



**MUSKINGUM  
WATERSHED**  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



2025  
ANNUAL REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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



# MWCD 2025 Annual Report of Operations

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# Executive Director Report

I am honored to present our 2025 Annual Report of Operations, a reflection not only of what we have accomplished, but of where we are headed as an organization and as a region.

When we launched our strategic plan in 2023, we did so with a desire to develop clarity of purpose and confidence in our future. We committed to becoming Ohio’s leading agency in state-of-the-art recreation, conservation, and flood mitigation, while ensuring long-term financial sustainability. That commitment was bold, intentional, and rooted in our belief that MWCD can and must play a transformative role in the communities we serve.

Three years later, I am proud to say that this plan is not aspirational; it is operational. Our strategic plan continues to shape daily decisions, guide investments, and align our team around shared priorities. It has become part of our culture. The discipline and focus it provides has allowed us to grow thoughtfully, strengthen partnerships, and elevate the standard of excellence across our organization.

This year’s progress reflects that momentum. We are redefining recreation through next-generation accommodations and expanding solar initiatives, positioning ourselves to renew and strengthen our commitment to conservation. We are advancing flood mitigation efforts to enhance safety and resilience throughout the Watershed. Furthermore, with the establishment of a permanent endowment, we have taken a significant step toward securing MWCD’s financial future for generations to come.

Equally as important as these milestones are the people who make them possible. I have the privilege of working alongside a team of professionals who care deeply about MWCD and about creating meaningful experiences for the guests and communities we serve. Our commitment to stewardship, service, and operational excellence is the true engine of our progress.

As we look ahead, our responsibility is clear: to build on this foundation, to lead with integrity, and to continue investing in initiatives that strengthen both our natural resources and our communities. We look forward to this challenge.

It is an honor to serve as Executive Director and to represent the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. Please enjoy reviewing our success.

**Craig W. Butler**  
Executive Director

*Craig Butler and Brandon Roberts-Johnson pose with Bryce the Eagle during the Tusc BDD ‘A Day at the Lake’ event.*





# 2025 Strategic Vision

## Charting the Future: MWCD's Strategic Plan and 2025 Priorities

For more than 92 years, MWCD has reduced flood risk, expanded recreational opportunities, and conserved the region's natural resources, building on the original vision of founder Bryce C. Browning. As community needs and environmental challenges continue to evolve, MWCD remains committed to honoring that legacy while thoughtfully adapting its mission for the future.

To guide this next chapter, the MWCD Board of Directors and Administration completed a comprehensive strategic planning process in 2022, consistent with prior planning efforts, to chart a clear path forward for the next 20 years.

The resulting strategic plan is grounded in MWCD's three core mission pillars of flood reduction, conservation, and recreation, while recognizing the critical importance of sound financial planning and workforce development.

Since initiation of the plan in 2023, MWCD has focused on strengthening flood mitigation, reaffirming conservation as a core priority, modernizing recreation, expanding community

engagement, investing in its workforce, and enhancing long-term financial sustainability. Together, these priorities provide a clear and cohesive framework for decision-making and investment across the organization.

### 2025 Areas of Focus and Organizational Goals

In 2025, the Board of Directors and Executive Director identified five priority areas supported by clear, measurable goals that directly align with MWCD's long-term strategic plan. These focus areas translate the District's 20-year vision into actionable, year-specific objectives that guide decision-making, resource allocation, and organizational performance.

By establishing annual priorities, MWCD ensures that its work remains responsive to emerging challenges while maintaining consistency with its core mission pillars. This approach provides clarity and accountability for staff, leadership, and stakeholders alike, enabling progress to be tracked, evaluated, and communicated in a transparent manner.



### Building on a Strong Legacy

MWCD's 2025 priorities reflect a balanced and intentional commitment to stewardship, innovation, and public service, while building upon more than nine decades of proven leadership across the Watershed.

