

2012 HAMILTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT



Dear County Residents,

Hamilton County is blessed with an abundance of beautiful vistas and plentiful water. Did you know that Hamilton County occupies 413 square miles or 265,152 acres of land and that approximately 290 trillion gallons of water flow by our county's southern border each year? That is a lot of responsibility. It is amazing that our office of 10 people is charged with such an awesome responsibility of helping to conserve the quality and quantity of these assets.

The only way we can fulfill our mission as stewards of this great bounty is through partnerships and collaborations. Especially in the face of weather that seems to be swinging wildly between excessive rainfall and severe drought, it is through working with others that we can protect the soil and water resources of our county.

In the past year, we have led not only the county, but in many aspects the entire region, by working together to promote the conservation of our vast but limited soil and water resources. First and foremost, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) led the Regional Stormwater Collaborative (RSWC). The Stormwater Collaborative, an alliance of the soil and water and storm water districts throughout our region, has developed the website Savelocalwaters.org and the partnership with WLWT Channel 5 "Project Earth," to create a regional effort to increase awareness of the environmental issues in Southwest Ohio River Valley.

We also created new partnerships with Agrium Inc. and local watershed groups to leverage our resources and create even more impact to increase awareness and citizen engagement to protect our soil and water. Through Agrium Inc. and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, HCSWCD held the first Caring for Our Watersheds contest in the Midwest where students not only won prize money for their ideas to protect local watersheds but the money to implement their projects as well.

Partnerships with local watershed groups like the Friends of the Great Miami, Rivers Unlimited and the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities also yielded results in the past year - from gaining a better understanding of the water quality in our rivers and streams to actively improving the water quality through the re-establishment and enhancement of floodplains and wetlands.

Reaching out to other institutional partners is also a hallmark of HCSWCD's collaborative efforts. This year we worked with the University of Cincinnati, US EPA and the Metropolitan Sewer District to expand our reach and impact.

Truly, with collaboration anything is possible. We look forward to the years to come as we continue to act as stewards of two of the great resources - our soil and water - that make us proud to be Hamilton Countians.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Johns, Chairman



Board of Supervisors



Steve Johns
Chairman



Pete Mallow
Vice-Chairman



Denny Benson
Treasurer



Sam McKinley
Secretary



Scott P. Huber
Program Chair



Service Statistics for 2012 - Telephone and E-mail Contacts

Units of Govt. - 414
Administrative - 7,510

Miscellaneous - 144
Office Visitors - 197

2,636 Landowner

Drainage/erosion - 1,180
Pond/lake - 97
Storm water - 418
(storm system, road, backyard, etc.)

District services & products - 888
(soil fertility kits, maps, etc.)
Farm programs - 17
Landslides - 36

7,938 Education/Outreach

School/teachers - 1,256
General public - 12
Public relations - 1,787
Public events - 269
Collaboration with groups - 3,446
Public involvement - 1,168

5,958 Stream

Stream bank erosion - 1,297
Watershed groups - 1,096
Stream-water quality - 3,443
Flooding - 122

632 Landowner Site Visits

Drainage/erosion - 89
Fill sites - 34
Erosion - 59
Farm - 43
Landslide - 65
Stream naming - 2
Stream bank erosion - 61
Ground water - 4
Stream permitting - 8
Log jams - 7
Pond - 19
Water quality monitoring - 241

4,786 Earthwork

Contractor/developer/builder - 1,887
Complaint/inquires - 280
Unit of gov't - 2,619

District Resources & Products

Soil surveys - 1
Soil test results - 225
Cover crop seed sold - 74 lbs.
Soil fertility test kits sold - 306
Aerial photo CD sold - 1



Agriculture

The drenching of fall 2011 and the drought of 2012 was a double hit for our farmers. To go from one extreme to another took a heavy toll. A drought disaster was declared in August and it is estimated that yields from crops will be at least 50% lower than average. Another indicator of hard times for our farmers is that fewer farmers are raising livestock.

2012 was, however, a good year in recruiting new applicants for USDA's Farm Bill Program financial assistance. The Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative was a popular program this year. It is one of several programs under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These plastic greenhouses help to extend the growing season for specialty (vegetable) crop farmers.

