

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROGRAMS & ASSISTANCE

CLASSROOM
PRESENTATION



URBAN STREAMS
ASSISTANCE



AGRICULTURE
SOIL FERTILITY



EARTHWORK
PROGRAM



PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT



YOUR PARTNER IN CONSERVATION

Conserve, Prevent, Protect

Board of Supervisors

Sam McKinley
Chairman



Steve Johns
Vice - Chairman



Denny Benson
Secretary



Craig Abercrombie
Treasurer



Pete Mallow
Program Chair



Dear Hamilton County,

What a year it has been! Mother Nature took us for another roller coaster ride this spring. We thought it would never stop raining. April was dubbed the wettest on record and by early May, the County received its quota of average rainfall for the whole year in just the first five months. The District's Earthwork staff worked frantically to keep up with inspections while answering homeowner calls and addressing 30 landslides on private property.

The District has gone digital and has become more "social" through social networking! It all began last September 2010, when the Regional Stormwater Collaborative launched "Project Earth" in partnership with WLWT – Channel 5. This joint venture relies on a group assembled by the Collaborative called the Content Provider Network, which is composed of over 100 organizations that have agreed to submit environmental stories to air three times a week on Channel 5. Since September 17, 2010, to the present, the Project Earth news segment has reported on 144 stories about local environmental issues and events!! These groups also submitted calendar events, videos and stories that are featured on the Project Earth website. During that time period, our viewing audience totaled a whopping 1.4 million viewers. Go to projectearth.wlwt.com and view past featured stories, upcoming event and current topics!

The District has also joined Facebook as a way to communicate up to the minute information and upcoming events. Go to our page and like us! Our goal is to reach 1,000 friends.

Our District Website at www.hcswcd.org has also been getting a face-lift. The Education Services page is totally reorganized and user friendly. Our goal is to re-create all of our pages by the end of the year to increase ease in navigation.

This report will detail for you all of the areas in which our small staff is involved. From major MSD green projects to collecting over a ton of pharmaceuticals, it's eye opening to realize how each and every one of us impact our natural environment. We are always looking for volunteers to join in our efforts. If you see an activity that appeals to you, give us a call.

With Best Regards,

Sam McKinley, Chairman



Service Statistics for 2011 - Telephone and E-mail Contacts



3,832 Landowner

Drainage/erosion - 1,113	District services & products - 1,050 (soil fertility kits, maps, etc.)
Pond/lake - 240	Farm programs - 13
Storm water - 1,364 (storm system, road, backyard, etc.)	Landslides - 52

380 Landowner Site Visits

Drainage/erosion - 52	Stream bank erosion - 53
Fill sites - 83	Ground water - 4
Erosion - 69	Stream permitting - 39
Farm - 7	Log jams - 2
Landslide - 33+	Pond - 38

7,396 Earthwork

Contractor/developer/builder - 3,313
Complaint/inquires - 404
Unit of gov't - 3,679

13,798 Education/Outreach

School/teachers - 2,276	Public events - 1,689
General public - 13	Collaboration with groups - 7,015
Public relations - 2,061	Public involvement - 744

4,535 Stream

Stream bank erosion - 1,193	Stream-water quality - 1,421
Watershed groups - 1,750	Flooding - 171

Units of Govt. - 1,998

Administrative - 9,137

Farm Bill Programs

Miscellaneous - 49

Office Visitors - 389

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Fencing - 4,715 ft.
Forest stand improvement - 28 ac.
Pasture seeding - 4.2 ac.
Heavy use area protection - 1,000 sq.ft.
Access road - 650 sq. ft.