Establishing clear, annual organizational goals allows MWCD to translate its long-term strategic plan into focused, measurable actions that benefit both the organization and the communities it serves. These goals provide transparency and accountability for stakeholders, ensuring that progress can be clearly communicated, evaluated, and aligned with evolving regional needs.

At the same time, they strengthen internal coordination, guide responsible investment of resources, and reinforce a shared sense of purpose across the organization. Grounded in a strong strategic foundation and focused on measurable outcomes, MWCD remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting lives and property, conserving natural resources, and providing high-quality recreational opportunities that enhance quality of life—while ensuring that each year's work advances the enduring vision outlined in its strategic plan.

### REIMAGINE RECREATION

Develop a fully executable and financially viable glamping project plan in 2025.

### COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

Host 10 county engagement meetings to strengthen relationships with legislators, local officials, and stakeholders.

### STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE

Develop a Ranger Cadet Program to strengthen recruitment and build long-term capacity within the Ranger Program.

### REAFFIRM CONSERVATION

Establish a Conservation Research Collaborative, involving agencies and academic institutions. Engage five institutions and pursue funding for at least four projects.

### FLOOD MITIGATION

Complete an internal review of the 2005 Amendment to the Official Plan of Operations to assess progress and ensure alignment with current flood mitigation and infrastructure priorities.



# Reimagining Recreation

## Exploring Recreational Opportunities

### **The Canopy Collection: A New Glamping Experience**

The Canopy Collection is a new glamping concept designed to provide unique, water-connected overnight experiences at select MWCD parks, meeting the increasing demand for experience-driven lodging while strengthening MWCD's long-term recreational strategy.

The Canopy Collection will feature architecturally distinctive glamping cabins near the shoreline, offering guests immersive lake views, privacy, and modern comforts within a natural setting. These accommodations are designed to attract new audiences, particularly younger visitors and families seeking elevated outdoor experiences, while complementing MWCD's existing camping and cabin options.

Initial planning focuses on Atwood Lake and Tappan Lake, each with a small, carefully designed cluster of glamping units that blend into the surrounding landscape and preserve the character of the parks. The Atwood collection is slated for construction in 2026. By diversifying lodging options, The Canopy Collection positions MWCD to meet evolving recreational trends, expand overnight visitation, and

generate sustainable revenue that can be reinvested into parks, trails, and visitor amenities.

### **Teardrop Campers and RV Newbies**

Atwood Lake Park hosted the nuCamp - uCamp Rally in 2025, welcoming RV and teardrop trailer owners from across the region for a multi-day camping and community event. nuCamp, an Ohio-based manufacturer of teardrop trailers and RVs, has garnered a national following, making this rally a popular gathering for a growing segment of modern campers. During the event, MWCD staff conducted an engagement session with teardrop owners to better understand their needs and preferences. The feedback gathered will inform future campground renovations and reinforce MWCD's commitment to guest-focused, market-responsive recreation.

MWCD also renewed its partnership with General RV, allowing visitors without an RV to





rent fully equipped units and experience camping firsthand, creating a gateway to RV ownership and expanding access to outdoor recreation.

#### **New Developments at Atwood Lake**

Two new developments including the Atwood Lake Development off Lodge Road SW (S.R. 542) and the Atwood Peninsula Development, are designed to provide exclusive lakeside living with modern amenities and thoughtful community planning.

The Atwood Lake Development features 18 premier sublots located on the southeast side of Atwood Lake. The development is divided into two areas with separate access drives, each with access to the lake. Residents will enjoy private amenities including three cluster docks, private beach areas and golf cart parking. Construction will begin in summer 2026 and lots expected to be released in July 2026.

The Peninsula Housing and Multi-Family Development will provide a mix of cottage-style houses and multi-family units — lakefront living with reduced exterior maintenance and a condominium-style ownership model similar to a homeowner's association. Amenities will include docks, green spaces, pickleball courts, and a shared community building.

