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# Hamilton County Storm Water District Newsletter

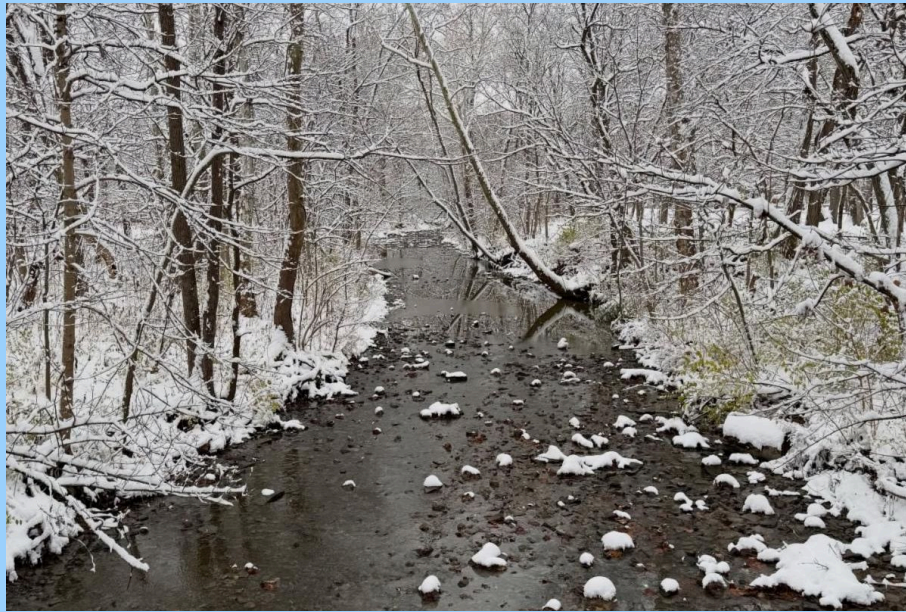
## *Winter 2026 Edition*



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

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## **Storm Water District Dive:**

### *MCM5 - Post-Construction Stormwater Management*

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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

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## **This quarter we're reviewing MCM5 - Post-Construction Stormwater Management**

The purpose of MCM5 is to require developers to install and subsequent property owners to maintain post-construction stormwater control facilities designed to meet Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Storm Water District performance standards.

This MCM is overseen by Hamilton County Planning + Development.



*Installation of detention basin system at Clough Chase.*

MCM5 District and Co-Permittee Permit Compliance Activities include:

- Site Plan Review
- Inspect Sites for Proper Best Management Practice (BMP) Installations
- Long-Term Plans and Agreement for Post-Construction Controls
- Inspect Post-Construction Controls per Long-Term O&M (Operations & Maintenance) Agreement
- Enforcement

Check out the MCM5 fact sheet linked below, and browse the website for even more Storm Water District information.

[HCSWD MCM5 Fact Sheet](#)

[Visit the HCSWD Website](#)