The District initiated the first Urban Cover Crop Seed program in the state this year. A cover crop is a crop that is not harvested but is grown to benefit the soil by deeply penetrating compacted soil, capturing Nitrogen and minerals and returning organic matter for the next vegetable crop. The interest has been very positive from our urban gardeners. The District will continue to sell cover crop seed until October 1, 2012.



USDA Cost-Share Funds Distributed - \$43,633

Number of EQIP visits - 19
Number of CRP visits - 24

Farm Bill Programs Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Fencing - 2,100 sq ft.
Brush Management - 10 ac.
Pasture seeding - 13.2 ac.
Heavy use area protection - 3,725 sq.ft.
Access road - 2,100 sq. ft.
Seasonal high tunnels - 6,534 sq. ft. 3 no.
Guttering - 240 ft.
Spring development - 1 no.
Underground outlet - 1,085 ft.
Watering facility (trough) - 2 no.





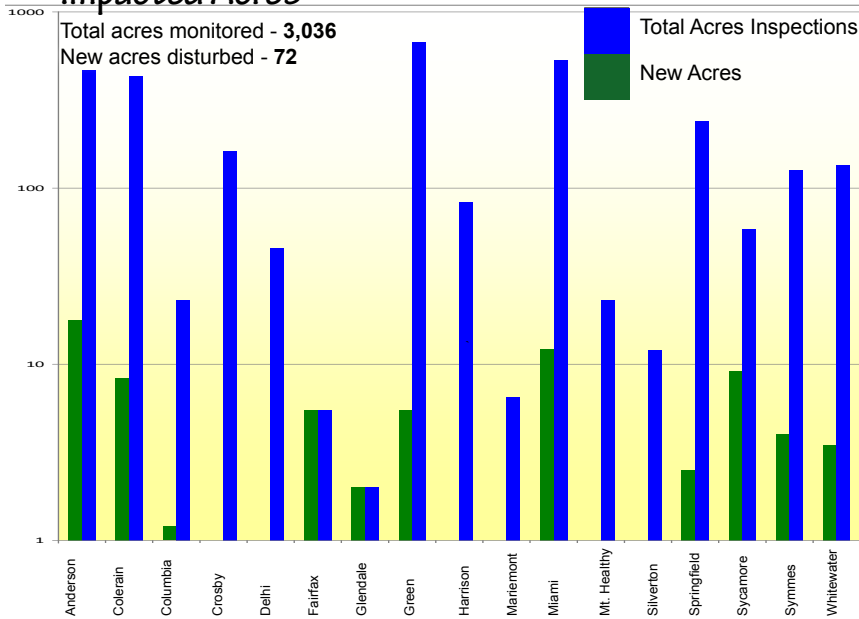
Earthwork Program

The record-breaking rain fall of 2011 continued into early 2012 and then dramatically changed course taking us into a moderate drought as of July 31, 2012. According to the *Monthly Water Inventory Report For Ohio*, the precipitation levels in Southwest Ohio are - 6.75" below normal for the past six months and +4.92" above normal for the past twelve months. These numbers are even starker in Hamilton County because we received more precipitation last year than many of our neighboring counties and less precipitation this summer. We are highlighting this information to convey the challenges the District and the Development Community face in the administration and compliance of the Earthwork Regulations. Never knowing what Mother Nature will send our way emphasizes the importance of education, cooperation and prioritization in our efforts to conserve our valuable soil and water resources.

The Earthwork Staff continues to meet with and educate member jurisdictions of the Hamilton County Storm Water District. From elected officials, municipal staff members and their citizens we strive to educate everyone on the requirements under the Earthwork Regulations and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.



Impacted Acres



This type of partnership has proven to be very successful and rewarding for the District. Our partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers has improved compliance with the 404 Permit. By working with Developers and Engineers in the preliminary stages of the planning process, we have successfully minimized changes needed to plans and prevented delays in obtaining required approvals. This has proven to save time and money.

Education and training of the regulations for the development community is also a major focus. This focus improves the quality of the plans submitted by engineers, leads to better installation and maintenance of practices in the field and saves time and money. The District's objective is to help the development community move through the regulatory process as quickly as possible while ensuring compliance with all of the regulations.