#### **Camping Strategy Meets Today's Outdoor Enthusiasts' Needs**

While traditional RV camping continues to be a cornerstone of our parks, we are expanding our offerings to meet the growing demand for alternative, flexible, and immersive outdoor experiences.

From rooftop tents to compact trailers, Millennials and Gen Z are reshaping outdoor travel. Insights from the 2023 Kampgrounds of America (KOA) Camping Report reveal:

- 54% of Gen Z and Millennials prefer unique or less traditional lodging options
- Car campers and rooftop tent users are motivated by spontaneity, affordability, and access to scenic, off-grid locations
- Smaller trailer users value cozy simplicity, panoramic views, and shareable, "Instagram-worthy" experiences over traditional campground amenities

Modern campers also seek digital connectivity, sustainable practices, and community-minded spaces, such as shared fire rings, outdoor gathering zones, and hammock-friendly areas.

In response, MWCD has begun designing new camping sites tailored for teardrop trailers and car-top camping setups. These sites will feature level pads, scenic placement, minimal yet thoughtful infrastructure, and a balance of privacy and social connection. This proactive planning ensures we meet the expectations of today's travelers while protecting the natural character of our parks.

Beyond infrastructure, we recognize that modern camping is increasingly experience-driven. Visitors are seeking personal, curated trips, whether it is a quiet night under the stars, an unplugged weekend of paddleboarding, or cozy fireside moments with friends. Our reimaged camping spaces are intentionally designed to foster these meaningful experiences.



### TRAIL STATS

- MWCD maintains over 67 miles of trails on our lands
- 290 miles of water trails within the District
- 29,462 trail users across 12 trails
- 81 average daily users of trails
- August had the highest usage of trail users

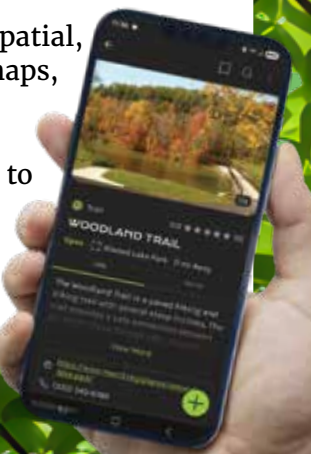
### Trails Master Plan Unveiled

Unveiled in October, the Trails Master Plan is a 20-year vision to create nearly 300 miles of trails across MWCD lakes, parks, and campgrounds. The plan responds to the desire for more outdoor recreation, with 87% of survey respondents ranking trails as a top amenity.

Structured in three phases, the Trails Master Plan starts with high-impact, lower-cost projects and gradually builds a core network linking communities and enhancing Ohio's outdoor recreational economy. Once complete, MWCD will boast the largest trail initiative in Ohio, offering world-class experiences while promoting wellness, active lifestyles, and regional tourism.

### New MWCD Trails App

The new MWCD Trails App, OuterSpatial, integrates local trail information, maps, events, and real-time updates to make outdoor adventures easier, safer, and more enjoyable. It is free to use and available for Android and iPhone devices through the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.





### MWCD Launches “Naturally Ahead” Initiative to Expand and Upgrade Recreational Amenities

In 2025, MWCD launched the next phase of its strategic Master Plan, Honoring our Past, Planning our Future, with the Naturally Ahead initiative. The official launch of this multi-year effort demonstrates the District’s commitment to enhancing recreational opportunities across all parks and marinas.

Building on a \$195 million investment, MWCD will invest an additional \$154 million over the next six years, bringing total investment to over \$349 million. These Master Plan funds will modernize campgrounds, marinas, trails, playgrounds, and other amenities, positioning MWCD parks as national models of outdoor recreation.

Infrastructure upgrades include expanded campsites for larger RVs, new restroom and shower facilities, improved wastewater systems, welcome centers, and marina buildings. MWCD has also introduced new recreational features such as a bicycle pump track, splash pads, sports courts, and fiber optic infrastructure to enhance connectivity.

Recent economic analysis by Cleveland State University found that MWCD investments from 2014 to 2022 supported over 2,600 jobs and generated nearly \$1 billion in regional economic activity.