USDA Cost-Share Funds Distributed - \$22,940

Number of EQIP visits - 27

Number of CRP visits - 2

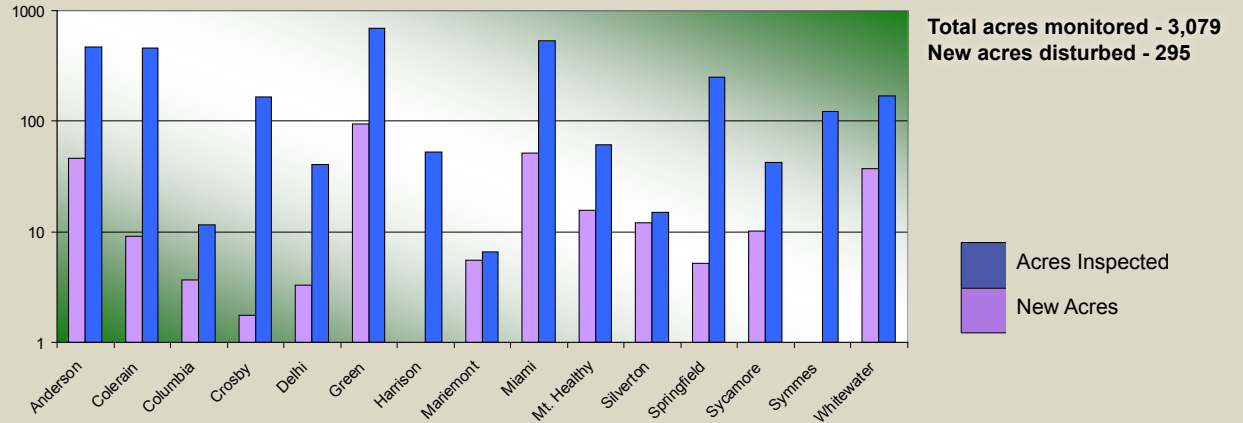


Earthwork Program

2011 has been a busy and challenging year for the Earthwork Program. Record-breaking spring rainfalls in Southwest Ohio triggered more than 30 landslides and pushed the limits for erosion and sediment control practices on every project. This is further proof that the Earthwork Regulations are needed to address the challenges of development in Hamilton County. The Earthwork Staff has continued to collaborate with municipal members of the Hamilton County Storm Water District regarding administration of the Earthwork Regulations. These partnerships have been educational and rewarding for the District and local communities.

Our staff continues to work with the development community to deal with the ongoing economic impacts to this industry. We strive to meet the intent of the law while understanding the challenges developers, builders and contractors are facing. Education and collaboration has proven to be a successful approach during these difficult times.

Impacted Acres



Responsibilities Under the Ohio EPA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Permit and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit (MS4)

With various permits, one can get a little confused. Here is a short explanation of the two permits.

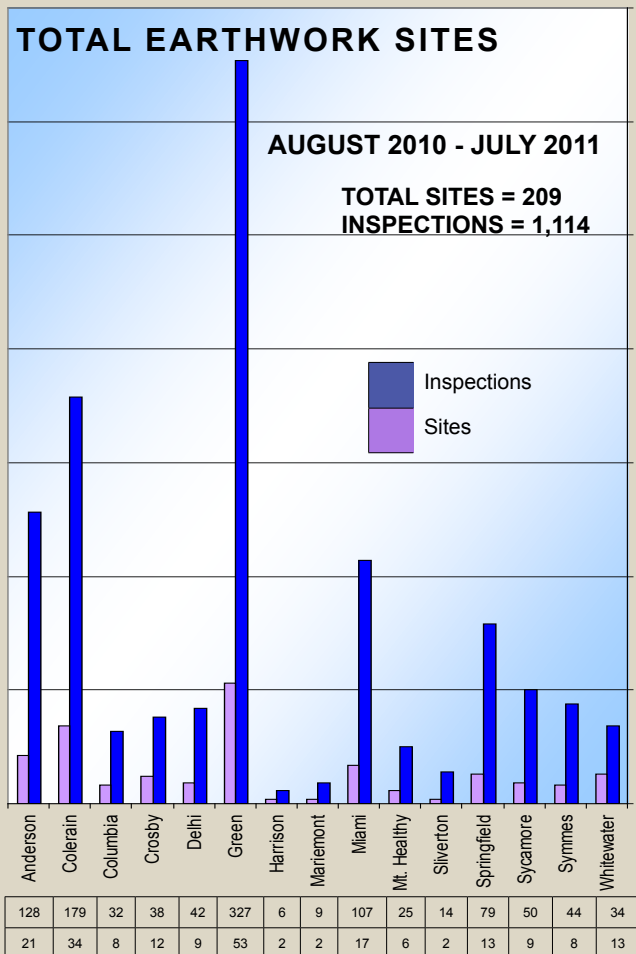
NPDES Construction Permit:

- All projects 1 acre or larger or projects less than 1 acre but part of a larger common plan of development are required to obtain an NPDES Construction Permit.
- Owner/Developer required to obtain permit coverage through Ohio EPA.
- Permit responsibilities extend to contractors as co-permittee involved in implementation of plan.
- Owner/Developer required to perform inspection of erosion and sediment control practices on a weekly basis and after each rain of ½ inch or greater in a 24 hour time frame and keep a written record of these inspections.
- Owner/Developer and contractors involved in implementing the plan are subject to enforcement actions and fines through Ohio EPA.