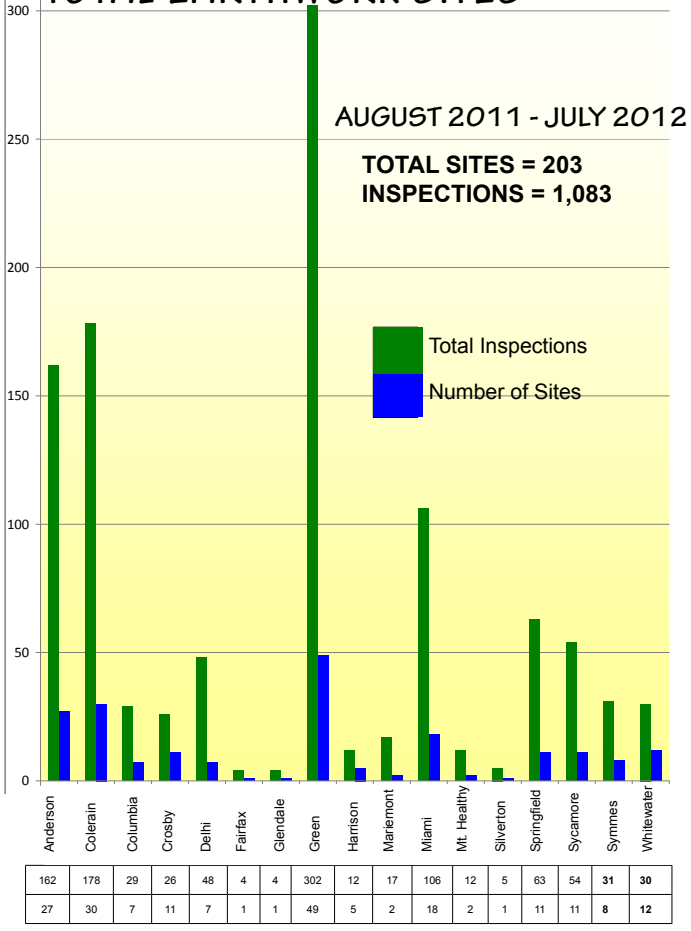




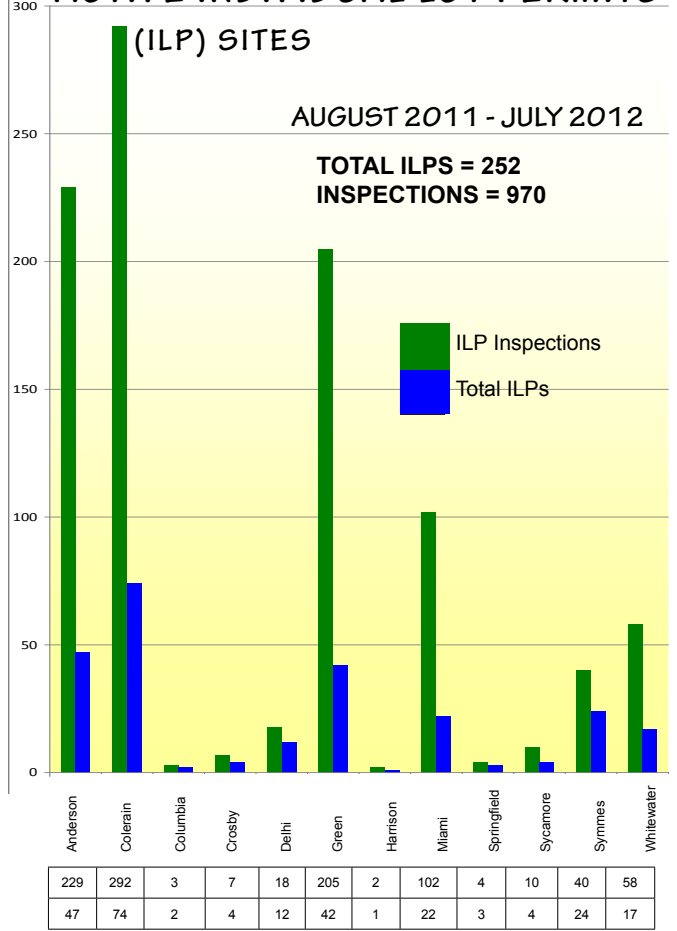
Site Statistics
 Plans reviewed - 1,195
 Zoning reviews - 44
 Clean hard fill sites - 10
 Inspections performed - 2,053



