

2008 Annual Report

**Hamilton County
Soil and Water Conservation District
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View of the Little Miami at Riverside Park in Anderson Township.

Photographer - Brian Bohl

Dear Hamilton County Landowners and Residents,

The roller coaster of weather extremes in 2007 continued in ferocity through the spring of 2008. Last summer's severe drought created some conditions approaching a modern day dust bowl. That was followed by the wettest 6 months period (Oct 2007– March 2008) in recorded history, which yielded an astounding 34 landslides in Hamilton County. Landowner site visits providing technical advice more than doubled.

Development sites, which include cut & fill, commercial and residential work on sites greater than 1 acre, actually increased during the reporting period August 2007 – July 2008. In our last Annual Report the total number of active sites was 158. During this tracking period the average number was 174. However, the number of new acres disturbed for development fell from 510ac. to 347ac. with Miami Twp. and Colerain Twp. leading the way in number of acres disturbed. These are tough fiscal times for everyone and we are all hoping for an increase in consumer confidence soon.

USDA cost-share funding for soil conservation practices increased by over 70% this year. Record breaking participation of farmers must be credited to our Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) partner's efforts and talents.

There is obviously a "green movement" afoot that transcends the agricultural community. This past year, District staff has worked with Cincinnati Public Schools on their Green Schools Initiative and the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) on their USEPA Consent Decree utilizing green best management practices to decrease the amount of storm water entering the combined sewer system.

In conjunction with that endeavor, District staff and supervisors worked closely with the Ohio State University Extension, the US EPA, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden and others to develop standards for green practices such as rain gardens, rain swales and innovative contour plantings. The new "Guidelines for Utilizing Rain Gardens as a Water Management Tool" manual is the first to be published for our region. This manual can also be accessed on our website – www.hcswcd.org - under Publications. Both Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati leaders have pledged new Green Initiatives for now and the future.

The second generation of the Phase II - Federal Clean Water Act was announced in March of this year. Our staff has been diligently working with the Hamilton County Storm Water District, County Engineer, and MSD to revise our Earth Work Regulations to reflect the new rules and laws in order to provide consistency throughout all of the jurisdictions in the County. The new Earth Work Regulation should be approved by December.

Education is the cornerstone of all of our programs. In addition to 243 classroom presentations for 6,095 students, 11 teacher workshops for 115 teachers impacting 5,330 students were also presented. This was an opportunity to provide our new water quality curriculum – "Making Waves" to each teacher. This curriculum can be viewed and printed from our website under Publications.

As always, feel free to contact our District office if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

David Dyke, Chairman



Sitting — Dave Dyke, Chairman; Sam McKinley, Program Chair
Standing — Thomas W. Reiningger, Vice Chairman; Denny Benson, Secretary; Nate Holscher, Treasurer

Service Statistics for 2008

Telephone Contacts

Landowner

Drainage/erosion – 396
Pond/lake – 33
Storm Water – 339
Education – 1,744 (phone and email)
Earth Work – 3,508
Farm Programs – 148
Soil Fertility – 238
Misc. Calls – 332

Units of Govt. – 142

Administrative – 358

Publicity – 138

Office Visitors – 821

Web Site Statistics – www.hcswcd.org

Visitors – 61,333 Ave. per day – 168 Total Hits – 230,424
Pages Viewed – 95,118 Average Length of Visit – 11 min. 43sec.

Landowner Sites Visits – 339 Total

Pond/drainage – 88	Erosion – 69	Stream Contamination – 11
Fill Sites – 68	Ground Water – 2	Landslide – 61
Stream Bank Erosion – 11	Stream Permitting – 7	Soil Fertility – 2
Farm – 29	Log Jams – 2	

Farm Bill Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

Timber Stand Improvement (Honeysuckle Removal) – 34.5 ac.
Fencing – 10,095 ft
Pasture and Hay land Planting – 26.6 ac
Heavy Use Area Protection – 1,200 sq ft
Access Road – 3,250 sq ft
Subsurface Drainage – 100 ft.
Stream Crossing – 1,125 sq ft
Roof Runoff Structure (gutters) – 168 ft.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Grassed Waterways – 2.8 ac.
Subsurface Drainage – 3825 ft
Grade Stabilization Structures – 9