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## **News & Highlights**

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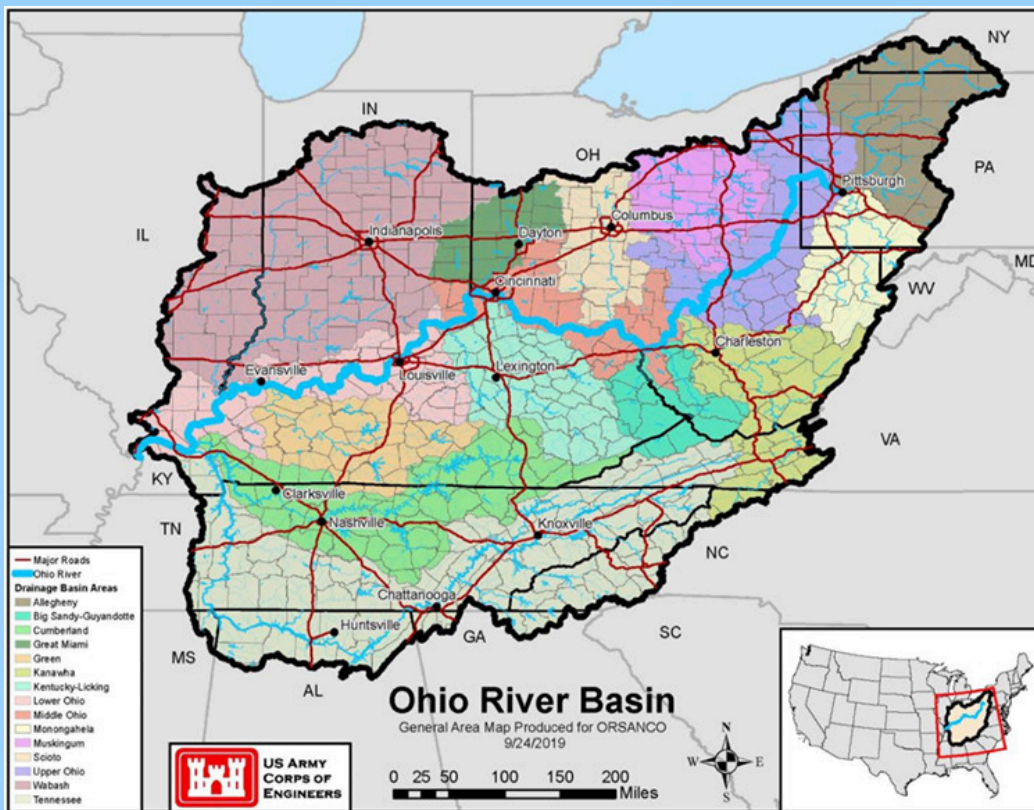
**Funding cuts to H2Ohio threaten water quality improvements and wetland restoration projects**

# H2Ohio

In June, the Ohio legislature voted to reduce the \$270 million budget for the state's signature freshwater protection program, known as H2Ohio. Under this new bill, the program introduced by Gov. Mike DeWine in 2019 will now receive \$165 million, despite 8-10% reductions in agricultural pollution runoff in Lake Erie and successful wetland restoration projects across the state under the program. While the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has not made final decisions on which wetland restoration projects will resume with the newly limited funding, the H2Ohio program is proactively looking for other funding sources as is the Ohio EPA, which receives federal EPA funds.

- [Ohio program aimed to reduce agricultural runoff takes drastic funding cut despite successes](#)
- [State conservancy worries about wetland restoration projects after Ohio General Assembly cuts water quality funding](#)

**Area U.S. Congressmen craft legislation to provide federal funding dedicated to restoring and protecting the Ohio River Basin**



Despite covering 55 congressional districts, 14 states, and being home to 25 million people, the Ohio River Basin is the largest water system in the U.S. that does not receive federal funding for clean up and restoration. A bipartisan group of congressmen aim to change that with the proposed Ohio River Restoration Program Act to form and fund the Ohio River National Program Office within the U.S. EPA. This group would receive a budget of \$350 million annually over five years to address pollution, improve drinking water, repair habitat, advise on farm conservation, provide homeowner support, develop the workforce, and more.

- [U.S. Reps from KY and IN propose federal funding for Ohio River Basin health](#)
- [Co-Chair of Ohio River Basin Caucus Rep. McGarvey details outline of proposed Ohio River Restoration Program Act](#)
- [The National Wildlife Federation is leading a multi-stakeholder working group to draft a restoration plan to serve as roadmap for Ohio River Restoration Program Act](#)

