of 1 inspection per site per month. Inspectors exceeded this requirement by providing an inspection rate of 1.28.

Complaint Response

Hamilton County soils are highly erodible which often means we get panicked calls from our residents. We try to provide the best, most-accurate and current information to help them with their concerns.

JURISDICTION	DRAINAGE	EROSION	FILL	LANDSLIDE	POND	TOTAL COMPLAINTS
ADDYSTON	1					1
AMBERLEY VILLAGE		1	1			2
ANDERSON TWP	10	3	2	6	1	22
BLUE ASH	1			1		2
CINCINNATI	3	1		1		5
CLEVES				1		1
COLERAIN TWP	2	2	2	2	1	9
COLUMBIA TWP	1		1	1		3
DELHI TWP		2		2	1	5
FAIRFAX				1		1
GLENDALE	4	1				5
GREEN TWP	10	7	2	1	3	23
HARRISON TWP	1					1
INDIAN HILL		2				2
MARIEMONT		1				1
MIAMI TWP	2	3		2	2	9
NEWTOWN	1	1				2
NORWOOD	1					1
READING				3		3
SPRINGDALE	1					1
SPRINGFIELD TWP	2	3	1	2		8
SYCAMORE TWP	5					5
SYMMES TWP	8	3	1		3	15
TERRACE PARK	1					1
WHITewater TWP	1		5			6
WYOMING	1					1
TOTAL TYPE	56	30	15	23	11	135



135 COMPLAINTS

The above table shows the nature of the complaints and the jurisdiction from which the complaint originated.

watershed planning & restoration

THE MISSION OF THE DISTRICT'S STREAM CONSERVATION PROGRAM IS TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF HAMILTON COUNTY'S LOCAL WATER RESOURCES.

The District approaches this mission by offering three primary services to residents and organizations within Hamilton County:

WATERSHED PLANNING & RESTORATION

The District implements watershed restoration projects. We work with other local, regional, state, and federal organizations to apply a holistic, data driven approach to watershed restoration in Hamilton County.

RESIDENT CONSULTATION

The District offers consultations, free of charge, to residents and local organizations interested in responsible management of streams and stormwater.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & INVOLVEMENT

The District educates the public on the health of local streams, and on measures that can be taken to address stream degradation problems in our community.

LIVE STAKING

79 local residents volunteered to install tree cuttings into eroding banks of the Great Miami River and tributaries. Approximately 2,500 cuttings were installed during this 4 hour event. These trees will provide shade and habitat for fish and other wildlife, stabilize eroding riverbanks, reduce sediment pollution, and metabolize water pollution (nutrients) and air pollution (CO₂).





VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

689 samples were collected from the Great Miami River during the course of 2018. 763 samples were analysed by volunteers at the University of Cincinnati Field Station.

STORM DRAIN LABELING

40 labels were installed in the Somerset Neighborhood of Sycamore Township. The 5 volunteers also hung 150 door hangers educating residents.



We received a total of 102 entries from 61 schools and universities, and 41 private artists and businesses to paint a rain barrel. 40 of the top entries were selected to paint a barrel. The barrels were then displayed at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Over 100,000 people interacted with the barrels at the Zoo. 2 Local news agencies covered the event. The event also raised over \$6,000 to further environmental education.

6th Annual Rain Barrel Art Project

soil testing & agriculture

THE DISTRICT PROVIDES RESIDENTS WITH SOIL TESTING SERVICES. WE ALSO PARTNER WITH GREAT PARKS OF HAMILTON COUNTY TO OFFER TREE SALES. WE ALSO WORK WITH NRCS TO OFFER OUR FARMERS ASSISTANCE WITH EQIP FUNDING.



126 SOIL TEST KITS

The District sold 126 soil test kits during the course of 2018

580 NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS

In partnership with the Great Parks of Hamilton County, the District sold 580 native trees and shrubs.

208 AGRICULTURE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

District and NRCS staff responded to 208 instances of agriculture related technical assistance calls.