TOTAL EARTHWORK SITES



ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL LOT PERMITS (ILP) SITES



188 New Permits Issued

- Anderson - 39
- Colerain - 47
- Columbia - 2
- Crosby - 2
- Delhi - 6
- Fairfax - 1
- Glendale - 1
- Green - 27
- Harrison - 2
- Miami - 18
- Springfield - 3
- Sycamore - 6
- Symmes - 19
- Whitewater - 11
- Mt. Healthy - 3
- Silverton - 1





Stream - Storm Water Quality & Public Involvement

- Technical Support: The Urban Streams Program provided technical support to land owners, businesses, consultants, local jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations on 365 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 daylighting project in Cincinnati. Data collection efforts have been expanded through a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Ohio EPA, Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District and the Cincinnati Park Board. Media presentations were provided in the form of a "Youtube" video that has been posted on the StormCon and Savelocalwaters.org website (150+ hits) and a WLWT Channel 5 story (81,723 Hamilton County viewers and 183,029 total average daily viewers.)
- Mill Creek Confluence Project: Prior to and during the construction of a bankfull wetland and meandering channel at the new Twin Creek Preserve in Sharonville: chemistry, habitat, macroinvertebrate and fish data have been collected for later analysis. During 2011-2012, an educational riparian planting, site tour and canoe float were conducted in partnership with the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities.
- Great Miami River Citizen's Water Quality Lab Program: The Storm Water District purchased new equipment for the program. Over the past year, the program has conducted 11 events, engaging 325 individuals in water quality education initiatives. Once a month, volunteers gather at the University of Cincinnati Center for Field Studies in Miami Whitewater Forest. Volunteers drop off samples or assist in testing for the following parameters: pH, conductivity, turbidity, nitrate, total phosphorus, total coliforms and e-coli. Typically, samples from 65-80 sites are collected and analyzed at the lab. The water quality laboratory has been organized through a partnership between Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, University of Cincinnati, Friends of the Great Miami and Rivers Unlimited.
- Waterway Clean-ups: Great Miami River at 5 sites in Hamilton County - 35 volunteers collected 90 tires, 27 trash bags, 8 large carpets and steel tanks, 13 bags of recyclables; Great Miami River at the Oxbow floodplain in Hamilton County, OH and Dearborn County, IN - 18 volunteers collected 12 tires, 20 trash bags; Beaver Run in collaboration with the City of Springdale and Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities - 54 volunteers.



Stream Community Involvement Totals

- 2 - Stream walks - 25 attendees
- 3 - River cleanup events - 107 participants
- 21 - Community presentations, events & displays - 622 attendees

Storm Drain Labeling

- 6 - Communities (throughout City of Arlington Hts, Cleves, Delhi Twp, City of Golf Manor, Sycamore Twp, and Symmes Twp.)
- 428 - Labels
- 295 - Storm water pollution prevention flyers



Have you seen our watershed signs in your neighborhood? They are located at stream crossings throughout Hamilton County. This fall the District is releasing a watershed signage marketing campaign - so stay tuned!