Amount of USDA Cost-Share funds distributed – \$69,139.00

Number of Farm related Educational Programs – 3

Education

School Presentations – 243 for 6,095 students
Teacher Workshops – 11 for 205 teachers impacting 5,330 students/year*

**The students impacted number came from multiplying # teachers (205) by 26 (avg. class size)*

Stream

Stream bank erosion – 67
Stream-water quality – 124
Clean Sweep – 22
Signage – 27
Wetlands – 3
Permits – 10
GIS/soils/aerials – 184
Storm Drain Labeling – 32
Phase II – 105
Watershed Groups – 49
Forestry – 11



Clean Sweep 2008
at Heritage Park



Installation of a grassed waterway to control
gully erosion in a field

Public Education – Programs, Events and Displays – 68 Total

Brian Bohl and Holly Utrata-Halcomb served on a committee headed up by Chairman David Dyke to create the first rain garden manual for our region entitled "Guidelines for Utilizing Rain Gardens as a Stormwater Management". This publication is available on the District Web Site www.hcswcd.org, under Publications.

- 8/07 – Hamilton County Fair – 30,000 in attendance
 - Northwest Local Back-to-School Health Fair – 250 in attendance
 - Green and Healthy Schools event at Cincinnati Zoo – 65 participants
 - P&G Earth Day at Heritage Park (display, lecture & tour) – 200 in attendance
- 9/07 – Harvest Home Festival – 30,000+ in attendance
 - Farm Fest at Coney Island – 8,000 in attendance
 - Agriculture Education Day at Coney – 360 students
 - Wyoming Days – Hundreds in attendance
 - Great Outdoor Weekend – 250 in attendance
 - Great Miami River Days – Thousand in attendance
 - Barlett Tree planning event at Cincinnati State – 50 participants
 - GCEE Ultimate Educators Expo – 230 in attendance
 - Friends of the Great Miami riparian corridor planting – 20 in attendance
 - Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting – 90 in attendance
 - City of Wyoming Storm Drain Labeling – 19 in attendance
- 10/07 – Hosted and led the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Conservation Tour in Hamilton County – 26 in attendance
 - Presented at the Ohio County Engineers' Storm Water Conference – 80 in attendance
 - Presentation to Children's Librarians at the Public Library of Cincinnati Hamilton County – 54 librarians Worm Workshop – 10 teachers
 - Butler County Water Festival – hundreds in attendance
 - Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education, Mechanisms Used to Mitigate the Impacts of Storm Water Runoff in Hamilton – 70 in attendance
- 11/07 – Presented at the Water Management Association of Ohio Annual Conference – 54 in attendance
 - Project WET Workshop – 13 teachers
 - Mill Creek Yacht Club canoe trip – 20 in attendance
- 12/07 – Project Learning Tree – 15 teachers
- 1/08 – Hart Travel Sports & Boat Show – 80,000 in attendance
- 2/08 – Presentation to Cincinnati Public School Curriculum Directors on our new NPS Curriculum for use in their new "Green Schools" program – 14 in attendance
 - Green Expo – Hundreds in attendance
- 3/08 – Long Range Planning Breakfast – 63 in attendance
 - Presentation and Display at Mckie Rec. Center in Northside on Rain Garden basics – 15 in attendance
 - Presentation to Master Gardeners on volunteer opportunities for the District – 20 in attendance



Long Range Planning Meeting

- 4/08 – Free Tree Give-away – 925 trees distributed
- Project WET workshop – 8 teachers
- Pond Clinic – 25 in attendance
- Cincinnati Flower Show Rain Garden Exhibits – ten of thousands in attendance
- Sharonville Health Fair – 500 in attendance
- Earth Day at Sawyer Point – 8,500 in attendance
- Presentation at OEPA sponsored seminar on Phase II. Presented on networking with neighboring counties to achieve education and community involvement goals – 98 in attendance
- Earth Jam at Cincinnati State – 500 in attendance
- Presentation to the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation on progress tracking methodologies – 26 in attendance
- Springdale Health Fair – 500 in attendance
- Southwest Ohio Science Institute (SOSI) Principals Academy – 15 principals
- Project Learning Tree Workshop – 12 teachers
- Sharonville Health Fair – 500 in attendance
- Fairview German Math and Science Night – 150 in attendance
- Avondale After School Program, Enviroscape Non-Point Source Pollution – 12 in attendance