EQIP FUNDING

There was no equip funding approved for Hamilton County in 2018.

public events

February	
New Farmers Workshop	60 attendees
Fly Fishing Show	250 attendees
Project Wild Workshop	21 attendees
March	
Girl Scout Event	500 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	35 attendees
April	
Area IV Practice Envirothon	21 attendees
Arbor Day Celebration - Tree Planting	20 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	40 attendees
Lockland Rock the Block	500 attendees
Blue Ash Rec - Earth Day	125 attendees
P&G Earth Day Event	500 attendees
Earth Jam	120 attendees
Party For The Planet	3000 attendees
Summit Park - Earth Day Coalition	1200 attendees
Earth Day @ Washington Park	1200 attendees
Area IV Envirothon	550 attendees
Springdale Family Day	500 attendees
2018 Tree Summit	40 attendees
Volunteer River Restoration Event	76 attendees
Caring for Our Watershed	100 attendees
March of Dimes - Cincinnati	140 attendees
May	
Civic Garden Center Plant Sale	500 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	40 attendees
Children's Health Fair	300 attendees
Crosby Days	500 attendees
North Evendale Field Day	500 attendees
June	
St. Ignatius Health Day	600 attendees
Sayler Park Sustains	100 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	45 attendees
Springfield Touch A Truck	300 attendees

Juneteenth - Cincinnati	300 attendees
Mt. Healthy Concert	40 attendees
Firecracker Festival	500 attendees
July	
4-H Fair	900 attendees
Kids Expo	900 attendees
Sycamore Festival	300 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	42 attendees
August	
Growing Up WILD Workshop	38 attendees
Days in the Park - Deer Park	100 attendees
Paddlefest	450 attendees
Passport To Fishing Event	50 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	39 attendees
Fairfax Street Festival	250 attendees
Kids Fun Day - Crosby Twp.	100 attendees
Annual Meeting	70 attendees
September	
Curious KIDDS Workshop	13 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	36 attendees
GCEE Ultimate Educator Expo	375 attendees
Harvest Home Festival	200 attendees
Native Tree Sale	470 attendees
Student Leaders Conference	500 attendees
October	
Who Works the River?	185 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	41 attendees
Agriculture Education Day	300 attendees
Growing Up WILD Workshop	20 attendees
Sunflower Fest	200 attendees
November	
Growing Up WILD Workshop	15 attendees
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	38 attendees
December	
Green Umbrella Annual Meeting	242 attendees

District Staff



Holly Utrata-Halcomb
Executive Director



Susan Juriga
Administrative Assistant



John Nelson
Program Director



Gwen Z Roth
Education Specialist



Chey Alberto
Urban Conservationist



Adam Lehmann
Stream Specialist



Jim Gleason
Earthwork Technician II



Aaron Habig
Earthwork Technician II



Olivia Maltry
Earthwork Technician



Sara Fehring
Public Involvement Coordinator

2018 Financial Report

District Account	
January 1, 2018 beginning balance	\$57,770
Income	9,131
Expenses	(9,866)
December 31, 2018 ending balance	\$57,035
Special Account (Soil & Water Conservation)	
January 1, 2018 beginning balance	\$304,530
General Fund Subsidy	201,130
State match	137,434
Other Revenue	240
Total Expenditures	(358,833)
December 31, 2018 ending balance	\$284,501
Less 20% Contingency Fund and Payroll Liabilities	(169,729)
Total	\$114,772
Special Account (Storm Water)	
January 1, 2018 beginning balance	\$441,429
Intergovernment Subsidy	346,737
Other Revenue	9,624
Total Expenditures	(460,890)
December 31, 2018 ending balance	\$336,900
Less 20% Contingency Fund and Payroll Liabilities	(240,715)
Total	\$96,185
Special Account (Save Local Waters)	
January 1, 2018 beginning balance	\$72,651
Collaboration Funding	38,608
Other Revenue	6,610
Total Expenditures	(40,497)
December 31, 2018 ending balance	\$77,372
Special Account (Caring For Our Watersheds)	
January 1, 2018 beginning balance	\$21,689
Contributor Funding	70,000
Other Revenue	1,350
Total Expenditures	(44,039)
December 31, 2018 ending balance	\$49,000
Special Account (OEEF Grant - Bechtold Retro fit)	
January 1, 2018 beginning balance	\$-
Contributor Funding	43,300
Total Expenditures	(462)
December 31, 2018 ending balance	\$42,838

Hamilton County



Soil and Water
Conservation District

Your Partner in Conservation...

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