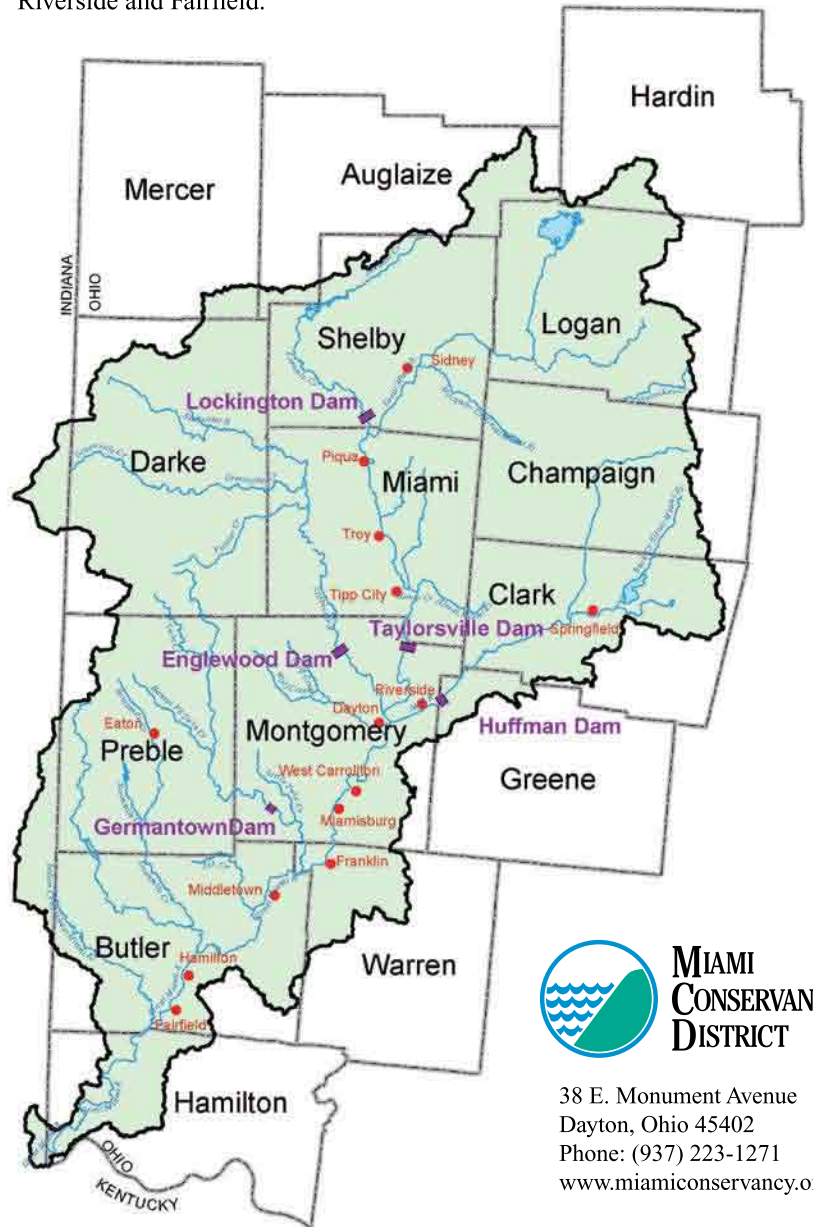


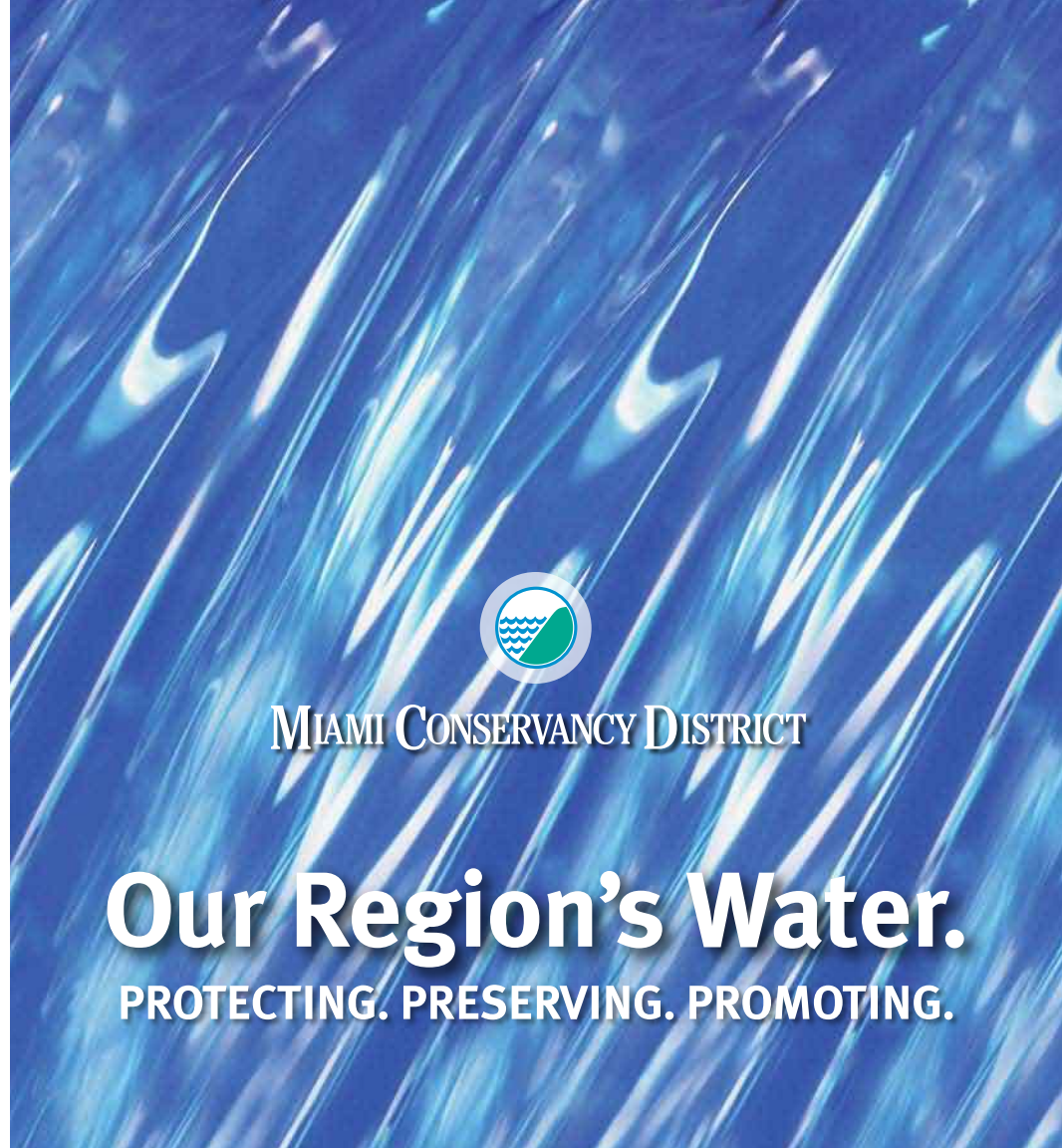
About the Great Miami River Watershed

The Great Miami River Watershed drains nearly 4,000 square miles in the southwest portion of Ohio. The largest rivers include the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers. The Great Miami River Watershed includes all or part of 15 counties from Indian Lake and other headwater areas to the Ohio River in western Hamilton County.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, Europeans settled in the region, building communities along the banks of these waterways. Today, two of the nation's longest interstate highway systems—Interstate 70 and 75—intersect in the heart of the watershed, just north of Dayton. With a population of 166,000, Dayton is the largest city in the watershed. Other major cities within the watershed with a population of 50,000 or more include Springfield, Hamilton and Middletown. Cities with more than 20,000 people include Piqua, Troy, Riverside and Fairfield.



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MIAMI CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Our Region's Water.
PROTECTING. PRESERVING. PROMOTING.



The Miami Conservancy District protects the region from flooding, preserves the quantity and quality of water, and promotes the enjoyment of our waterways.

In a world with few guarantees, residents of the Miami Valley have counted on the Miami Conservancy District (MCD) for more than 80 years of unflinching flood protection. The five dry dams, levees and other flood-prevention features have enabled the growth and development not only of Dayton but of cities along the Great Miami River from Piqua to Hamilton.

