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Hamilton County Storm Water District E-Newsletter

Fall 2025 Edition



*Quarterly News & Updates from your Partners at the
Hamilton County Storm Water District*



Storm Water District Dive: *MCM4 - Construction Site Runoff Control*



Get to know your Storm Water District! This section will highlight services provided by the Hamilton County Storm Water District. Each quarter, we'll feature Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), review FAQs, or highlight TMDLs.

This quarter we're reviewing MCM4 - *Construction Site Runoff Control*

The purpose of MCM4 is to ensure proper implementation of erosion, sediment, and other pollutant control measures during active construction projects to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. This MCM is overseen by Hamilton County Conservation District.



Silt fencing properly installed along the perimeter of a construction site.

MCM4 District and Co-Permittee Permit Compliance Activities include:

- Plan Approvals
- Site Inspections
- Enforcement

Check out the MCM4 fact sheet linked below, and browse the website for even more Storm Water District information.

[HCSWD MCM4 Fact Sheet](#)

[Visit the HCSWD Website](#)

News & Highlights

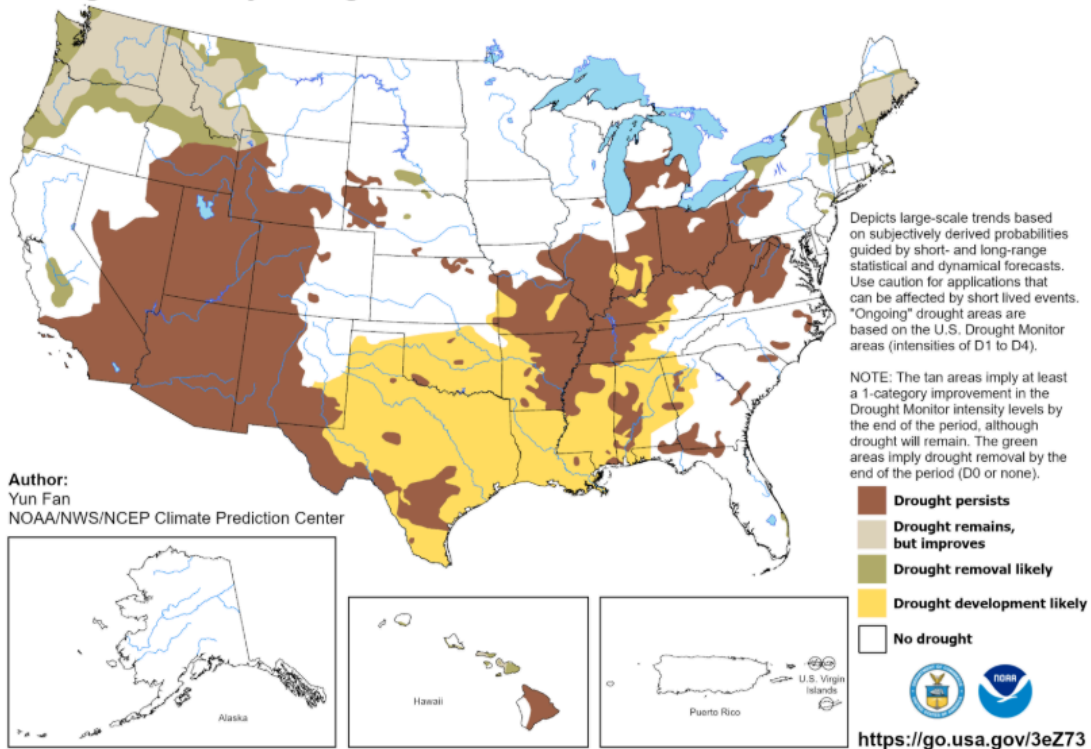
Impacts of the 2025 Ohio Drought

Changing climate patterns have led to increased overall rainfall here in the Midwest, and heavier individual rain storms. These lead to their own problems, but the changing patterns also show that we are having longer periods *between* these heavier rain storms - leading to increasing drought.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 18 - December 31, 2025
Released September 18, 2025



NWS U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook through December 31, 2025 (National Weather Service)

Check out the recent news articles below about how Ohioans are handling the impacts of this year's drought, what to expect, and what you can do to mitigate the impacts of drought:

- [Ohio Drought Information](#) - including drought resources by sector and for the public
- [Ohio State Helps Farmers Manage Drought Impacts](#)
- [Ohio Summer \(June-August 2025\) Seasonal Climate Summary](#)
- [Drought Conditions Worsen in the Valley](#) - states that August 2025 was the driest August in Ohio on record since 1885

Making the Switch
(from Calcium/Sodium Chloride this winter)



Many Hamilton County Storm Water District Co-Permittees have been ending their use of Calcium Chloride for deicing and switching to alternatives such as Magic Zero and beet juice. Coincidentally, Ohio EPA has indicated deicing and salt use is becoming more of a major topic for MS4s and nearby waterways, and some measure related to this may be included in the 2026 permit.

