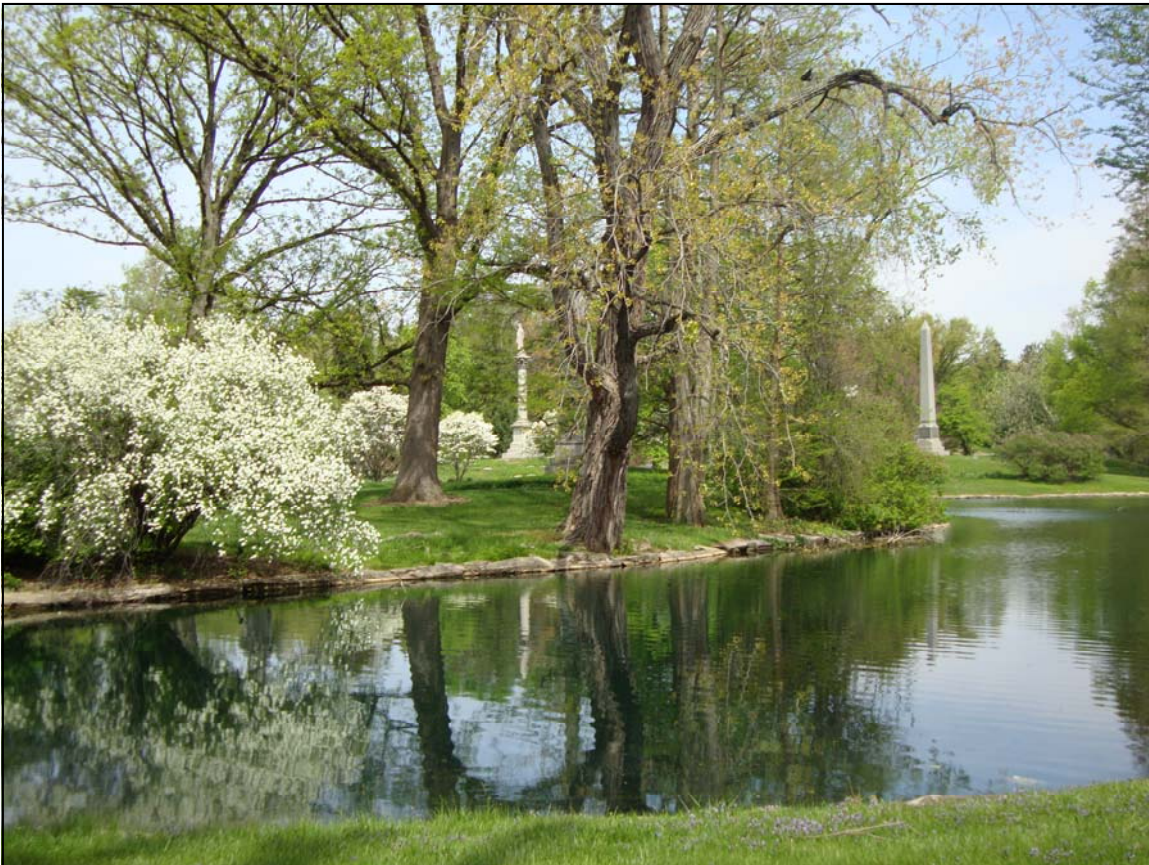


~ 65th Anniversary ~
1945 - 2010

Annual Report 2010

**Hamilton County
Soil and Water Conservation District**
22 Triangle Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-3411
Phone: 513-772-SOIL (7645)
Fax: 513-772-7656
Website: www.hcswcd.org



Spring Grove Cemetery
Photo taken by Holly Utrata-Halcomb

Dear Hamilton County Landowners and Residents:

A good portion of the District's workload is dictated by the weather. We started off with the record-breaking snowfall of February. The spring was relatively wet, which delayed some planting of crops and later created rotting conditions in the field. Then the heat and humidity of July and August set the stage for a high rate of blight and disease. No, this was not a picture perfect year for farmers or home gardeners alike.

The urban side of our District's services felt the economic strain of the past few years. Our staff had to be creative in working with the development community to keep sites in compliance as building slowed way down. A record number of development sites defaulted leaving our staff to work with bankers and attorneys, which was a new experience.

At the request of the County Storm Water District, the Earthwork Program took on 19 additional municipalities for plan review and site inspection. The new generation of the NPDES Phase II Storm Water program now requires individual lot controls where sites do not drain to a common sediment basin or trap.