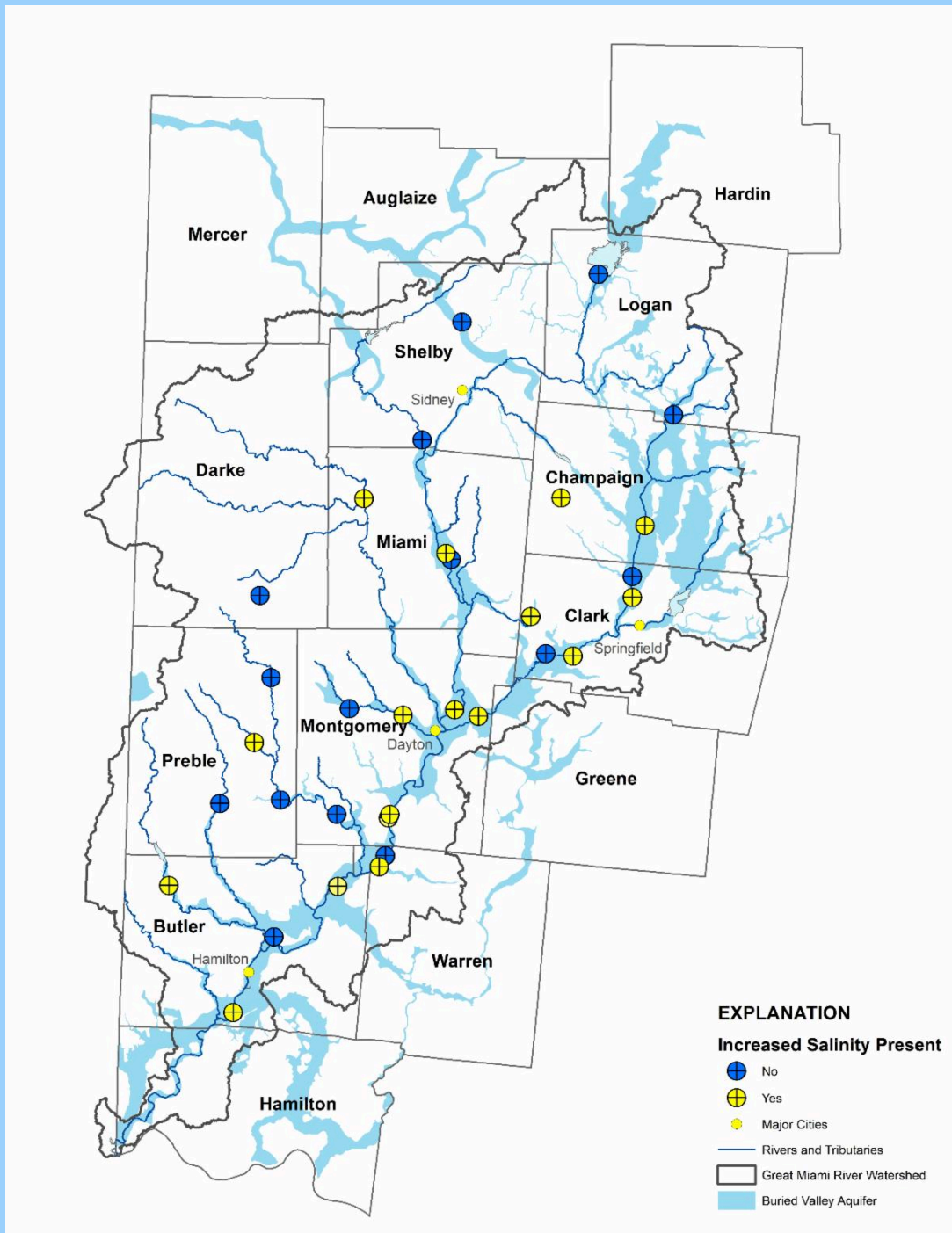
Ohio River Basin Alliance Website

Stormwater Best Practices

# Be Salt Smart This Winter

According to the American Geosciences Institute, Ohio is the 3rd largest U.S. producer of rock salt (5.4 million metric tons), and 2nd highest consumer of rock salt (3.5 million metric tons). The use of salt has more than doubled over the past four decades, leading to the discovery of salt-based issues ranging from ecological harm, infrastructure issues, and health concerns for humans and pets.

Excess salt in our freshwater impacts humans in more ways than one. Salt is not removed from drinking water during traditional water treatment processes, which can lead to health concerns. This saltier drinking water also causes infrastructure issues to pipes, pumps, and even vehicles and other property, increasing maintenance costs.