- [Grove City Secures \\$75K Ohio EPA Grant for Eco-Friendly De-icing Tech to Protect Waterways](#)
- [Older article based in New England, but with still relevant information about deicing products and costs/benefits](#)
- [Winter 2023 SWD Newsletter article featuring Hamilton County Co-Permittee who made the switch, and how it works for them](#)
- [General information about the impacts of salt and what residents can do to help](#)

Stormwater Best Practices

Protecting Water Quality This Fall

As autumn settles in, the changing leaves and cooler temperatures bring unique challenges for keeping our waterways clean and healthy. Everyday activities in our neighborhoods—like yard care, home projects, and seasonal cleanups—can have a direct impact on local creeks, rivers, and lakes.



Leaves and Yard Waste

When leaves pile up on streets and in storm drains, rain can wash them into the stormwater system. This organic material breaks down and releases nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms and lower water quality. You can help by raking leaves, mulching them into your lawn, or using community composting programs instead of leaving them in the street.

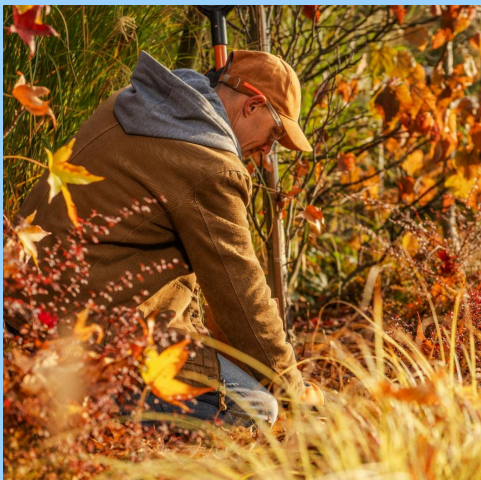
Fertilizers and Lawn Care

Fall is a popular time for lawn treatments, but excess fertilizer can be carried by rain into streams and ponds. Even small amounts add up, fueling algae growth that harms fish and wildlife. Follow label instructions carefully and consider soil testing before applying. Often, less fertilizer is needed than you might think.

Household and Outdoor Projects

Whether you're sealing a driveway, painting, or preparing your home for winter, be mindful of spills and debris. Never rinse chemicals, paints, or other materials into storm drains—these flow directly to our waterways without treatment.

How You Can Help:



- ✓ ***Clear Drains & Ditches*** – Keep storm drains clear of leaves, grass clippings, and debris.
- ✓ ***Sweep It Back*** – Reduce fertilizer use and sweep any spills off sidewalks and driveways.
- ✓ ***No Illegal Dumping*** – Collect and properly dispose of household hazardous waste.
- ✓ ***Plant deep-rooted plants*** – Consider planting native shrubs or trees this fall—roots help absorb stormwater and reduce runoff.

Together, small steps by each of us protect the water we all rely on. Clean water supports healthy wildlife, recreation, and safe drinking supplies for our communities.

More tips on managing yard waste

2025 Upcoming Events

Caring For Our Watersheds Contest

Proposal Deadline: December 19



Are you a teacher or parent of a high school student? Do you want to empower students to make a difference in their community? Then Caring For Our Watersheds (CFW) is the perfect program. CFW asks students to identify a problem in their community and work with a mentor and contest funding to implement a solution. *Top 10 students and schools/clubs win prize money too!*

Caring For Our Watersheds Website

Questions? Want a classroom presentation? Contact
Gwen.Roth@hamiltoncountyohio.gov

Hamilton County Conservation District 80th Anniversary Celebration

October 27



80th Anniversary Celebration

*Please join us for dinner as we honor our partners
and look back at 80 years of conservation.*

**Monday, October 27
5-8 p.m.
MadTree Parks & Rec
4321 Glendale Milford Rd.
Blue Ash, OH 45242**

Family-Friendly

**5-6 p.m. Face Painting
5-6 p.m. Election of District Board
5-8 p.m. Food, Drinks, & Networking
6:15-6:45 p.m. Keynote Speaker - Thane Maynard
6:45-7:15 p.m. Awards**

RSVP



hcsxcd.org

Registration recommended but not required



Join us for dinner as we honor our partners and look back at 80 years of conservation. All are welcome!

[Register Here \(FREE\)](#)

**Hamilton County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Election is Open**

Voting open now through October 28



Nominees are:

Amanda Nurre

Beth Himburg

Caroline Cain

Lauren Wulker

Lisa Soper

Two Hamilton County Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: at the HCCD office during business hours, by absentee ballot, or at the HCCD 80th Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 27.

Website with Detailed Candidate and Voting Information

Rain Barrel Sale

To Open on December 1, 2025

The Hamilton County Conservation District is selling 50-gallon plastic rain barrels for \$85 each. Barrels are made from recycled materials and come with a diverter kit. Includes almost everything you need to set up and start saving water for your spring and summer plants!



**Storm Water District Partner's
Contact Information**



Hamilton County
Planning+
Development

Phone: (513) 946-4550



Phone: (513) 946-7800



Phone: (513) 946-8020

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