We were able to reach and teach 100+ individuals from the development community through a multi-county effort entitled the "Seventh Annual Erosion and Sediment Control Field Day." This event was partially made possible through an Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grant, and it was highly successful.

There are 420, K-12 schools in Hamilton County. While our Education Specialist did a stellar job in reaching as many teachers and students as she could, we were fortunate this year to add an additional Education Assistant to help with this effort. There were 297 classroom programs for 7,669 students, along with 422 library programs for 1,151 families. We also staffed 46 public events that stretched over 48 days with approximately 105,000 people in attendance.

The District has been a major player in developing a water quality monitoring program on the Great Miami River. With the assistance of River's Unlimited, Friends of the Great Miami River and the University of Cincinnati, the program focuses on watershed assessments, monthly chemical and macroinvertebrate sampling. These efforts have already existed in our other major watersheds such as the Mill Creek and Little Miami Watersheds. The ~~Great Miami River Project opens the door for many educational opportunities for our west-side residents. Anyone~~ interested in becoming a "sampler" should contact the District Office.

Two new programs to look for later this year will be a regular news segment on WLWT Channel 5 called "Project Earth." The Storm Water Districts within Hamilton, Butler, Clermont and Warren Counties in Ohio, Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties in Kentucky, the Ohio Environmental Educational Fund and Charitable Trust and the Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District have partnered with StormCenter Communications and Channel 5 to produce on average, three segments per week addressing environmental issues and concerns.

The second program is a pharmaceutical take-back program. Previously, citizens were advised to flush unused medicines. This practice has adversely affected our water quality. A partnership of many organizations has collaborated with our local fire departments to coordinate a fall take-back program on Saturday, November 13, 2010 (location to be announced). Stay tuned and visit our website for more information!

Sincerely,
Nate Holscher
Chairman, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors 2010



Nate Holscher
Chairman



Sam McKinley
Vice - Chairman



Denny Benson
Secretary



Steve Johns
Treasurer



Craig Abercrombie
Program Chair

Service Statistics for 2010

Telephone and E-mail Contacts

Landowner

Drainage/erosion - 565
 Pond/lake - 205
 Storm Water - 750
 (storm system, road, backyard, etc.)
 Landslides - 15
 District services & products - 1,363
 (soil fertility kits, maps, etc.)
 Farm Programs - 47
 Misc. Calls - 70

Earthwork

Contractor/developer/builder - 2,684
 Complaint / Inquires- 219
 Unit of Gov't - 3,840

Units of Govt. - 2,450

Administrative - 8,097

Web Site Statistics - www.hcswcd.org

Visitor Sessions - 111,212 Avg. per day - 196 Total Hits - 387,099/year
 Pages Viewed - 111,250 On-line complaints and inquires - 201

Landowner Sites Visits

Pond/drainage - 89	Erosion - 48	Log Jams - 1
Fill Sites - 4	Ground Water - 7	Landslide - 18
Stream Bank Erosion - 47	Stream Permitting - 33	
Farm - 40		

Farm Bill Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

Fencing - 3,790 ft
 Heavy Use Area Protection - 1,990 sq ft
 Access Road - 2,200 sq ft
 Forest Stand Improvement - 10 ac

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Grassed Waterways - 2.4 ac.
 Subsurface Drainage - 3,880 ft
 Grade Stabilization Structures - 2

Amount of USDA Cost-Share Funds Distributed \$29,503.00

Number of EQIP visits - 33
 Number of CRP visits - 7
 Number of Drainage/Pond visits - 4

Education/Outreach

School/teachers - 1,172
 General public - 106
 Public Relations - 300
 Public events - 894
 Collaboration with groups - 3,717
 Public Involvement - 573

Stream

Stream bank erosion - 742
 Stream-water quality - 1,006
 Flooding - 149
 Coordination of watershed groups - 1,049