The Naturally Ahead initiative also introduces innovative accommodations, including treehouses, luxury cabins, and teardrop camping areas, designed to provide privacy, sustainability, and immersive outdoor experiences. Campground-wide Wi-Fi is now available at Atwood and Tappan Lake Parks, and trail expansions will connect nearly 300 miles for hiking, biking, and exploration.

Maintenance facilities across the District are being upgraded to support staff in efficiently managing modernized parks and amenities.

MWCD continues its leadership in flood mitigation, environmental stewardship, and water quality, with more than \$16 million invested in stormwater and flood control projects and \$28 million in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dam projects since 2013.

### Park and Marina Capital Improvements

Over the past decade, MWCD has made significant upgrades through its recreational Master Plan. Phase 3 of the Master Plan, approved in December 2024 with a \$154 million budget, focuses on campground renovations, new amenities like splash pads and destination playgrounds, and expanded camping options, all designed to enhance the visitor experience and drive long-term revenue growth.

These investments, primarily funded by oil and gas lease revenues, are part of the \$349 million Master Plan that has already contributed nearly \$1 billion to the regional economy. In 2025, MWCD completed over \$29 million in projects and capital improvements, continuing its commitment to modern, accessible, and vibrant recreational facilities.

- **Atwood:** Paving in the Glens Cottage Area
- **Charles Mill:** Johnny Appleseed Amphitheater Demolition; Beach Amenities; and Campground Redevelopment
- **Clendening:** New Marina Building
- **Leesville:** South Fork Launch Ramp Parking Lot Improvements
- **Pleasant Hill:** Beach Amenities
- **Tappan:** Buxton Property Demolition; Activity Center Amenities, Pump Track, Area 1 Pedestrian Bridge; and Beach Utility and Trail Extension

Paving improvement using Ohio Department of Transportation funds occurred at two locations:

- **Atwood:** Beach Road Paving
- **Seneca:** Parkside Paving Improvements



### Seneca and Tappan Lake Amenities

In 2025, MWCD made significant progress in diversifying and enhancing its recreational offerings successfully completing two major projects: the Seneca Lake Park Splash Pad and Recreational Area, and Tappan Lake Park Pump Track. Each of these state-of-the-art facilities was designed to elevate visitor experience and serve a wide range of outdoor enthusiasts. These additions underscore MWCD's commitment to creating a welcoming and versatile destination that meets the needs of all who visit.

MWCD marked the start of the 2025 season with two exciting ribbon-cutting ceremonies for these projects, unveiling a total of nearly \$4.9 million in new amenities that expand access to outdoor recreation and promote healthy, family-focused fun.

At Seneca Lake Park, MWCD celebrated the completion of a \$2.7 million improvement project that delivers a new level of recreational opportunities to the community. Central to this development is a vibrant splash pad, complete with water slides, buckets that dump water, and spray features engineered to bring cooling fun to children and families all summer long.

In addition to the splash pad, the site now features two pickleball courts, basketball court, and storybook trail, blending the joys of reading and nature exploration. These amenities are adjacent to the public swimming beach and concession stand.

At Tappan Lake Park, MWCD unveiled a dynamic set of amenities designed to inspire outdoor activity and adventure. The celebration featured the opening of two major projects. A \$475,000 pump track, offering high-energy cycling fun for all ages, complete with a tot track for younger riders and BMX bike rentals. This is in addition to the \$1.8 million amenities area, featuring basketball and pickleball courts, wildflower and pollinator habitat trail, community fire pit, and nature-based playground, crowned by a whimsical, climbable, six-foot-tall bear sculpture.

### MWCD Advances Community Safety and Recreation with Major Infrastructure Investments

MWCD continued to strengthen communities and enhance the quality of life across Eastern Ohio in 2025 through strategic investments in safety, recreation, and infrastructure. Two key projects, the Tappan Regional Safety Center and the Charles Mill Marina Houseboat Path Renovation, highlight MWCD's ongoing commitment to regional growth, public safety, and economic development.