Demonstration of a detention basin for the Pond Clinic

- 5/08 – Public Service Employees Recognition Day – Hundreds in attendance
- Envirothon competition for High School Teams – 4 Hamilton County teams participated – 520 participants.
- Crosby Days – hundreds in attendance
- Clean Sweep – 40 in attendance
- Land, Water and Air Resources Workshop – 12 teachers
- Mechanisms to mitigate the Impacts of Storm Water runoff in Hamilton County for the Springdale-Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities Ran Garden Workshop – 20 in attendance
- Deer Park Enviroscape Presentation and Storm Drain Labeling – 25 in attendance



Erosion Control Field Day

- 6/08 – Pond Clinic – 15 in attendance
- Ohio Envirothon – 200 Participants
- Bugfest- Cincinnati Museum Center – 1,200 in attendance
- Erosion Control Field Day for Developer, Builders and Contractors – 110 in attendance
- Rain Garden Workshop at the Cincinnati Zoo also featuring the new Green Roof – 56 in attendance
- SOSI teacher workshop – 39 4th grade teachers
- SOSI teacher workshop – 24 5th grade teachers
- SOSI teacher workshop – 22 4th grade teachers
- Rain Garden Workshop at Cincinnati Zoo – 50 in attendance
- Paddlefest Kids Expo and Music Festival – 2,500 in attendance
- City of Wyoming Enviroscape Presentation and Storm Drain Labeling – 25 in attendance



Green Roof at the Zoo for the Rain Garden Workshop

- 7/08 – SOSI teacher workshop – 35 3rd grade teachers
- UC Freshman Challenge – 35 students
- Cincinnati Park Board Day Camp – 750 students
- Cincinnati Zoo Residential Rain Garden Workshop – 50 in attendance
- City of Wyoming Enviroscape Presentation and Storm Drain Labeling – 15 in attendance

District Resources & Products—Items Provided or Sold

Soil Surveys – 43 Soil Fertility Test Kits – 136 Arial photo CD – 8
 Soils CD – 2 “Life by the Water’s Edge” booklet – 283

EarthWork Program

Plans Reviewed – 1809 Total# of active sites – 174 Acres disturbed – 347
 Development Sites inspected on a semi-monthly or monthly basis – 147 avg.
 Zoning reviews – 38 New fill sites – 39