Miscellaneous - 677

Office Visitors - 352



Storm Drain Labeling 2010
 Madeira, Ohio



EQIP Program
 Completed gravel heavy use area



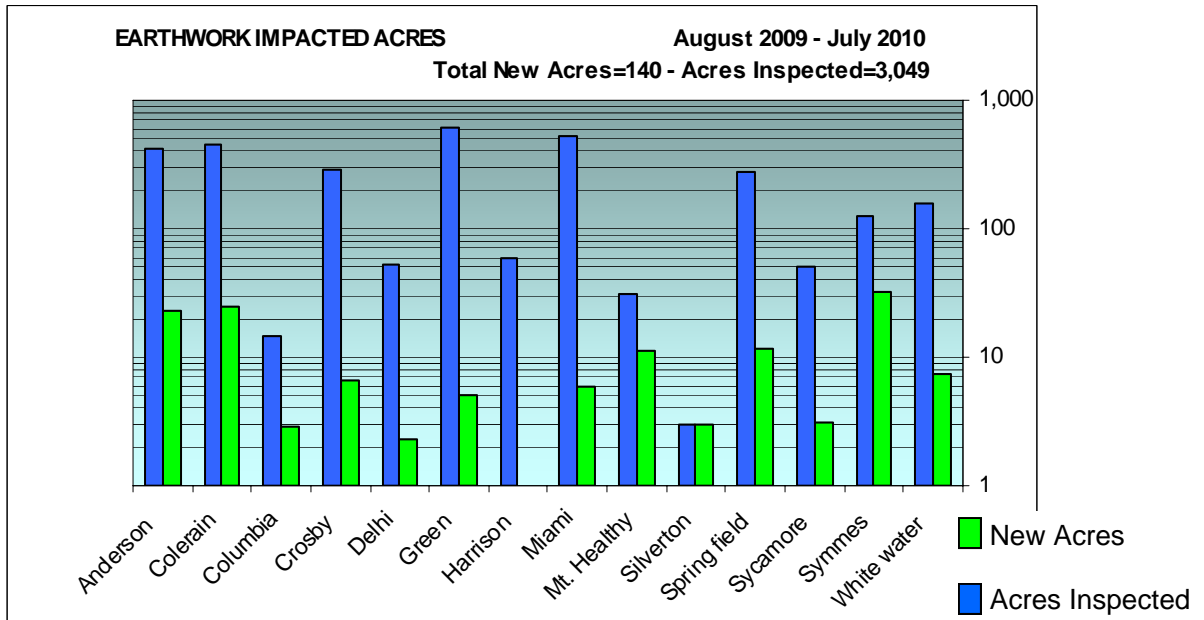
EQIP Program
 Installed over 5,000 feet of wooden
 fence for horses



EQIP Program
 Installed fence for horses

Earthwork Program

Plans Reviewed - 1,244 Total acres monitored - 3,049 New acres disturbed - 140
 Zoning reviews - 41 New fill sites - 9
 Total # of active development sites - 207 Development sites inspected semi-monthly or monthly basis - 163 avg.
 Individual lots inspected on a semi-monthly or monthly basis - 55 avg.



Permits issued by Township August 1, 2009 - July 31, 2010

Anderson - 28 Colerain - 64 Columbia - 4 Crosby - 7 Delhi - 7 Green - 42
 Harrison - 0 Miami - 19 Springfield - 8 Sycamore - 4 Symmes - 16 Whitewater - 24
Total New Permits = 223 of which 153 were Individual Lot Permits