#### Tappan Regional Safety Center Project

The new Tappan Regional Safety Center, a \$4.6 million facility located along State Route 250, will serve as a modern law enforcement training center for MWCD Rangers and other agencies and the new headquarters for the Tappan Lake Volunteer



Fire Department. The facility is designed to support collaborative training, emergency response coordination, and community engagement across the Tappan Lake region.

This facility addresses a longstanding need for indoor, regional training venues, helping local agencies meet Ohio’s increased continuing education requirements for peace officers, including de-escalation, legal updates, community engagement, and scenario-based instruction.

Construction is expected to be completed by September 2026.

### Charles Mill Marina Houseboat Path Renovation Project

The \$1.1 million Charles Mill Marina Houseboat Path Access Project improves one of Ohio’s most popular inland lake destinations. It includes over 1,500 feet of shoreline stabilization, new concrete paving, improved grading for a smooth, continuous elevation, and replacement of 21 aging dock abutments.

Upgrades also feature new water service at several abutments, enhanced lighting and electrical systems, improved stairway access, and expanded parking. Environmental improvements, such as removing low-growth brush and planting native species along the hillside, further enhance the marina’s natural beauty and sustainability.

### Pilot Tree Management Program Implemented at Atwood

In 2025, MWCD implemented Phase I of the Pilot Tree Management Program in the Atwood Pines Cottage Area at Atwood Lake, making tangible progress toward demonstrating sustainability.

The goal of the Tree Management Program is to create a unified system for maintaining and removing trees from urban forests within MWCD properties that promotes the safety and preservation of tree benefits.

### Cottage Site Leasing and Docking/Shoreline - 2025

MWCD manages cottage sites across eight lakes, providing recreational opportunities and enhancing lakefront living. Below is the breakdown of current cottage site leases by lake:

LAKE	COTTAGE SITES
Atwood	365
Charles Mill	211
Leesville	103
Piedmont	91
Pleasant Hill	96
Seneca	166
Tappan	147
Wills Creek	26

- 30% of lessees are full-time residents across all lakes
- 144 construction permits processed
- 233 project-related permits granted
- 101 cottage site inspections performed
- 54 lease orientation conferences held
- 66 Tree Removal Assistance Program applications approved
  - Over \$31,000 provided in support
- 77 docking construction permits initiated
- Over 3,800 docking decals processed
- Over 500 fishing tournaments scheduled



# Engagement Meetings Launched

The 2025 County Engagement Meetings Series marked a significant milestone in MWCD’s efforts to strengthen communication, collaboration, and strategic alignment across its 18-county jurisdiction. The initiative centered on enhancing engagement with elected officials, community leaders, local agencies and partners.

## CORE OBJECTIVES

- Share MWCD’s history, mission, and organizational role
- Provide updates on flood mitigation, conservation, and recreation initiatives
- Highlight partnership successes and funding opportunities
- Create transparent, two-way dialogue to understand community needs
- Identify opportunities for future investment and collaboration

## MEASURABLE IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

- Enhanced regional visibility and trust in MWCD as a partner and leader
- Stronger relationships with local governments, agencies, schools, and regional organizations
- 10 documented success stories demonstrating tangible outcomes, including:
  - Student career pathways engaging 100+ students across two school districts
  - New recreational partnerships and projects
  - Expanded emergency planning and hazard mitigation partnerships
  - Regional collaboration with organizations such as OMEGA, resulting in around 230 direct engagements
  - Increase exposure of MWCD funding opportunities

**PARTNERS IN WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT (PWM)  
GRANT PROGRAM - 2025**

- 18 applications submitted
- \$3.36 million requested – highest in program history
- \$10.2 million total project costs, the largest cumulative amount ever recorded
  - \$580,146 increase over the previous funding-request
  - \$1.54 million increase over the previous five-year high in total project costs

**Recreational Attendance and Revenue Reflect Market Trends**

Estimated attendance at parks and marinas declined slightly in 2025, and operational net income increased by 9% compared to the prior year, while overall revenues also increased. Operational revenue in 2025 was \$15,831,761 compared to \$14,857,061 in the prior year.