*This map shows the locations of Ohio EPA and Miami Conservancy District monitoring wells and which wells show elevated and/or increasing trends in groundwater salinity in the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer.*

### **How You Can Help:**



- ✓ **Shovel Early** – Shovel snow before daytime snowmelt re-freezes into hazardous ice.
- ✓ **Use Less Salt** – Read your product label, typically a 12oz. mug is enough to treat 10 sidewalk squares.
  - Spread evenly, salt works best when not in clumps.
  - Watch the weather, some deicers like salt are ineffective below a certain temperature.
- ✓ **Sweep and Reuse** – Sweep up and collect remaining undissolved salt once ice has melted.
  - Store properly, be sure salt is covered and contained.

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.

### **Additional Resources:**

- [Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution this Winter!](#) - a step by step guide
- [Melting Snow: It's Stormwater Too!](#) - Why winter causes unique stormwater problems
- [Winter Storm Water Practices Tool Box](#)

More Winter Salt Tips & Local Information

## **2026 Upcoming Events**

### **Backyard Conservation Series**

**Throughout 2026**

The Hamilton County Conservation District is launching a new "Backyard Conservation" program series in 2026 that will include a variety of conservation

best practices that Hamilton County landowners can implement on their property.

The next upcoming programs are listed here:



### **Winter Sowing Edible Companion Plants**

*Saturday, January 24. 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

HCCD Training Center  
2710 E Kemper Rd.  
Sharonville, OH 45241

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### **Live Staking 101**

*Saturday, February 21. 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

### **Promoting Native Bees**

*Saturday, March 14. 10-11:30 a.m.*

### **Rain Barrel Workshop**

*Tuesday, April 7. 6-7:30 p.m.*

Visit the HCCD Website for a complete list of events & details

## **Winter Salt Week**

*\*MCM6 credit opportunity\**

**January 26 - 30**

Winter Salt Week is a week dedicated to raising awareness around salt pollution and reduction solutions. During the last week of January, Winter Salt Week Sponsors and Allies come together to highlight challenges and inform the public on the adoption of best practices in snow and ice control. Last year, this event involved over 900 individuals from 30+ states.

This year, Winter Salt Week includes six livestreamed webinars. Each webinar covers a different salt topic, such as reducing salt usage while maintaining safe conditions. While attendance is completely optional, the Storm Water District asks if you or your staff do attend any of these events, please let us know so we can count this towards your **MCM6** permit compliance activities. Contact [ryan.wuest@hamiltoncountyohio.gov](mailto:ryan.wuest@hamiltoncountyohio.gov) with your name, jurisdiction, title, and which webinar(s) you attended by Monday, Feb.2 to record your attendance.

Registration for these events is **free!** To register visit the website and click the yellow "Register Here" button above the livestream schedule.

Winter Salt Week  
Website & Event  
Registration

# Winter Salt Week 2026

Free, daily livestreams on  
salt pollution and  
reduction solutions

Join for a day  
or catch them all



MONDAY  
JAN 26  
1:30 ET

**Freshwater Salinization**  
Causes, Consequences, and Trends  
Dr. Megan Rippey and Dr. Stan Grant, Virginia Tech

TUESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Salt Wise Stories**  
Phill Sexton, WIT Advisors  
Aron Rodman, Extra Mile Snowplowing LLC

WEDNESDAY  
JAN 27  
1:30 ET

**Smart Salting Contracts**  
Martin Tirado, Snow and Ice Management Assn  
Jim Turcan, Cornerstone Partners Hort. Serv. Co.

THURSDAY  
JAN 29  
1:30 ET

**Engineering Solutions**  
Connie Fortin, Bolton & Menk  
Wilf Nixon, Professional Snowfighters Association

FRIDAY  
JAN 30

*Virtual Conversation Table Options:* **Advocating for Change (12-1pm ET)** hosted by Abby Hileman and Mary Rooney; **Salt Monitoring 101 (1-2pm ET)** hosted by Lauren Eaton and Paige Vichiola

Learn more and register online  
[www.wintersaltweek.org](http://www.wintersaltweek.org)



Check out these Winter Salt Week Resources you can use in your community!