While maintaining the commitment to its core mission of flood protection, MCD has—over the years—been at the forefront of emerging water issues, growing as needed to meet the region's water needs. As a watershed organization, MCD brings people together to address local water needs and look at issues in a holistic way—including the social, economic and environmental benefits. From flood protection to water research and education to recreational amenities along the river's edge, MCD provides quality-of-life improvements to the region, continuing the innovation of Arthur Morgan, developer of the flood-protection system. His legacy lives on in the work of today's MCD—stewards of the Great Miami River Watershed.



Arthur Morgan

Stewards of the Great Miami River Watershed



The Great 1913 Flood

In March of 1913, rain drenched the Miami Valley for three days without letting up. Eight to 11 inches of rain fell on frozen ground that couldn't absorb it. On March 25, 1913 it took only four hours for the floodwaters to rise from just a few inches to 10 feet. The water would continue to climb to 15 feet in places and produce the region's greatest natural disaster.

Levees broke. Men, women and children; buildings and animals were swept away. Raging waters ripped out bridges. The worst flood the area had ever known devastated nine cities along the Great Miami River. More than 360 people died—including 123 in Dayton, 159 in Hamilton, 49 in Piqua and 19 in Troy. Farmland was stripped of topsoil and littered with rocks. Property damage exceeded \$100 million (nearly \$2 billion in today's economy).