**2025 LAKE ATTENDANCE ESTIMATES**

MWCD Location	2025	2024	% Change
Atwood	1,021,795	1,033,075	-1.09%
Charles Mill	610,319	642,509	-5.01%
Pleasant Hill	505,948	491,330	2.98%
Seneca	969,178	952,453	1.76%
Tappan	706,813	703,700	0.44%
<b>Subtotal Parks</b>	<b>3,814,053</b>	<b>3,823,067</b>	<b>-0.24%</b>
Piedmont	199,052	193,188	3.04%
Clendenning	29,699	29,804	-0.35%
<b>Subtotal Marinas</b>	<b>228,752</b>	<b>222,993</b>	<b>2.58%</b>
<b>Grand Total - Est Attendance</b>	<b>4,042,805</b>	<b>4,046,060</b>	<b>-0.08%</b>

**PARK AND MARINA OPERATIONAL NET INCOME**

MWCD Location	2025	2024	% Change
Atwood Lake Park	\$1,937,664	\$1,787,238	8%
Charles Mill Lake Park	\$419,737	\$485,848	-14%
Clendenning Marina	\$140,340	\$118,521	18%
Leesville Campground	\$95,779	\$97,776	-2%
Piedmont Marina	\$278,295	\$181,069	54%
Pleasant Hill Lake Park	\$893,200	\$869,278	3%
Seneca Lake Park	\$1,529,374	\$1,303,629	17%
Seneca Marina	\$310,092	\$268,235	16%
Tappan Lake Park	\$916,257	\$866,613	6%
Tappan Marina	\$147,201	\$125,019	18%
Leased Marinas	\$647,263	\$610,164	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,315,202</b>	<b>\$6,713,390</b>	<b>9%</b>

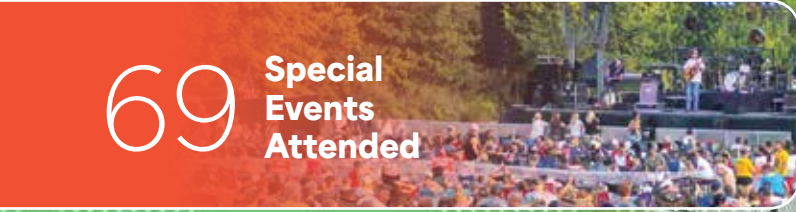
4

Quarterly Newsletters Distributed



69

Special Events Attended



36

MWCD Presentations Given



30

School Visits Made



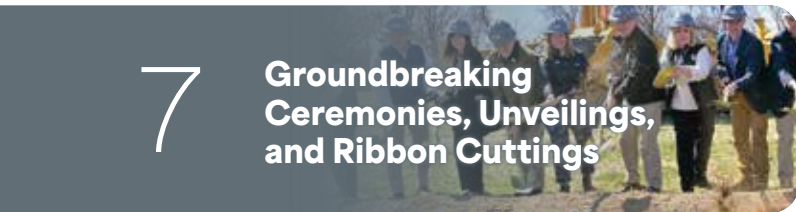
19

Press Releases Sent



7

Groundbreaking Ceremonies, Unveilings, and Ribbon Cuttings



### Marketing Activity



FACEBOOK  
97,100 followers, up 20,906



INSTAGRAM  
8,056 followers, up 1,072



GOOGLE ANALYTICS  
1.1 million views, 3.8 million events



### Outdoor Recreation Sees Record Involvement

In 2025, MWCD saw a record-breaking 1,082 programs and events, reflecting a 1% increase over 2024. Estimated attendance for programs and special events (not including firework events) reached 47,271 participants, marking a 17% increase from the previous year.