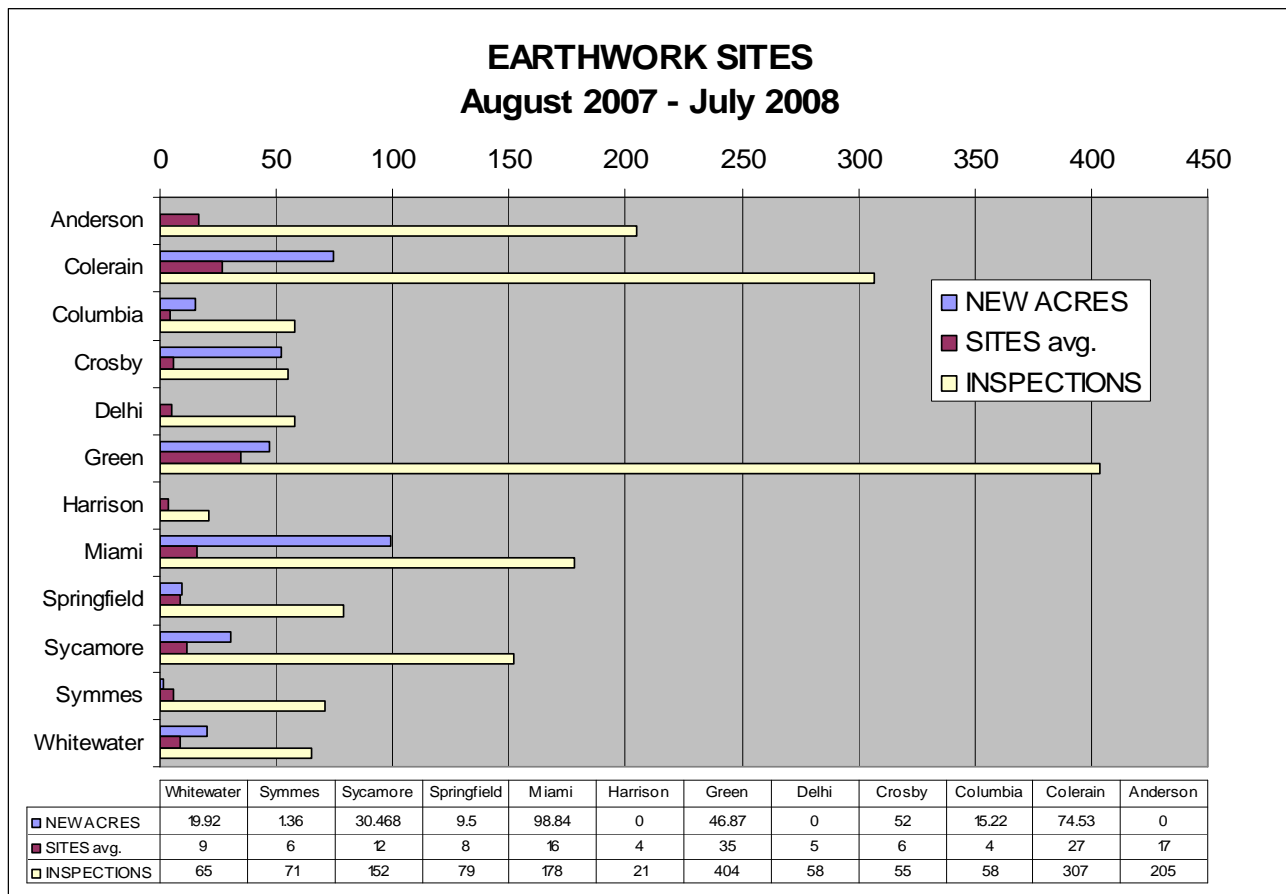
A spring landslide



Sediment on the road

Permits issued by Township August 2007 – July 31, 2008

Anderson – 10 Colerain – 6 Columbia – 4 Crosby – 1 Delhi – 4 Green – 17
 Harrison – 0 Miami – 11 Springfield – 4 Sycamore – 7 Symmes – 8 Whitewater – 3
Total New Permits = 75



Education Media Outreach

Education Media Outreach

October 2007 – Lamar Advertising donated the following sites as bonuses to previous advertising:

- Queen City East of Wyoming Ave
- Spring Grove North of Marshall
- State St. North of Wilder
- Colerain South of Elmore
- Vine St. South of Railroad

The value of these billboards is a total of \$4,750 with 50,731 cars passing these signs daily for 30 days.

Lamar Advertising also allowed the billboard we purchased on I-75 near Rt. 562 in September 2007 to stay up through October. The value of his donation is \$5,000 with 117,799 cars passing daily for 30 days.

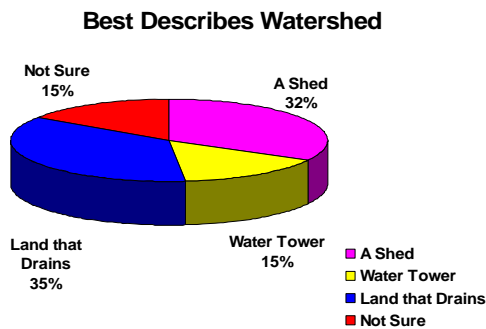
April 2008 – Half page ad on Water Quality appeared in “City Beat” Earth Day issue

May 2008 – Filmed sites in Hamilton County with WCET (Ch. 48) for new webcast on the effects of erosion on water quality

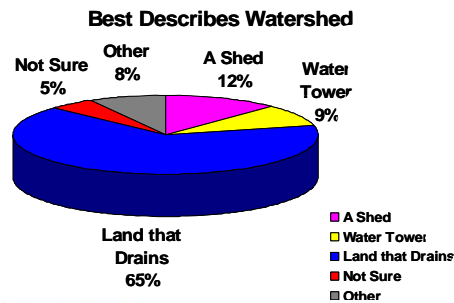
August 2008 Ordered one Rotary Billboard on I-75 and two posters from Lamar Advertising to be posted in September. Lamar donated two additional posters for the same time period. Combined, 197,740 will pass these billboards each day for 30 days.