Sediment in a stream



7th Annual Southwest Ohio
Erosion and Sediment Control
Field Day



Glenbridge Manor
stream relocation



Western Ridge Development
stabilized hillsides

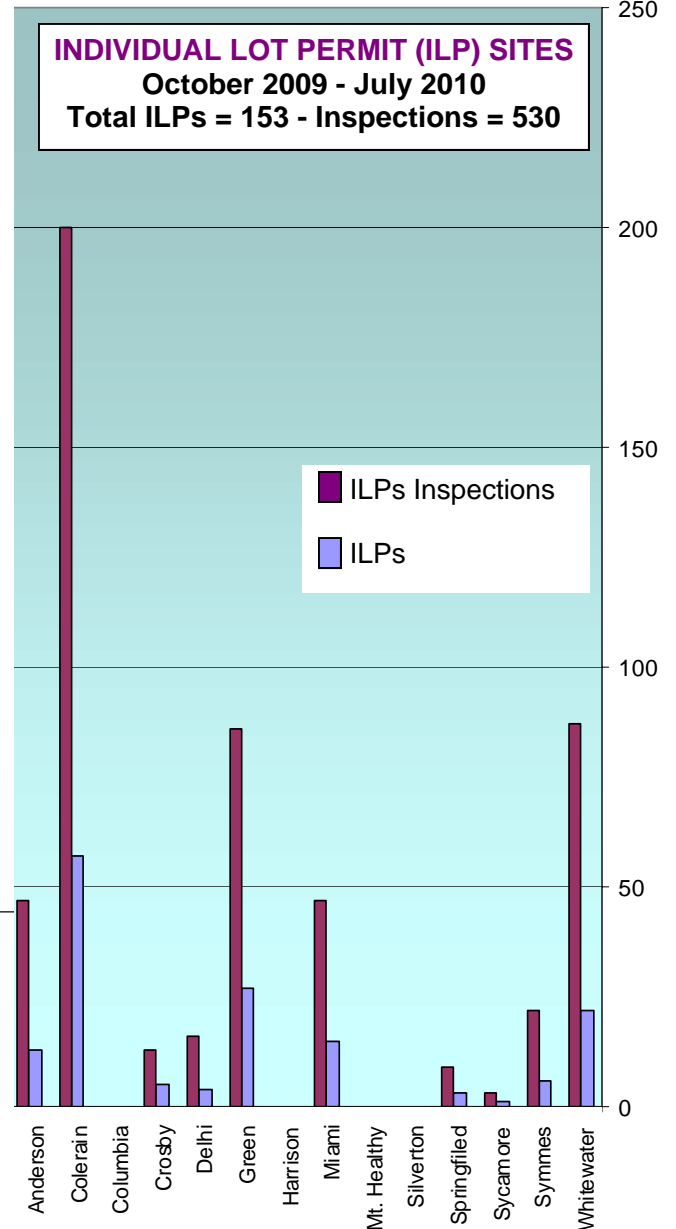
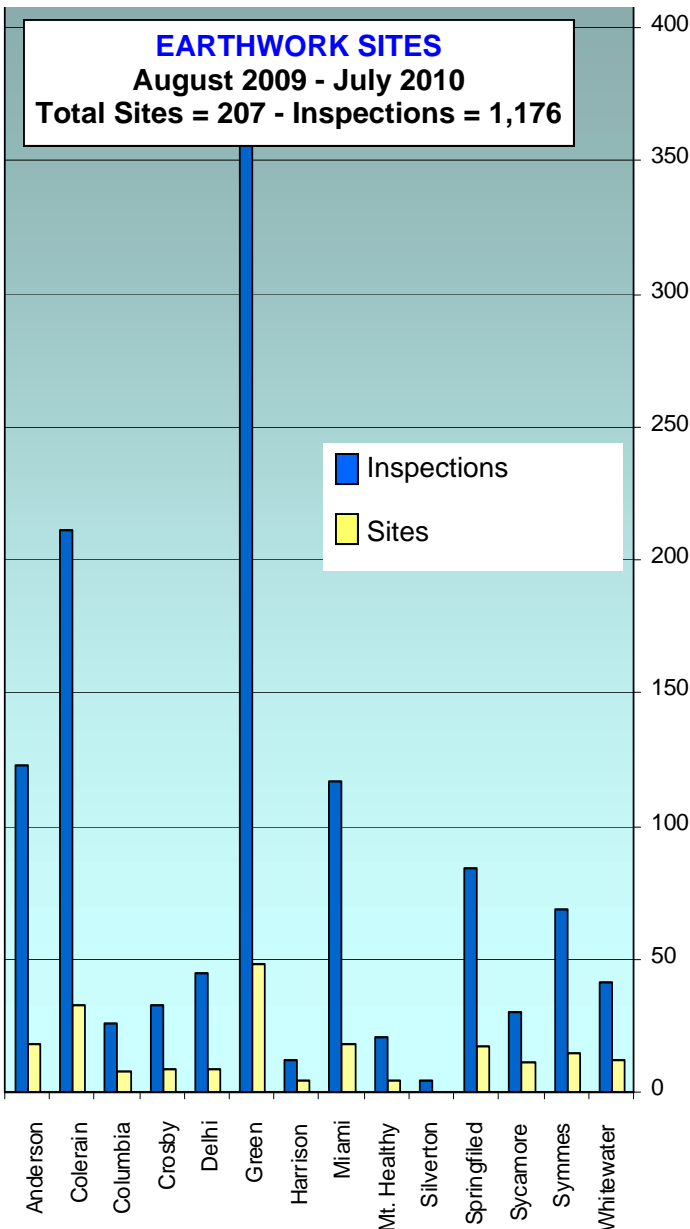


Display at the Erosion and Sediment
Control Field Day



Western Ridge Development
sediment basin

Earthwork Program (Continued)



Inspections	123	211	26	33	45	360	12	117	21	4	84	30	69	41
Sites	18	33	8	9	9	48	4	18	4	1	17	11	15	12

Earthwork Sites

With the economic downturn we have not seen as many new developments as we have in the past. The Earthwork Staff has had to adjust its' priorities and work with the development and building communities to keep projects moving forward while meeting the requirements of the Earthwork Regulations and the NPDES Permit. With banks not releasing money in a timely manner and some development going into receiverships, we have strived to work with home builders who own lots in these developments to keep their portion of the projects moving forward while minimizing environmental impacts to water resources. The District appreciates the cooperation and efforts of the Home Builders.