Water Quality Events 28 Events - Reaching 585 people

- Aug 2011** National College students on HCSWCD, HCSWD and NPDES Phase II regulations presentation - 22 students
Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 26 volunteers, 53 samples run
- Sept 2011** Mill Creek Confluence tour - 25 attendees
Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 24 volunteers, 63 samples run
Storm Drain Labeling presentation in Delhi Twp. - 25 participants Our Lady of Victory Club
- Oct 2011** Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 18 volunteers, 63 samples run
Green Township tour of the Diehl Park's storm water best management practices - 10 attendees
Storm Drain Labeling event in Sycamore Twp - 22 Sycamore High Enviro Club
- Nov 2011** Mill Creek Confluence Project stream bank stabilization and riparian planting - 6 participants
Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 20 volunteers, 54 samples run
Glendale Village Garden/Environmental Club presentation - 15 attendees
- Feb 2012** Great Miami River Citizen's Volunteer Monitoring Data Sharing Event - 28 participants
- Mar 2012** Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities and City of Wyoming residents presentation - 8 participants
- Apr 2012** OKI Regional Council of Governments Annual Meeting presentation - 60 attendees
Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 32 volunteers, 76 samples run
- May 2012** Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River in Colerain Twp. - 35 volunteers
Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River at the Oxbow floodplain - 18 volunteers
Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 35 volunteers, 80 samples run
- Jun 2012** Mill Creek Watershed Council of communities presentation - 17 attendees
Mill Creek Watershed Council & Mill Creek Confluence chemical stream monitoring - 3 attendees
Mill Creek Watershed Council & Mill Creek Confluence presentation - 17 attendees
Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 27 attendees, 64 samples run
Storm Drain Labeling event in Arlington Heights - Public Works Department
- Jul 2012** Storm Drain Labeling event in the Village of Newtown - Public Works Department
City of Springdale and Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities cleanup - 54 volunteers
Great Miami River Citizens' Lab - 30 volunteers, 75 samples
Storm Drain Labeling event in Golf Manor - Public Works Department
Storm Drain Labeling event in Cleves - Public Works Department





Public Education Programs, Events and Displays

We started in the spring with the really big watershed game. The game is an 18' x 18' printed fabric game board where students become the playing pieces and 'float' along in one of our three rivers (Great Miami, Mill Creek or Little Miami). They pick up pollution from the watershed while learning how their actions can positively and negatively affect their local water quality.

In May, we co-hosted the first ever Caring For Our Watersheds (Ohio) contest. We partnered with Agrium Inc. and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio to run the contest. Local high school students were asked to write a proposal to answer the question: "What can you do to improve your watershed?" A team of young ladies from Arlington Heights won first place and took home \$1,000. Better yet, the students receive money to implement their watershed protection ideas in their local community. A big win for everyone!!

We expanded our education offerings to many more people this year. We had a huge presence in recreation centers, summer camps, scout groups and libraries, and increased our teacher workshop participation. In fact we trained 214 more teachers this year than last! Think of the impact that has on our school children and local community.

Finally, over the past year, we have participated in over 78 public events reaching 144,824 people that played games, planted sunflower seeds and were able to spread the word about soil fertility testing, conservation issues and storm water practices.

We are looking forward to another big year teaching Hamilton County residents about soil and water conservation issues.



COMMUNITY EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

35,540
Aug 2011

- NWLSD Back to School Health & Safety Fair (Colerain Twp) - 500 participants
- Taste of Colerain - 25,000 attendees over 3 days
- Days in the Park (Deer Park) - 6,000 attendees over 2 days
- Madeira Street Dance - 2,500 attendees
- Farm Bureau Day at Stricker's Grove - 1,300 attendees
- Green Resource Fair - 150 attendees
- Project WILD/WILD Aquatic teacher workshop - 18 participants
- 2 Growing Up WILD teacher workshops - 44 participants
- Permanent Pharmaceutical Collection in Anderson Twp - 13 attendees
- Groundwater Guardian Green Site Workshop at Fernald - 15 attendees

5,251
Sept 2011

- GCEE Ultimate Educator Expo at Cincinnati Zoo - 400 attendees
- Celebrate Mt. Healthy Day - 500 attendees
- Silverton Fall Yard Sale - 500 attendees
- Glendale Street Fair - 2,500 attendees
- HCSWCD Annual Meeting - 100 attendees
- Fairfax Fall Festival - 700 attendees
- Overview of District for NKU class - 16 students
- Sycamore HS Tree Education Day - 500 students
- Worm Bin teacher workshop - 35 participants