MS4 Permit (which the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District administers for the Hamilton County Storm Water District):

- Local MS4 Community is required to obtain permit coverage through Ohio EPA; permit coverage is based on population density per square mile. All 49 jurisdictions in Hamilton County must comply are required to have permit coverage.
- Local MS4 obtains permit through Ohio EPA either independently or through a storm water district.
- Local MS4 required to enact regulations that mirror the NPDES Construction Permit and must have procedures for plan review, permit issuance and local enforcement actions.
- Local MS4 required to conduct inspection on a monthly basis at a minimum and more frequently if compliance issues exist or if project will directly impact water resources.
- Local MS4 is subject to enforcement actions and fines through Ohio EPA for non-compliance.

The two permits are not a duplication but rather intended to augment each other. The NPDES Construction Permit is a self policing permit the MS4 Permit is the local community ensuring compliance. Please contact the District should you have any questions.

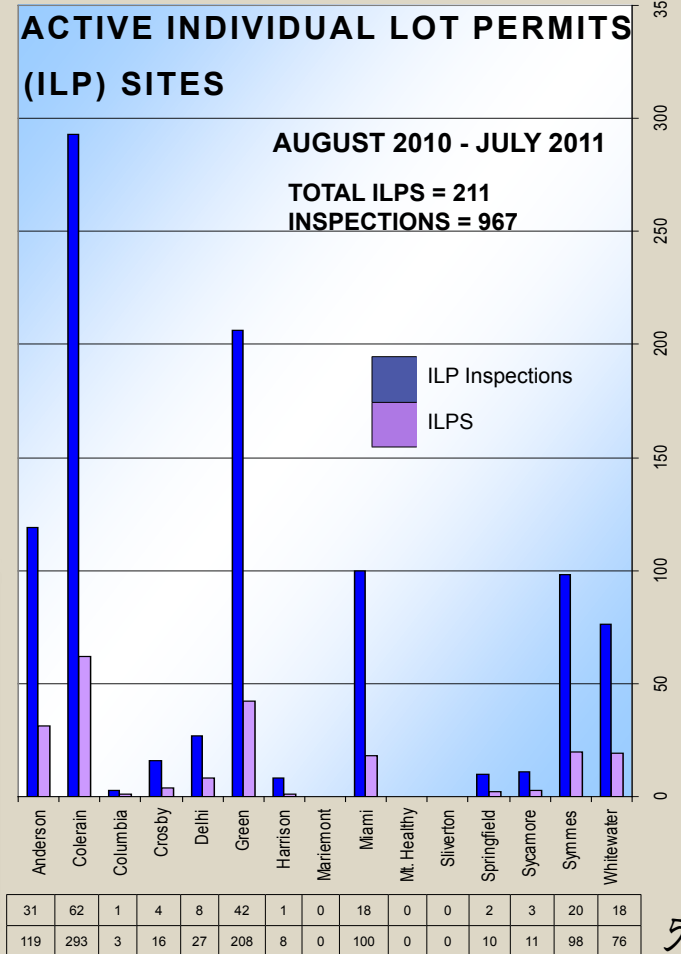


Site Statistics

Plans reviewed - 1,207
 Zoning reviews - 43
 New fill sites - 22
 Inspections performed - 2,081

193 NEW Permits Issued

Anderson - 33 Colerain - 47 Columbia - 4
 Crosby - 4 Delhi - 7 Green - 40
 Harrison - 1 Miami - 9 Springfield - 3
 Sycamore - 8 Symmes - 17 Whitewater - 14
 Mariemont - 2 Mt. Healthy - 3 Silverton - 1