ILPs Inspections	47	200	0	13	16	86	0	47	0	0	9	3	22	87
ILPs	13	58	0	5	4	27	0	15	0	0	3	1	6	22

Individual Lot Sites

With the passing of the revised Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations in June of 2009, the Earthwork Staff has spent the last year implementing the new regulations. One major change is the requirement for Individual Lot Erosion and Sediment Controls on all lots that are part of a larger common plan of development and that do not drain to a primary structural control such as a sediment basin or trap. This has kept the staff busy, as the graph above shows, we have issued 153 individual lot permits and performed over 500 inspections. These inspections are mandated under the County's MS4 Permit through the Ohio EPA.

Storm Water Quality Community Involvement

Community Presentations/Displays: 20 presentations, activities and/or display opportunities with an audience of 399 total individuals.

Watershed Signs: 6 new signs installed at stream crossings in Colerain Township, Miami Township, and Whitewater Township.

Storm Drain Labeling Events: 4 events in the City of Cincinnati, Mt. Healthy, Silverton and Madeira, 26 participants, 1,046 storm drains labeled, 601 flyers distributed.

September 2009

- PowerPoint presentation and displays for the Northern Kentucky University students on the Hamilton County SWCD's Stream Program - 15 attendees
- Great Miami River Days Festival – worked with the Friends of the Great Miami to hand out water quality education and outreach materials – approximately 25,000 in attendance.

October 2009

- Great Miami Runoff Reduction Project Presentation at the Area IV SWCD Administrative Assistants Tour—15 in attendance

November 2009

- Riparian/floodplain restoration and tree planting event with the Great Miami volunteers at the Colerain Township's Heritage Park - approximately 75 trees planted, mulched, watered and sprayed with Deer-Off - 15 volunteers



Planting of willow stakes along river bank at Colerain Township's Heritage Park

February 2010

- Ohio Township Association Annual Meeting "Green Solutions for Storm Water Problems" - 70 participants

March 2010

- Great Miami River Sports Canoe Livery with members of the Friends of the Great Miami. Presentation of willow harvesting techniques were provided - 12 participants

April 2010

- Willow staking educational forum and hands on planting at Colerain Township's Heritage Park with the Friends of the Great Miami - 300 stakes placed in the bank of the river - 12 in attendance
- Friends of the Great Miami Annual Meeting - Coordinated the meeting and presented the value of riparian corridor protection and conservation projects along the Great Miami River - 40 in attendance

May 2010

- Beautify Your Community and be Environmentally Friendly Using Sustainable Landscape Practices presented - Watershed Processes and The Value of Storm Water Infiltration Systems. Presented at the Cincinnati Zoo for communities, landscapers and contractors. - 35 attendees
- Storm Drain Labeling Event in the City of Madeira - 19 American Heritage Girls Troop #1411



Black willows after 1 month of growth at Colerain Township's Heritage park

June 2010

- Storm Drain Labeling Event in the City of Cincinnati - Water quality presentation and monitoring demonstrations as part of the Great Miami River Mini-Paddle - 20 paddlers in attendance (Crosby & Colerain Twp.)
- East Fork Mill Creek and Mill Creek educational canoe event with the Mill Creek Yacht Club - provided information regarding stream morphology (Sharonville) - 12 participants

July 2010

- Coordinate with Rivers Unlimited and Friends of the Great Miami on the Great Miami Citizen's Volunteer Monitoring Lab.
- Lower Little Miami River watershed stream sample analysis at Greenacres Foundation Saturday Stream Snapshot.

River Clean-ups: 2 locations, 26 participants

May 2010 -Clean Sweep of the Great Miami at Heritage Park in Colerain Township and Shawnee Lookout Park. Between the 2 sites, 26 volunteers worked 85 hours collecting 105 bags of trash, 77 tires and other unusual items such as a steel door, refrigerator, culvert pipe, TV, car bumper, butane tank and roofing materials in Colerain, Crosby & Miami Townships.