2,677
Oct - Nov
2011

- Agriculture Education Day (Symmes Twp.) - 600 participants
- Mt. Airy Forest Festival - 500 attendees
- UC Blue Ash Fall Carnival and Job Fair - 450 attendees
- 2 Worm bin teacher workshops - 17 participants
- Growing up WILD teacher workshop - 18 participants
- Butler County Water Festival - 900 participants
- Covedale Elementary Arbor Day Tree Planting ceremony - 100 attendees
- Erosion and Sediment Control Field Day - 92 attendees



3,099
Jan - Feb
2012

Growing Up WILD teacher workshop - 25 participants
Healthy Water Healthy People teacher workshop - 13 participants
Project WET teacher workshop - 18 participants
CPS curriculum council presentation - 29 participants
Read Across America - 3,000 attendees
OFSWCD Annual Meeting presentation on Pharmaceutical Disposal - 14 attendees
Alliance for Chemical Safety Banquet - Pharmaceuticals presentation - 60 attendees

178
Mar 2012

Growing Up Wild Workshop - 77 attendees
Science Olympiad - 37 participants
Groundwork Cincinnati - Mill Creek water monitoring - 30 participants
Pharmaceutical disposal, DROP at EPA bldg. - 12 attendees
2 Plan Your Spring Garden workshop - 22 attendees

8,852
Apr 2012

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) workshop - 12 participants
Marjorie P Lee Spring celebration - 500 attendees
Anderson Township Garden Club presentation - 23 participants
Earth Day at P&G - 300 attendees
Party for the Planet at the Cincinnati Zoo - 4,500 attendees
Blue Ash Earth Day - 500 attendees
Earth Day at Sawyer Point - 2,000 attendees
Earth Jam at Cincinnati State - 450 attendees
Pond Clinic - 30 participants
Christ Hospital Earth Day - 500 attendees
Soils & Community Gardening presentation at Cincinnati State - 17 students
Presentation of the District's use of Social Media at EPA - 20 attendees

5,041
May 2012

The Plant Sale at the Civic Garden Center - 1,300 attendees
Public Employees Recognition Day - 1,300 attendees
Caring for Our Watersheds Final Competition - 150 attendees
Springdale Health Fair - 600 attendees
Delhi Township Safety Day - 115 attendees
Pleasant Run Middle School Arbor Day Tree Planting ceremony - 25 attendees
Avondale Montessori Year End Celebration - 700 attendees
Groundwater Cincinnati - Mill Creek Student Congress - 300 attendees
Crosby Days - 500 attendees
Lunch & Learn Session at EPA - 15 attendees
GIESN Center Series at U.C. on soil fertility - 36 attendees

8,690
Jun 2012

Pond Clinic (Sharonville) - 32 participants
St Ignatius Health Fair - 700 attendees
Bugfest at Cincinnati Museum Center - 700 attendees
Paddlefest Kids Expo - 5,600 attendees
Paddlefest Music Festival - 1,500 attendees
Su Casa water quality presentation - 150 attendees
4-H Fair judge at Stricker's Grove - 8 projects

75,036
Jul 2012

Festival in Sycamore - 15,000+ attendees over 2 days
Sharonfest - 25,000 attendees over 3 days
Greater Anderson Days - 35,000 attendees over 3 days
Three Cover Crop presentations - 36 participants



The eco-friendly and imaginative 6th grade art club from Pleasant Run Middle School were our Sandfort Recycled Sculpture contest winners this year. The students, guided by teacher Jenni Moore, gathered food boats at breakfast until inspiration struck! They created "The Wings of Spring," a sculpture of a bird nest in a tree, which uses the food boats, recycled Christmas tissue paper and shredded paper from the school office.

Congratulations to students: Brennen M, Marguerite J, Cailyn B, Veronica W, Ezequiel B, Alie L, Isaiah S, Caitlyn D and teacher Jenni Moore! Specials thanks to Natorp's and Liz Jacobs for their generous donation of a beautiful tree and for "helping" to plant it in front of the school.