Winter Salt Week Website

Promotional Toolkit

## 401 Informational Session

February 12

Are you planning work in waterways? Do you need permits? What exactly is a wetland? The 401 Informational Session will cover what are regulated waterways (streams, wetland, lakes) and when permitting is required. Ohio EPA will dive into what is considered to be a wetland and how to determine wetland quality. Current federal and state laws will be covered as well as specific activities that require

permits. Lastly, you'll learn about how to apply for permits, the timeframe of permitting activities, and the cost.



## 401 Informational Session

*Ensure your project stays on track,  
take time to attend this free training session.*

If you're planning a project that may result in the discharge of dredge or fill material into a lake, stream, and/or wetland, you may need a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA.

Join Rachel Secret (Ohio EPA, 401 & IWP Supervisor) to learn more about stream/wetland requirements and how to obtain a permit for your upcoming project.

**February 12, 2026**

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Hamilton County Conservation District Office**

**2710 E Kemper Road**

**Sharonville, OH 45241**

RSVP to Sara Fehring

By February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Hamilton County Conservation District

(513) 946-8025

[Sara.Fehring@hamiltoncountyohio.gov](mailto:Sara.Fehring@hamiltoncountyohio.gov)



Email to Register by Feb. 9

## Climate, Water, & Resilience Workshop

**March 17**

This workshop is tailored for middle and high school educators and will be looking at two Project WET curricula.



Middle & High School Educator's  
Professional Development

## CLIMATE, WATER, & RESILIENCE

*Explore the critical role water plays in the climate change story*



Tues, March 17, 2026



4 - 7 pm



Hamilton Co Conservation District  
2710 East Kemper Road, Sharonville

Delve into the science of climate change, its impact on water systems, and the strategies for building resilient communities. This FREE training covers topics such as climate adaptation, sustainable water management, and disaster preparedness, offering you both theoretical insights and practical solutions.

Attendees will receive 2 free curricula from Project WET.

**Registration required by March 10**

[www.ButlerSWCD.org](http://www.ButlerSWCD.org)

Provided by Butler Soil & Water Conservation District, Hamilton Co. Conservation District, Warren Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, and the University of Cincinnati Field Center

Register Here by Mar. 10

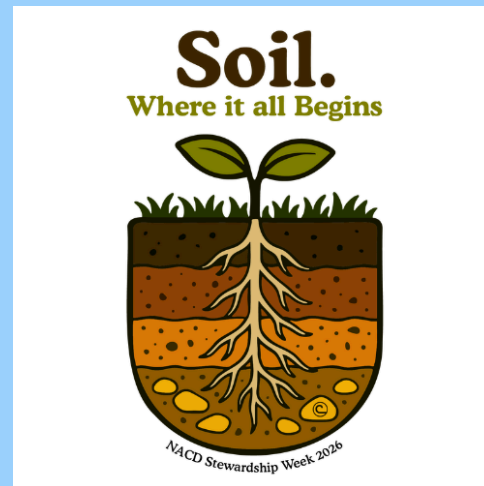
### 2026 Poster and Essay Contest

Submissions due April 3

Hamilton County Conservation District is putting on its annual poster and essay contest! This contest is open to any Hamilton County K-12 student.

This year's theme is:  
**Soil. Where it all Begins**

All winners and sponsoring teachers receive a \$25 gift card to Half Price Books! Visit our website for more information and full guidelines.



[Visit the Website Here](#)

## North American Snow Conference *(coming to Ohio in 2026!)*

**April 26-29**



The North American Snow Conference has it all, from expert-led snow and ice education sessions to an exhibit floor full of vendors excited to show you the latest winter maintenance solutions for your community. Make plans now to join your peers in Cleveland and take advantage of everything the Snow Conference has to offer.

[APWA Snow Conference Website](#)

## Rain Barrel Sale

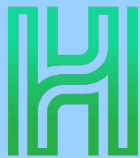
Ongoing while supplies last!

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!



[Purchase Rain Barrels Here](#)

## Storm Water District Partner's Contact Information



Hamilton County  
**Planning+**  
**Development**

Phone: (513) 946-4550



Phone: (513) 946-7800



Phone: (513) 946-8020

[www.hcswd.org](http://www.hcswd.org)

HCCD | 2702 E Kemper Rd. | Sharonville, OH 45241 US

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