Clean Sweep of the Great Miami

Great Miami and Whitewater River Watershed Water Quality Monitoring:

4/17/2010, 5/15/2010, 6/19/2010, 7/17/2010, 8/13/2010 – Grab samples are taken at these locations and analyzed by the District, in collaboration with volunteers of the newly formed Great Miami River Citizen's Volunteer Monitoring Laboratory initiated by Friends of the Great Miami and Rivers Unlimited with technical support provided by University of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Storm Water District. Real time samples taken along Dry Fork of the Whitewater River and Howard Creek (tributary to Dry Fork Creek). Samples along Dry Fork Creek will be used to assess the chemical changes in an agricultural watershed from upstream to downstream. Data will also reflect the influence of stream restoration and seasonal changes in chemical parameters. Samples from Howard Creek, also an agricultural watershed, will help to evaluate the influence of a tributary on water chemistry of a higher order channel. In this case, Howard Creek feeds the Dry Fork of the Whitewater River. Parameters obtained include temperature, conductivity, pH, oxidation reduction potential, barometric pressure, dissolved oxygen (% saturation and concentration), salinity, total dissolved solids, turbidity and water stage. An average of 12 volunteers assist with sampling efforts each month in the analysis of roughly 30 samples. Grab samples are analyzed for pH, conductivity, turbidity, total phosphorous, nitrate and fecal coliforms.

Mill Creek Water Quality Monitoring:

8/19/2009, 11/09/2009, 11/10/2009, 4/22/2010, 5/10/2010, 5/19/2010, 7/12/2010, 7/19/2010, 8/2/2010, 8/3/2010, 8/13/2010, 8/17/2010 – The District is a partner on the Mill Creek Watershed Council and OEPA 319 Grant. Real time samples taken from 5 locations along the East Fork Mill Creek and Mill Creek in order to obtain information on stream habitat, macroinvertebrate and fish diversity and water chemistry. Sampling efforts take place upstream, midstream and downstream at the proposed Mill Creek confluence project site. The project proposes to reconstruct and restore both the Mill Creek and East Fork Mill Creek just above the confluence of the two waterways. Bankfull wetlands will be constructed between the channels to improve water quality and provide flood storage. Stream assessments are being conducted to evaluate pre-project conditions, which will later be compared with post-construction water quality. The District will be using the data to evaluate the influence of stream restoration on water quality in an urbanized watershed. All data are collected using the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency protocol for assessment of biocriteria in wadeable streams.

Within the Mill Creek watershed, a restored tributary known as Town Run is being monitored to evaluate migration and erosion potential of a low gradient headwater stream channel over time. The channel has been restored in the Village of Glendale and the District has worked with the condo association over the years to incorporate stream corridor management practices. The District will also assist in educating affected land-owners on improved water quality and quantity control.

Little Miami Watershed Water Quality Monitoring:

9/12/2009, 3/13/2010, 6/11/2010, 7/9/2010, 8/14/2010 – The District is a participant in real time stream samples being taken along North Branch Creek in Montgomery. Samples will be used to evaluate long term effectiveness of a constructed water quality basin and the pollutant assimilation capabilities of a stream restoration project. Upstream and downstream samples are being obtained along with samples from varying stream habitat areas. Parameters obtained include temperature, conductivity, pH, oxidation reduction potential, barometric pressure, dissolved oxygen (% saturation and concentration), salinity, total dissolved solids, turbidity and water stage. Additionally, grab samples are taken to evaluate nutrient and fecal input from a residential section of the watershed. Samples are analyzed by volunteers of the Saturday Stream Snapshot water quality monitoring program initiated by Greenacres Foundation and the Izaak Walton League of America.

Public Education - Programs, Events and Displays - 46 Total

August 2009

- Northwest Local School District Back to School Health and Safety Fair - 450 participants
- Taste of Colerain - 20,000+ over 3 days
- Soils Fertility Class for Master Gardeners - 25 participants

September 2009

- Harvest Home Fair - 30,000+ attendees over three days offered home well testing during this event
- Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators Ultimate Educator Expo at Cincinnati Zoo - 375+ participants
- Annual Meeting - 85 people

October 2009

- Agriculture Education Day school event - 350 participants
- Agriculture Education Day public event - 1,000 participants
- Wyoming Fall Fest - 500 attendees
- Presentation for children's librarians of the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County - 52 participants
- Worm Teacher Workshop - 25 participants
- Butler County Water Festival
- Project Learning Tree Teacher Workshop at Mt. St. Joe's - 23 participants
- Soils workshop for 3rd grade teachers - 10 participants