Education

Aug 2011 - July 2012

395	School programs for	10,689	Students
14	Scout programs for	459	Scouts
47	Library programs for	1,143	Participants
14	Teacher workshops for	306	Teachers
35	Summer camp programs for	1,105	Participants

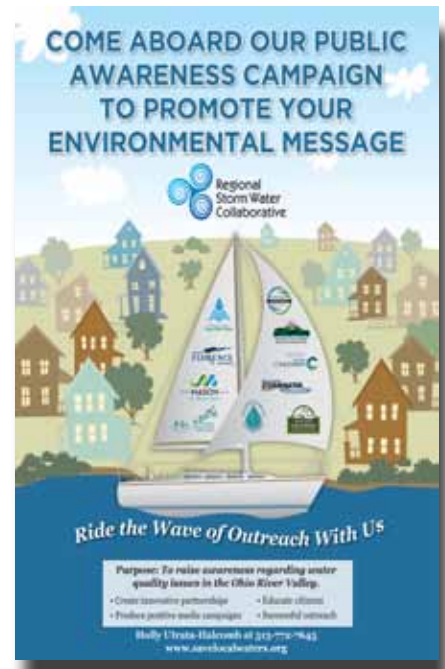


MEDIA & MARKETING!

The District Public Relations program is a strategic marketing process that strives to build mutually beneficial relationships between organizations, government entities and citizens. Through the Regional Storm Water Collaborative of Southwest Ohio - an alliance of storm water districts, soil and water conservations districts, local businesses and sponsors - we have utilized mass media and shared resources to raise awareness about environmental quality issues in the Ohio River Valley.

WLWT Channel 5 News has been a vital and generous partner, donating 296 thirty-second ads, a value of \$26,400! We are extremely grateful for their generous contribution to our mission in educating the public regarding environmental issues. In addition, the District used radio, print media, billboards, websites and other social media tools to engage citizens in the importance of water quality and conservation.

The District would like to thank all the citizens that volunteered in community involvement projects this year and would also like to thank WKRC – 550 AM radio and Lamar Advertising for their support and donations.



District Facebook Stats

Page likes - 191

Daily annual impressions - 86,915



www.facebook.com/HamiltonCountySoilandWaterConservationDistrict

Save Local Waters Facebook Stats

Page likes - 194

Daily annual impressions - 41,921

Twitter - 144 tweets and followers - 73



www.facebook.com/SaveLocalWaters

Follow us at twitter.com/savelocalwaters



Billboards

2 billboards 14' x 48' = 138,051 car pass/day or 4,279,581 cars pass/month

10 Posters 10.6' x 22.9' = 144,011 cars pass/day or 4,464,341 cars pass/month

5 posters donated by Lamar Advertising at a total value of \$2,500.00

Television

WLWT: Channel 5 – 26 Ads – 456,900 total viewers

WLWT Website Billboard Ads – 7 over 2 months – 462,000 Views

Bonus Donations

Earth Day Telethon: 1 hour of environmental questions – 59,400 viewers

WLWT: Channel 5 donated 296 thirty second ads at a value of \$26,400 reaching 5.2 million viewers

WLWT “Project Earth” Website linked to Savelocalwaters.org Calendar of Events



Radio

WVXU/WGUC - 28 fifteen second spots over 4 weeks promoting website - 65,400 listeners

WKRC - 550 AM - 8 thirty second ads over 4 weeks – 53,200 listeners

Bonus Donations

Guest on Ron Wilson “In The Garden Show” - 2 hour show on soil fertility, cover crops and general gardening questions - 6,650 listeners

Guest on Brian Thomas Morning show “Ask the Expert” - spoke on Regional Storm Water Collaborative and water quality