But in the indomitable American spirit, out of great tragedy came great achievement. Miami Valley residents, many of whom had lost everything, raised \$2 million in only two months to pay for designs of a flood protection system that would safeguard the region not only for their lifetimes but for generations to come.

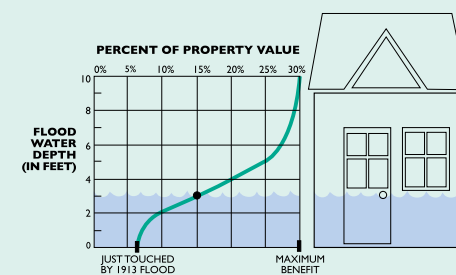
MCD and The Flood Protection System

Out of those plans, The Miami Conservancy District was created in 1915. Political subdivisions of the state, conservancy districts are formed at the initiative of local landowners or communities to solve water-management problems, usually flooding. Conservancy districts also can develop initiatives to conserve and develop water supplies and provide recreational opportunities, including preserving and restoring functioning floodplains along our rivers and streams.

Five dry dams—Germantown, Englewood, Lockington, Taylorsville and Huffman—levees and channels have protected the region for more than 80 years and can withstand a flood 40 percent greater than the Great 1913 Flood. Built at a cost of about \$31 million between 1918 and 1922, the flood protection system was advanced in its design and has been modeled by others around the world.

EXAMPLE:

A home appraised at \$60,000 is valued for county tax purposes at 35%, or \$21,000. If exposed to 3 feet of flood water, benefit received is 15% of \$21,000, or \$3,150. The assessment is currently 1.5% of benefit or \$47.25/year.



Funding to maintain this unique flood-control project comes from local assessments paid by those protected by the system. Assessments for private property owners are based on the depth of flooding in 1913 and on current property values. Cities and counties pay a unit assessment for protection of the community's infrastructure, and its ability to exist, grow and prosper without concern for flooding.

Groundwater and Surface Water

Nearly all of the region's drinking water comes from a large aquifer—water largely stored within gravel and sand in the ground. Protecting the quality and quantity of the aquifer—as well as area rivers—is critical to the region's health and vitality.

To help city and county officials make informed decisions about drinking water issues, MCD conducts extensive water monitoring and analysis. And MCD supports local efforts to implement water protection strategies by providing technical support, educational assistance and funding.

Through water festivals, practical workshops, volunteer stream monitoring, outreach campaigns, and community partnerships, MCD equips local leaders with tools to protect the abundant—yet vulnerable—water resources we enjoy in southwest Ohio.

One of those partnerships—the Water Quality Credit Trading program which MCD began in 2006—is nationally recognized. The program partners wastewater treatment plants and farmers in reducing excess nutrients running off of farms into area waterways. The program will provide better environmental results than traditional approaches, improving water quality and saving wastewater treatment plant customers millions of dollars.



River Corridor Improvements

MCD plays a leadership role in developing river amenities that have become a cornerstone for community reinvestment throughout the region. Hundreds of acres of river corridor lands have been preserved by MCD and made available as park land. And MCD has been a key partner in projects such as RiverScape in downtown Dayton and The Great Miami River Recreation Trail (GMRRT).

MCD owns or maintains more than 34 miles of recreation trails for biking, skating, walking and enjoying. MCD is championing continuing development of the GMRRT that will ultimately be 90 miles long and travel from Sidney in Shelby County to Fairfield in Butler County, passing through the cities of Piqua, Troy, Tipp City, Dayton, Moraine, West Carrollton, Miamisburg, Franklin, Middletown, and Hamilton.

More and more people are connecting with the environment in a more personal way—fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. MCD has constructed boat ramps for canoes and kayaks below Englewood Dam, Taylorsville Dam, and Germantown Dam. A kayak trip along the waterways of the Great Miami River Watershed offers the opportunity to encounter numerous types of fish, waterfowl, and aquatic insects.

By offering an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities, MCD hopes to encourage participation in, passion for, and protection of our rivers and streams.



Protecting THE REGION FROM FLOODING.

Since their construction, the Miami Conservancy District dams have held back floodwaters more than 1,600 times. Even in 1959—with the highest rainfall watershed-wide since the flood protection system was built—no more than 32 percent of the dams' capacity was used. Arthur Morgan, a brilliant engineer, led the formation of the Miami Conservancy District and served as chief engineer during the dams' construction. In 1999, MCD began an 11-year, \$24 million project to upgrade the dam system, eliminating potential problems—such as underseepage—that could not be foreseen during the dams' construction.



Preserving THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WATER.



Promoting THE ENJOYMENT OF OUR WATERWAYS.