Stream - Storm Water Quality Public Involvement



- Technical Support/monitoring for land owners, businesses, consultants, local jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations on 311 different projects/sites.
- Ault Park Project (Duck Creek-Little Miami River watershed): Stream surveys have been conducted to evaluate pre-construction conditions for a combined sewer separation/stream day-lighting project. Public events educated citizens of all ages in learning about the project and unique inhabitants of our headwater streams.
- Mill Creek Confluence Project: Collected chemistry, habitat, macroinvertebrate and fish data which will help to evaluate the benefits of restoration efforts along the Mill Creek and East Fork Mill Creek.
- College Programs: The Urban Streams Program provided six programs for the University of Cincinnati, National College, Northern Kentucky and Miami University.
- Great Miami River Citizen's Water Quality Lab Program: During 2011, the District purchased new equipment for the Great Miami River Citizen's Volunteer Monitoring program. Typically, samples from 50-60 sites are collected and analyzed at the lab each month (March - November). Over the past year, the program has conducted 11 events, engaging 216 individuals in water quality education initiatives.
- Waterway Clean-ups: Mill Creek Watershed, "Pick-up-America" 20 volunteers collected trash along the West Fork of the Mill Creek in Woodlawn. Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River, Colerain & Crosby Township - 53 volunteers worked 212 hours, gathered 100 bags of trash (34 bags recycled), 45 tires and cleaned about 3 river and floodplain miles at 5 locations: State Route 27 bridge, Heritage Park, Blue Rock Rd. bridge area (east and west bank) and Dravo Park.
- Community Involvement Stats: During the last year held eight educational stream walks/canoe floats (148 participants), 3 river clean-ups (73 participants), 33 community presentations or events (1822 participants), 15 articles/letters/website project support and 1 media presentation.

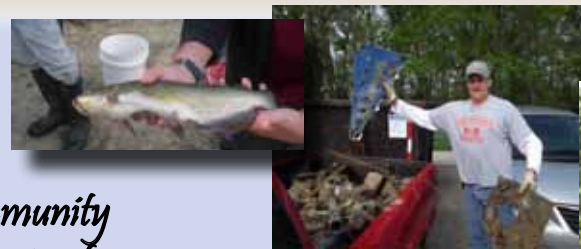
Watershed Signs

32 signs
 4 replacements (Indian Hill),
 6 New Communities (Indian Hill, St. Bernard, Elmwood Place, Mt. Healthy, Madeira, and Terrace Park)



Stream Community Involvement Totals

5 - Stream walks - 101 attendees
 2 - River cleanup events - 37 participants
 33 - Community presentations, events & displays - 1,822 attendees





- Aug 2010** Great Miami Citizen's Volunteering Monitoring Lab - 12 attendees - 35 samples
 Lower Little Miami River watershed stream sample analysis -18 attendees - 85 samples
 Storm Drain Labeling event in Sycamore Twp - 4 Trotter's Chase Subdivision residents
 Storm Drain Labeling event in Springfield Twp - 20 Faith Lutheran Church volunteers
 Storm Drain Labeling event in the City of Lockland - 2 Public Works Department employees
 Storm Water Pollution Prevention presentation - 40 Silverton Block Watch Association attendees
- Sept 2010** Great Miami Citizens' Volunteer Monitoring Lab, 7 attendees - 37 samples
 Mill Creek Yacht Club stream trip from Sharonville to Reading - 20 attendees
 Storm Drain Labeling event in Sycamore Twp - 15 Boy Scouts - Troop #791
 Pharmaceuticals in Our Environment presentation - 30 Silverton Block Watch Association attendees
- Oct 2010** Saturday Stream Snapshot monitoring program - 16 volunteers, 78 samples
 Little Miami River riverside event and fish survey - 13 UC students
 Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 14 volunteers - 36 samples
- Nov 2010** Ault Park CSO separation and stream restoration project area - 18 UC students
 West Fork Mill Creek clean-up - 20 volunteers
 Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 10 volunteers - 39 samples
 Pharmaceutical Collection event - 70 volunteers - 1 ton of pharmaceuticals collected
- Jan - Feb 2011** 2 Programs for National College students on HCSWCD, HCSWD and NPDES Phase II regulations - 32 students
 Great Miami River Quality presentation - 40 attendees
- Mar 2011** Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 15 volunteers - 38 samples
 District Overview and Edible Soils - Boy Scout of America Leaders - 32 attendees
- Apr 2011** Ault Park salamander and macroinvertebrate relocation effort for MSD project - 20 volunteers Norwood High School
 Mill Creek educational creek trip from Evendale to Carthage in Cincinnati - 14 attendees
 Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 17 volunteers - 51 samples
- May 2011** Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River - 53 volunteers
 Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 15 volunteers - 52 samples
 Enviroscape and Storm Water Pollution Prevention presentation for the Village Green Garden Club - 20 attendees
- Jun 2011** Salamander/macroinvertebrate survey for MSD project - 21 volunteers (over 2 days)
 Great Miami River Citizens' Lab Habitat, Biological & Chemical Water Quality Program - 44 attendees - 62 samples (over 2 days)
- Jul 2011** Presentation of Southwest Ohio Water Quality at Amberley Village Community - 10 attendees
 Ault Park chemical and biological stream monitoring - trained 2 students (2 days)
 Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 22 volunteers - 62 samples