### MWCD's New Chatbot

2025 marked the first full year of Bryce, MWCD's chatbot, an automated tool on the website that interacts with visitors through a chat interface to answer questions and guide users to information. It can provide instant responses using preprogrammed answers or artificial intelligence.



### Earth Day Tree Giveaway

In 2025, MWCD launched its new Earth Day Native Tree Giveaway Program, designed to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards while expanding native tree canopy across the Muskingum River and Duck Creek watersheds. By engaging elementary school students directly in hands-on conservation, the program strengthens lifelong connections to nature while advancing watershed health, flood control, and water quality goals.

In September 2025, elementary schools were invited to apply for up to 600 native tree seedlings for student distribution. Ten elementary schools were awarded seedlings and 3,500 students received a tree to plant at home in celebration of Earth Day.



# STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE

## Headquarters Will Open New Era in Efficiency and Community Engagement

In 2023, MWCD embarked on an important initiative to enhance its operations and strengthen its connection with the community by exploring the development of a new headquarters facility in New Philadelphia.

When completed in fall 2026, the new headquarters will allow MWCD staff to work under one roof for the first time since 2014. The facility represents a significant investment in MWCD's future, strengthening internal collaboration, improving safety and efficiency, and reinforcing the District's commitment to growth, sustainability, and service to the people of Ohio.

The Tuscarawas Regional Technology Park was selected as the ideal location for the new headquarters with sufficient space for a modern office building, a dedicated service and maintenance facility, a sign shop, and a laydown yard for heavy equipment. The site also is convenient to major highways with access to MWCD properties.

The project is being designed with sustainability and public engagement in mind, including green infrastructure for stormwater management, solar power to support energy needs, and walking trails to encourage community interaction.

## Ranger Cadet Program Strengthens Public Safety Workforce with First Successful Hires

Since its implementation in February 2025, the Ranger Cadet Program has resulted in the hiring of three Ranger Cadets, all of whom have successfully completed their training and are now serving as full-time MWCD Rangers.

MWCD's investment in the Ranger Cadet Program supports a key pillar of the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan: Strengthening Our Workforce, with a specific focus on public safety services.





### Strategic Realignment Enhances Service and Efficiency

A strategic realignment of the Recreation Department and Ranger program has enhanced operational efficiency, strengthened safety efforts, and improved service delivery across MWCD parks, marinas, cottage areas, and lands. This initiative reflects MWCD's continued commitment to strong internal communication, effective resource alignment, and exceptional visitor experiences.

To improve coordination, visibility, and responsiveness, the full-time staff of 10 Rangers now reports to Park Managers, promoting collaboration, ensuring consistent enforcement, proactive safety measures, and efficient support for on-site needs.

A new Deputy Chief of Ranger Operations, reporting to the Chief of Recreation, provides focused oversight of Ranger operations while supporting education-based enforcement, compliance, and community engagement.

### MWCD Employment in 2025

MWCD employed 119 full-time employees in 14 different facilities located in 8 different counties in 2025. Another 201 seasonal/variable employees worked at MWCD facilities during the recreational season. Activities included:

- 17 full-time positions filled in 2025
- 2 Health Fairs for MWCD Employees
- 5 external Job Fair and Career Presentations
  - Conotton Valley High School
  - Buckeye Career Center Job Fair and Career Carnival
  - Dover High School Job Fair
  - Harrison Central High School Transition Career Fair
- Two Drug Free Workplace Program (DFWP) Trainings for Supervisors
- Quarterly online compliance training through MWCD's Reservoir of Knowledge (Biz Library) for HR, Safety, DFWP, and IT
  - Over 1,200 quarterly online compliance trainings completed





# Building A Conservation Research Collaborative

In 2025, MWCD identified the need to establish a Conservation Research Collaborative — an initiative designed to formalize partnerships with universities, agencies and nonprofit organizations and to advance applied research on MWCD lands and lakes.

This collaborative reflects MWCD’s commitment to science-based decision-making and long-term stewardship of the Muskingum Watershed.