November 2009

- XU workshop for pre-service teachers - 23 participants

January 2010

- Soils workshop for 3rd grade teachers - 13 participants

February 2010

- Table Top Night - Home Builders Association - approximately 500 in attendance
- Erosion & Sediment Control Field Day - 135 participants
- Township & County Authority meeting - 60 participants
- Read Across America Event
- Cincinnati Chapter of USGBC Soils Program - 10 participants

March 2010

- Springdale Children's Health Fair - 600+ participants
- Soil Fertility Class, Civic Garden Center - 23 participants

April 2010

- Earth Day at Sawyer Point - 5,000+ attendees
- Earth Jam at Cincinnati State - 300+ attendees
- Pond Clinic - 25 participants
- Christ Hospital Environmental Day - 450 participants
- Tunes & Blooms at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden - 2,400 participants
- Cincinnati Flower Show potting station in Small Wonders Tent - 800 attendees
- Presentation to the Cincinnati Public Schools Curriculum Council - 35 participants

May 2010

- Co-hosted Area IV Envirothon - 400+ participants
- Crosby Days - 500+ attendees
- Plant, Herb and Hosta Sale at the Civic Garden Center - Sold Soil Fertility Test Kits
- Green Sustainability workshop at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden - 18 participants



Lorax reading at the Wyoming Library



Soil Fertility class demonstration



Cincinnati Flower Show

June 2010

- Pond Clinic - 17 participants
- Bugfest at Cincinnati Museum Center - 2,500+ attendees
- Paddlefest Kids Expo - 2,300+ attendees
- Paddlefest Music Festival - 15,000+ attendees
- Rain Garden teacher workshop - 30 participants
- Soil Fertility class at the District office - 2 participants

July 2010

- Hamilton County Conservation Day - 30 attendees
- St. Bernard July 4th festival - 1,300 participants
- Indian Hill July 4th festival - 200 participants
- Su Casa event - 110 participants
- Festival in Sycamore - 10,000+ over 2 days
- Anderson Township Days - 60,000+ over 3 days

Education

School or Youth Presentations - 297 programs for 7,669 students

Teacher workshops - 8 for 176 participants impacting at least 4,576 children*

***The students impacted number came from multiplying # teachers (176) by 26 (avg. class size)**

Library programs - 42 programs for 1,151 attendees

District Resources & Products—Items Provided or Sold

Soil Surveys - 2

Soil Fertility Test Kits - 281

Aerial photo CD - 4

Rain Garden Manual - 1,271

Profession Rain Garden Manual - 117

Blue Thumb Rain Garden Manual - 100

Education Media Outreach

- "Conservation Spotlight Newsletter" published quarterly and distributed to 4,340 residents per quarter.
- PSA's and news articles - 55 published in the "Community Press", "Cincinnati Enquirer", Community Newsletters, and "Hello Hamilton County" E-newsletter.
- Purchased Ad Space - 16 - "Cincinnati Enquirer", "Community Press" & "City Beat". Topics included: Sunshine Law, Annual Budget Report, Board Meetings, Pond Clinic, and Soil Fertility Program. Potential audience for all above categories could be in the millions.
- December 2009 - Radio Interview with Thane Maynard for WVXU (Around Cincinnati)



Learning about watersheds at Little Miami Incorporated.



Coming this September WLWT - Channel 5 News

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

The District

- Administer the Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations - for hillside stability, sediment and erosion control in the unincorporated areas of the County and 19 municipalities and villages
- Serve as the Hamilton County liaison for all USDA farm related programs through the Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Designated the Hamilton County enforcement official for ODNR - Division of Soil & Water Resource 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
- Whitewater River Watershed Project for Dearborn, Franklin, Butler, and Hamilton Counties
- The expansion of the mountain bike trail within Mitchell Memorial Forest.
- Miami Conservancy District's (MCD) application to ODNR's Division of Watercraft for the Great Miami Water Trails to be designated by the Ohio Water Trail Program.
- The EPA 319 Grant Agreement for the Mill Creek Confluence Project

Leadership Positions Held by District Staff

Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator

- Vice Chair, District 2 Natural Resource Assistance Council for the Clean Ohio Fund
- Chair of the Regional Storm Water Collaborative
- Resource Development Chair for Cincinnati Area Professional Green Infrastructure Network (CAPGIN)
- Member, Advisory Board, USEPA Shepherds Creek Project
- Member, Hamilton County Stormwater District Technical Advisory Committee

Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist

- Member, Hamilton County Stormwater District Technical Advisory Committee
- Coordinator of Advisory Board with Greater Cincinnati Home Builders Association

Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist

- President (until April 2010) and Board Member of Friends of the Great Miami River
- Monitor, Saturday Steam Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Member, Ohio River Basin Water Resources Alliance Restoration and Protection Working Group
- Monitor & Analyst, Great Miami River Citizen's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Member, Ohio EPA Stream Mitigation Rule Working Group
- Member, Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities
- Member, Lower Little Miami Watershed Action Planning Committee
- Member, Clean Sweep of the Lower Great Miami River Planning Committee
- Member, Stormwater District Technical Advisory Committee
- Member, Great Miami River Network
- Member, Lower Great Miami Drinking Water Protection Advisory Committee
- Member, Advisory Board for USEPA Shepherds Creek Project
- Member, Hamilton County Stormwater District Technical Advisory Committee
- Member, Chevron Advisory Panel

Gwen Roth, Education Specialist

- Coordinating Committee Member and Instructor for the State of Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Certification for Educators
- Member of Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators Ultimate Educator Expo Planning Committee
- President of the Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators

Chey Alberto & Nate Sturm, District Technicians

- Members, SW Ohio Sediment & Erosion Control Field Day Committee
- Members, Hamilton County Inspectors Group

District Membership in the following Committees

- OKI-Regional Conservation Council - Supervisor, Craig Abercrombie
- Miami Valley, Resource Conservation & Development Council - Supervisor, Steve Johns
- Mill Creek Watershed Council—Supervisor, Nate Holscher

Honors and Certifications earned by District staff in the past year

- Brian Bohl received Ohio EPA Level 2 Chemical Method Training & Level 3 Qualified Data Collector status for stream habitat assessments (QHEI analysis).
- Gwen Z. Roth received an award from Project Learning (Ohio) for her continued effort to provide environmental education to Southwest Ohio educators.

Financial Report
January 1, 2009- December 31, 2009

District Account

January 1, 2009 beginning balance	\$ 7,512
Income	49,862
Expenses	4,910
December 31, 2009 ending balance	\$ 52,464

Special Account (Soil & Water Conservation)

January 1, 2009 beginning balance	\$302,544
General Fund Subsidy	312,493
State Match (The amount is all for 2009 state match)	221,261
Other Revenue	120
Total Expenditures	489,509
December 31, 2009 ending balance	\$346,909

Special Account (Storm Water)

January 1, 2009 beginning balance	\$392,944
General Fund Subsidy	259,312
State Match (The amount is only 2 months of 2009 state match)	94,845
Other Revenue	40
Total Expenditures	296,107
December 31, 2008 ending balance	\$451,034

Less encumbrances for December 31, 2009 ending balance:

**Totals for the Soil & Water Conservation and Storm Water Accounts	\$797,943
20% contingency fund	\$197,362
Payroll Liabilities	181,466
Storm Center	125,000 (503,828)
Total	\$294,115

*This is unaudited financial report for the period January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009.
 **Totals for Special Accounts are combined.*

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



Greg Hartmann



David Pepper



Todd Portune

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.



Hamilton County 2010 Conservation Day

Commissioner Todd Portune and the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors commemorated the life of Steve Sandfort, one of Hamilton County's greatest conservationists, on July 1, 2010 at Rockford Woods in Northside.



Steve Sandfort was the creator of the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Program. He was responsible for increasing the number of trees along the city's 1,000 miles of streets from 40,000 to 80,000 during his career.

Mr. Sandfort also served 18 years as a publicly-elected volunteer as a Supervisor for the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District. He received many national awards for his work in forestry and was a prolifically published author.

Mr. Sandfort blended his passion for the environment with his love of the Ohio and Mississippi River by earning the status as Riverlorian. He volunteered as a lecturer on all of the Delta Riverboats during his retirement.

*Steve Sandfort
Lifelong Conservationist
Founder of Cincinnati Urban Forestry Program
Supervisor of Hamilton County Soil and Water
Conservation District
Served 1988—2006*



Peggy Sandfort and Denny Benson unveil the Steve Sandfort Memorial at Rockford Woods in Northside



Front Row – Peggy Sandfort, Mindy Sandfort Atkinson, Commissioner Todd Portune

Back Row – Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Hamilton County SWCD, Supervisors of the Hamilton County SWCD: Nate Holscher, Denny Benson, Sam McKinley, and Developer Dave Wittekind.