PSA's

PSA - 23 articles/events

Media videos - 3

Quarterly newsletter - 14,205

Ads - 455,400 in circulation

District YouTube Videos

- Earth Day

- Caring for Our Watersheds

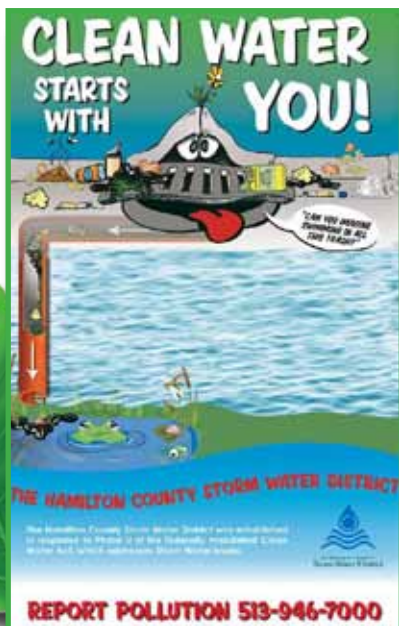
- Ault Park Stream Relocation Project



Financial Report
January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

District Account	
January 1, 2011 beginning balance	\$10,976
Income	4,308
Expenses	4,744
December 31, 2011 ending balance	\$10,540
Special Account (Soil & Water Conservation)	
January 1, 2011 beginning balance (includes contingency fund)	\$251,806
General Fund Subsidy	227,879
State Match	225,516
Other Revenue	3.00
Total Expenditures	359,429
December 31, 2011 ending balance	\$345,775
Less 20% Contingency Fund and Payroll Liabilities	149,792
Total	195,983
Special Account (Storm Water)	
January 1, 2011 beginning balance (includes contingency fund)	\$450,471
General Fund Subsidy	324,150
State Match	175,105
Total Expenditures	468,995
December 31, 2011 ending balance	\$480,731
Less 20% Contingency Fund Payroll Liabilities	222,417
Total	258,314
Special Account (Storm Center)	
January 1, 2011 beginning balance	\$192,632.78
Colaboration Funding	35,000.00
Total Expenditures	178,132.64
December 31, 2011 ending balance	\$49,500.14

This is unaudited financial report for the period January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011.



Pharmaceutical Collection Program

Since the first DROP pharmaceutical take-back event in November 2010, there has been over 1 ton of unwanted medication collected throughout Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties. The U.S. Department of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has facilitated 4 national Pharmaceutical Collection Days in all 50 states! In total, the DEA – in partnership with local law enforcement agencies and community partners from across the nation – has removed over 1.5 million pounds of medication from entering our environment! The District continues to work with the above partners to create a permanent collection plan for Southwest Ohio.

Mark your calendars – the next national DEA Take-Back day is September 29, 2012!

Harrison Police Department permanent collection box pictured. It is managed by Chief of Police, Charles Lindsey.



Hamilton County Commissioners



Greg Hartmann



Chris Monzel



Todd Portune

AWARDS!

The Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment recognized our SWCD as their "2011 Partner of the Year" at a reception held at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton Ohio, on November 9. Accomplishments included: assisting in establishing the Great Miami River Water Quality Lab within Whitewater Park in Crosby Township, providing Storm Drain Labeling assistance to townships and cities as well as Watershed Signage, community presentations and providing classroom presentations on water quality.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recognized the District at the Area IV Winter Meeting. John Williams from (NRCS) presented Hamilton County and Butler SWCD the "Area 4 Team Award". The Districts were recognized for their contributions resulting in services that exceeded expectations for the period of October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

The Ohio Storm Water Association recognized Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District for Government Program Excellence at the OSWA Annual Conference in Toledo. The award was for developing successful and innovative projects to address storm water management. It was noted that our SWCD was the first SWCD in the State to initiate successfully a Sediment, Erosion and Hillside Stability Plan Review and Site Inspection Program; Storm Drain Labeling; Watershed Signage; Pharmaceutical Recycling Programs; the first Children's Waterfest Program – now known as Paddlefest; Caring For Our Watersheds competition for High School Students; Soil Fertility Testing and Research; The Great Miami River Water Quality Lab and The Project Earth Education through Media Program, now known as Save Local Waters.org.



Brian Blake, Holly Utrata-Halcomb and Chey Alberto receives the Ohio Stormwater Association 2012 Government Project Excellence Award

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati recognized our SWCD for their participation in Project Groundwork. The District helped to implement projects that improve water quality in local communities and watersheds throughout Hamilton County by reducing and eliminating sewer overflows into local creeks and rivers.



Commissioner Todd Portune presents Brian Bohl's award

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments recognized Brian Bohl as their Public Service Awareness Award recipient for The District's work with the Friends of the Great Miami, Mill Creek Yacht Club, OKI Regional Council of Governments, Great Miami River Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Project, Saturday Stream Snapshot, OKI Regional Conservation Council and more.

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 receive 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.