Are these outreach efforts effective? We believe they are!

Survey Conducted March 2005



Survey Conducted March 2008



In a three year period there was a 30% increase in understanding the watershed concept.

Mass Media – 814,611 potential audience

Television – WCPO, Channel 9

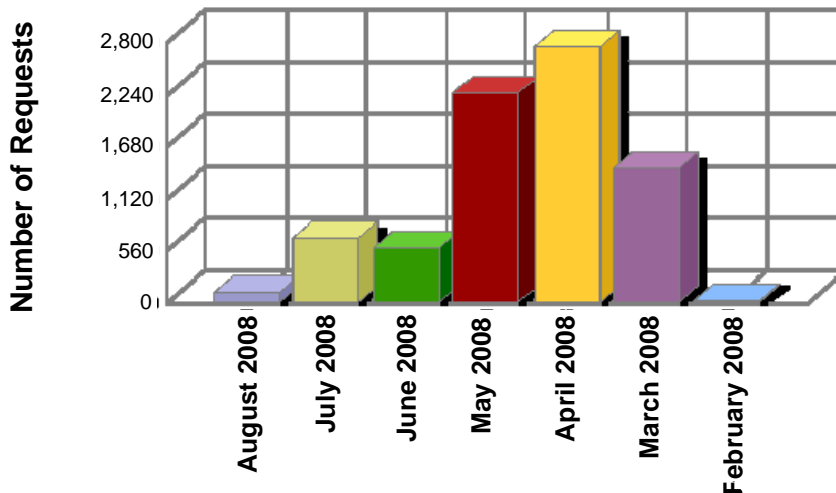
234 “Fish Bowl” Ads – April & May

87 Steve Raleigh 15 sec. “Did You Know” segments

WCPO.com Stats – April & May Web Images – 402,704

Regional Storm Water Collaborative Web Site – www.savelocalwaters.org

Monthly Report



February 12 – August 5, 2008

Community Involvement

2008 Storm Drain Labeling Events: 4 events, 84 participants, 461 storm drains, 1,207 door hangers

September 2007 – City of Wyoming Storm Drain Labeling event – 19 participants labeled 71 storm drains and handed out 221 door hangers in the Mill Creek watershed.

May 2008 – Deer Park Enviroscape presentation and Storm Drain Labeling event – 25 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Parents labeled 146 storm drains and handed out 566 door hangers in the Little Miami and Mill Creek watersheds.

June 2008 – City of Wyoming Enviroscape presentation and Storm Drain Labeling event – 25 participants from Wyoming Youth Services School Program labeled 37 storm drains and handed out 106 door hangers in the Mill Creek watershed.

July 2008 – City of Wyoming Enviroscape presentation and Storm Drain Labeling event – 15 participants from the Hamilton County 4-H Equestrian Club labeled 47 storm drains and handed out 166 door hangers in the West Fork Mill Creek and Cilley Creek subwatersheds and Mill Creek watershed.

November 2007 to January 2008 – Amberley Village Public Works Staff labeled 160 storm drains and hand out 148 door hangers in the Mill Creek watershed.

River Clean-ups: 2 locations, 40 participants

May 10 – Clean Sweep of the Great Miami – Heritage Park and Shawnee Lookout Park. At both locations, a total of 40 volunteers collected 68 bags of trash, 55 tires and a number of other unique items – (32 volunteers in Cole-rain Twp., 8 in Miami Twp.)

Community Presentations/Displays: 15 presentations and/or display opportunities with an audience of 1,428 total individuals.

Duke Energy – Unique Partnership:

Coordination with Duke Energy on a contractor vegetative management policy: After receiving notice of Duke Energy clearing and debris storage practices along waterways, The District coordinated with numerous federal, state and county agencies to develop a response with respect to Duke's vegetative management strategies. This coordination effort then provided opportunity to work with Duke Energy to establish an agreement outlining requirements for contractors when working along stream and river systems. Since protection of a vegetative corridor along waterways allows for pollutant removal, stream bank protection, wildlife habitat, shading and increased oxygen within streams, the District promotes the protection of these areas. In partnership with Duke, we were able to negotiate an agreement that starting in 2009, that will require Duke and its respective contractors to adhere to these practices.