Public Education - Programs, Events and Displays

This past year was full of firsts in the education department. Late last summer we hired our first full time Education Assistant, Niki Marengo. Niki has proved to be a valuable asset to the District. She jumped into the school year with both feet and has not only taught thousands of students, but she has learned a few things herself along the way. She has helped to re-energize the education programs and has added several new lessons.

We have also developed our first comprehensive education webpage. All of the school, library and scout programs and teacher information about grants and workshops have been uploaded to the website. We hope this can be a one stop shop for all teachers looking for conservation information in Hamilton County. Check it out at www.hcswcd.org/educate.

This past March, Gwen Roth, Education Specialist, graduated from the first ever Educators Development Program (EDP). This was a ten day statewide certification program for soil and water educators from around the state, sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and ODNR - Division of Soil and Water Resources.

Finally, over the past year, we were able to spread the word about soil fertility testing, conservation issues and storm water practices by participating in over 56 public events where we interacted with the public using hands-on conservation activities and planting sunflower seeds.

We look forward to beginning another year teaching our community about soil and water conservation issues.



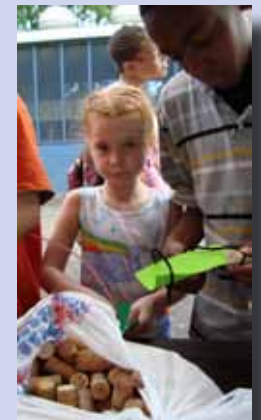
Check out "The Tree of Recycling", our contest winner for the Steve Sandfort Memorial Arbor Day 2010 Recycled Sculpture contest! The sculpture was created by six inventive first graders from Covedale Elementary and their teachers, Gerry Beard and Cynthia Tissue.

Not only did these students create a tree habitat, they also gave some creatures a home in this tree. Everything was made from something that had a previous life as something else.

EDUCATION

Aug 2010 - July 2011

377	School programs for	9,462	Students
43	Scout programs for	1,279	Scouts
50	Library programs for	1,193	Participants
5	Teacher workshops for	92	Teachers





34,000 NWLSD Back to School Health & Safety Fair (Colerain Twp) - 500 participants
 Taste of Colerain - 25,000+ attended over 3 days
 Days in the Park (Deer Park) - 6,000+ attendees over 2 days
Aug 2010 Madeira Street Dance (Madeira) - 2,500 attendees

33,998 Harvest Home Fair (Cheviot) - 30,000+ attendees over 3 days
 GCEE Ultimate Educator Expo at Cincinnati Zoo - 400 attendees
 Celebrate Mt. Healthy Day - 500 attendees
Sept 2010 Silverton Fall Yard Sale - 500 attendees
 Glendale Street Fair - 2,500 attendees
 Annual Meeting - 98 attendees

1,626 Agriculture Education Day (Symmes Twp.) - 600 participants
 Wyoming Fall Fest - 500 attendees
Oct 2010 City of Montgomery event - 200 attendees
 Conservatunes - 125 attendees
 Ohio Society of Gentlemen Farmers presentation - 28 attendees
 Project Earth content provider training - 73 attendees
 Energy Expo Duke Center -

655 WMAO Conference presentation - 55 participants
 WMAO booth - 500 attendees
 All Employee Meeting - 75 attendees
Nov - Dec 2010 Overview of the District for NKU - 22 students
 Amberley Village assisted Public Works Supervisor and two employees in pulling over 100 probe samples of the former 156 acre Crest Hills Golf Course

344 Project Earth Content Provider Training - 42 participants
 Township & County Authority Meeting - 80 attendees
 Read Across America Event - 50 participants
Jan - Feb 2011 Worm Workshop - 12 attendees
 Anderson Township Soil Fertility & Your Spring Lawn & Garden - 22 attendees
 Green Initiative Seminar "It's not Black & White" - 138 attendees

District Resources & Products

Soil surveys - 20 Soil fertility test kits sold - 345
 Soil test results - 120 Aerial photo CD - 2

164 Farm Bureau Spring Fling - 75 attendees
 Growing Up Wild Workshop - 29 attendees
 St. Nicholas High School Eco Club - 18 students
Mar 2011 Earthwork Training in Blue Ash - 16 attendees
 Harrison Garden Club - 26 attendees

6,007 Earth Day at Sawyer Point - 1,500 attendees
 Earth Jam at Cincinnati State - 450 attendees
 Pond Clinic - 40 participants
Apr 2011 Christ Hospital Environmental Day - 500 attendees
 Tunes & Blooms at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden - 3,500 attendees
 Soils & Community Gardening at Cincinnati State - 17 students

4,186 Crosby Days - 500+ attendees
 Civic Garden Center Plant, Herb and Hosta Sale - 1,500 attendees
 Green Sustainability workshop at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden - 150
May 2011 Public Employee Recognition Day - 1,500 attendees
 South Water Conference in Columbus - 500 attendees
 Earthwork Training for Turner Construction - 36 participants

7,943 Pond Clinic (Sharonville) - 35 participants
 Bugfest at Cincinnati Museum Center - 1,800+ attendees
 Paddlefest Kids Expo - 4,000 attendees
Jun 2011 Paddlefest Music Festival - 2,000 attendees
 College Hill Farmer's market - 100 attendees
 4-H Fair judge at Stricker's Grove - 8 participants

95,230 Su Casa event - 80 participants
 Festival in Sycamore - 15,000+ attended over 2 days
 Anderson Township Days - 60,000+ attended over 3 days
Jul 2011 College Hill Farmer's Market - 150 attendees
 Sharonfest (Sharonville) - 20,000 attended over 3 days

ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

The Southwest Ohio Dispose Responsibly of Pharmaceuticals (DROP) was formed last year by Annette Meagher, Public Relations Specialist. DROP is a regional collaboration of local health, safety and environmental professionals. Their focus is to provide a safe and environmentally friendly service that would keep unwanted medications out of our waterways, out of our medicine cabinets and off the streets in order to improve water quality and public safety.

DROP organized a collection event that provided the residents throughout Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties with a safe and environmentally friendly disposal method. DROP organized 22 drop-off sites as part of the American Medicine Chest Challenge. Hundreds of residents throughout the region participated and officials collected over 2,000 pounds (1 ton!) during the 4 hour event.

To ensure proper disposal, Chiefs of Police Rick Patterson and Charles Lindsey dedicated their time and resources to personally deliver all collected materials to an Ohio EPA approved incinerator located in Indianapolis. With the many generous donations provided by each member agency, this collection event was also the first in our region to meet all EPA and DEA regulations at no cost to the residents.

Due to the success of the event, DROP collaboration is now working to establish the first OEPA approved permanent pharmaceutical collection program to be offered throughout Hamilton, Clermont, Butler and Warren Counties.

With Annette Meagher's strong commitment to DROP, she was recognized by Hamilton County as 2011 Employee of the Year for Professional Achievement.



MEDIA & MARKETING!

- Design of a new Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Brochure for inserts of the District's departments - August 2010
- Three guest appearances on "Cookin with Caitlin" on 550 AM WKRC and spoke on soil fertility - October 2010
- Filmed ads at WLWT - TV studio discussing services of Hamilton County Storm Water District and directing viewers to Project Earth website and survey - December 2011
- Commissioner Monzel filmed an ad for Project Earth - February 2011
- Guest on the Ron Wilson at WKRC's Gardening Show - March 2011
- Toured WLWT anchor & camera crew through Paddlefest for filming - June 2011
- Interviewed with Renee Johnson of Green Grapevine.com regarding how Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Storm Water District interact. - June 2011



Project Earth Website PSA's

Visitor session - 26,546
Pages viewed - 35,044
Average hits per day - 73

PSA - 76 articles/events
Newsletter - 4
Ads - 100
Media video - 1

3,015 Facebook Stats

Post view - 3,234 visitors
Post feedback - 14



Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is now on the Social Media map! The District utilizes Facebook to attract more visitors to our website, increase our public profile, and interact in modern ways with the public. Visit our page and become a fan!