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation Staff



Sitting—Starting from the left: Annette Meagher, Nate Sturm, Cheryl Reinke Peck, Dan Taphorn, Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Bob Sheets
Standing—Starting from the left: Brian Bohl, Susan Juriga, Willie Potter, Gwen Z. Roth, Chey Alberto

Leadership Positions, Membership of Committees and Accomplishments of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Staff

Leadership Positions Held by District Staff:

- President, Friends of the Great Miami River
- Vice Chair, Natural Resource Assistance Council for the Clean Ohio Fund
- Communications Chair, Ohio Storm Water Task Force
- Chair of the Regional Storm Water Collaborative
- Administer the Hamilton County Earth Work Regulations – for hillside stability, sediment and erosion control in the unincorporated areas of the County
- Hamilton County liaison for all USDA farm related programs through the Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Hamilton County enforcement official for ODNR – Div. of Soil & Water Conservation Agriculture Pollution Abatement Rules
- Responsible for Hamilton County Storm Water District Education, Outreach and Public Involvement Programs, and Construction components of the National Pollution Discharge & Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II – Clean Water Act

Membership in the following Committees:

- Clean Sweep of the Lower Great Miami River Planning Committee
- Great Miami River Network
- Hamilton County Interagency Working Group
- Hamilton County Planning Partnership Storm Water Education Task Force
- Hamilton County Planning Partnership Storm Water Zoning Code Project
- Hamilton County Storm Water District Technical Advisory Committee
- Little Miami River Partnership
- Lower Great Miami Drinking Water Protection Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Sewer District Green Initiative Committee
- Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities
- MSD Rain Garden Manual Development Workgroup
- Ohio EPA Stream Mitigation Working Group
- OKI Ground Water Committee
- OKI-Regional Conservation Council
- Resource Conservation & Development Council – Livable Landscapes
- Saturday Stream Snapshot – Little Miami River watershed stream monitoring
- Southwest Ohio Area Mosquito Task Force
- Stream Mitigation Database Workgroup
- SW Ohio Sediment & Erosion Control Field Day Committee
- USEPA Shepherds Creek Project

Honors and Certifications earned by District staff in the past year:

- Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist was named Hamilton County 2008 Employee of the Year – Innovator Award
- Robert Sheets earned his certificate as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)
- Brian Bohl earned a full certificate in the ODNR Technician Development Program by completing levels III, IV & V
- Nathan Sturm completed the ODNR Technician Development Training – Level II
- The District received a certificate for obtaining a perfect financial audit by the State of Ohio

Hamilton County 2008 Employee of Year Innovator Award



Dave Dyke, Chairman & Dan Taphorn



Dan Taphorn

**Financial Report
January 1, 2007- December 31, 2007**

District Account

January 1, 2007 beginning balance	\$ 15,946
Income	5,484
Expenses	9,248
December 31, 2007 ending balance	\$ 12,182

Special Account (Soil & Water Conservation)

January 1, 2007 beginning balance	\$149,454
General Fund Subsidy	259,957
State Match	326,149
Total Expenditures	533,318
December 31, 2007 ending balance	\$202,243

Special Account (Storm Water District)

January 1, 2007 beginning balance	\$212,097
General Fund Subsidy	200,312
State Reimbursement	0
Total Expenditures	261,318
December 31, 2007 ending balance	\$151,091

This is unaudited financial report for the period January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007.

The District sincerely appreciates the support we received from the Hamilton County Commissioners; Commissioner Todd Portune, Commissioner Pat Dewine and Commissioner David Pepper. We also appreciate the support we received from ODNR, Division of Soil & Water Conservation, the Ohio Legislature, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

District Staff

Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator	Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer
Susan K. Juriga, Administrative Assistant	Willie Potter, Design Technician II
Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist	Nathan Sturm, Urban Technician II
Chey Alberto, Urban Technician I	Cheryl Reinke Peck, Education Assistant
Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist	Annette Meagher, Water Quality Public Involvement Coordinator
Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist	

USDA - NRCS Staff

John Williams, District Conservationist	Jeff Barnes, Soil Conservationist
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Mission Statement: A public organization committed to assisting the citizens of Hamilton County through education, technical assistance and leadership 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.