<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonCountySoilandWaterConservationDistrict>

Web Site Statistics - www.hcswcd.org

Visitor session - 416,394
Pages viewed - 121,203

Average per day - 1,141
On-line complaints and inquires - 343

Billboards

20 billboard on nonpoint source pollution
544,276 cars passed these billboards daily
5 Posters donated by Lamar Advertising

Hamilton County Commissioners



Greg Hartmann



Chris Monzel



Todd Portune

Financial Report January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

District Account	
January 1, 2010 beginning balance	\$52,464
Income	5,444
Expenses - (includes \$43,400 transferred to Storm Center OCA 920035)	46,932
December 31, 2010 ending balance	\$10,976
Special Account (Soil & Water Conservation)	
January 1, 2010 beginning balance	\$346,909
General Fund Subsidy	246,568
State Match	113,210
Other Revenue	165.72
Total Expenditures	455,047
December 31, 2010 ending balance	251,806
Less 20% Contingency Fund and Payroll Liabilities	179,874
Total	\$71,932
Special Account (Storm Water)	
January 1, 2010 beginning balance	\$451,034
General Fund Subsidy	259,403
State Match	201,970
Total Expenditures - (includes \$125,000.00 transferred to Storm Center OCA 920035)	461,936
December 31, 2010 ending balance	\$450,471
Less 20% Contingency Fund Payroll Liabilities	178,573
Total	271,898
Special Account (Storm Center)	
January 1, 2010 beginning balance	\$ -
Colaboration Funding	281,400
Total Expenditures	88,767
December 31, 2010 ending balance	\$192,633

This is unaudited financial report for the period January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010.

The District sincerely appreciates the support we receive from the Hamilton County Commissioners, Commissioner Greg Hartmann, Commissioner Chris Monzel, 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 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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.

IN REMEMBRANCE



John Dowlin

1930 – 2011

Former County Commissioner John Dowlin is being remembered for his independence, civility, financial skills and work ethic. He was also a great supporter of Conservation in Hamilton County.

Thank you John!

Farewell to Stanley Strimple

The Hamilton County SWCD lost a dear friend with the passing of former Supervisor, Stanley Strimple on January 14, 2011. Stanley served on the Board of Supervisors from 1958 – 1997. He is the longest running Supervisor in District history. Stanley had almost perfect attendance at Board meetings during his 40 years of service. He had a steady, thoughtful presence focused on maintaining the quality of our natural resources in Hamilton County.



Stanley Strimple
1921-2011

RECOGNITION!



Mike Westfall of Farm Credit Services, Bob Minges and Joe Glassmeyer, Vice President of OFSWCD - Bob Minges, was presented with the 2011 Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts' Cooperator of the Year award during their annual, state-wide conference ceremony held in Columbus.

THANK YOU!

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District expresses their sincere thank you to all the organizations and individuals that have supported the District throughout the year. With their generous contributions, our programs, events and meetings flourished with great success.

Anderson Twp. Park District
Chief Rick Patterson
Chief Charles Lindsey
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
City Barbeque - Blue Ash
Clermont County Sheriff's Department
Lucille Diebel
55 WKRC
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Half-Price Books
Hamilton County Recycling & Solid Waste District
Hamilton County Chief Association
Kroger Company

Lamar Advertising
Lowe's
Metropolitan Sewer District
Miami Conservancy District
Mill Creek Restoration Project
Northern Kentucky University - College of Informatics at NKU
PNC Bank - Liberty Twp.
Raffel's Catering
Turner Construction
Walgreens
WLWT-Channel 5

RECOGNITION!



Gwen Roth receiving the Education Development Program certificate for completing all ten of the ODNR EDP sessions.



Holly Utrata-Halcomb and Annette Meagher at the Hamilton County Employee Recognition Day. Annette received the 2011 Employee of the Year for Professional Achievement award.