A major milestone for this initiative occurred on November 18 and 19, when MWCD hosted its first-ever Research Gap Identification Workshop. The two-day workshop brought together more than 50 science experts from agencies, universities, and nonprofit organizations across Ohio. Participants worked collaboratively to identify critical gaps in current knowledge and priority research needs.

Building on this momentum, The Ohio State University Sea Grant program presented its preliminary research findings to the MWCD Board of Directors on December 19. A final report will

serve as a roadmap for issuing a 2026 Request for Proposals to support additional conservation research through the Collaborative.

To support implementation, MWCD established a dedicated research fund administered by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO). In 2025, MWCD identified and funded several grants through FAO that directly advance the goals of the Conservation Research Collaborative:

- **Orphan Well Workforce Development:** FAO, MWCD, and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation committed \$125,000 to the Ohio Natural Energy Institute (ONEI) to develop curriculum and training programs to prepare and employ workers to plug an estimated 100,000 orphan oil and gas wells in Ohio. This investment supports ONEI’s application for a \$2 million Appalachian Regional Commission grant and contributes to the required matching funds.



- **Nutrient Levels to Model Watershed Management Plan:** Youngstown State University is nearing completion of an MWCD-funded project investigating nutrient levels in Tappan Lake. In 2026, MWCD will support expanded research through FAO to evaluate the cost comparison of sediment dredging versus best management practice applications within the Watershed to reduce sedimentation in lakes and reservoirs.
- **Environmental Stewardship Pillar of Prosperity:** For the second consecutive year, funding through FAO's Environmental Stewardship Pillar of Prosperity is supporting five community grant projects, a fellowship, and research and innovation focused on conservation and environmental stewardship.

The insights gained from the Research Gap Identification Workshop, ongoing research efforts, and funded projects will guide MWCD in developing targeted strategies to enhance conservation outcomes. Through collaboration, strategic investment, and applied science, MWCD is strengthening its ability and that of its partner agencies and universities to protect natural resources and build resilience across the Muskingum Watershed.

#### Partnership Advances Environmental Stewardship

In 2025, MWCD strengthened its commitment to conservation and community well-being by expanding a transformative partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO). With the MWCD Board of Director's approval of a \$5 million gift, a landmark total of \$10 million, to FAO's Environmental Stewardship Pillar of Prosperity, the partnership is positioned to deliver lasting environmental and social benefits across the region for generations to come.

This investment reflects a shared belief in the power of Appalachian Ohio's natural resources and the people who steward them. By supporting locally driven conservation efforts, MWCD and FAO are helping strengthen communities today while laying the groundwork for a more resilient future.

#### Turning Investment Into Action

In January, FAO, in partnership with MWCD, awarded more than \$160,000 to support conservation and environmental stewardship projects and individuals across the region, even as requests for funding totaled nearly eight times the amount available. Most recently, \$121,025 was awarded to advance locally led efforts that enhance environmental health and overall well-being across the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio and seven additional counties served by MWCD.



### A Shared Vision for the Future

Through this expanded partnership, MWCD and FAO are demonstrating how strategic investment, local leadership, and regional collaboration can protect natural resources while enhancing quality of life.

### Research and Monitoring

Scientific research and formal monitoring programs are both vital initiatives at MWCD. These efforts are necessary to better understand our environment and to make informed management decisions. In 2025, multiple projects were conducted by MWCD, universities, and other agencies that may not have been noticed, but were extremely valuable.

Using newly deployed buoys, water quality data was collected from Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lakes. As swimmers returned to MWCD beaches, staff tested the water every week to monitor water quality levels. Aquatic vegetation surveys were also collected.

Baseline data on stream macroinvertebrates are currently being collected in the Tappan Lake watershed with the goal of recording water quality improvements from sites as they recover from highly erodible farm fields to native grasses, wetlands, and waterways.

### Academic Collaborative Projects

Collaboration is an essential goal for MWCD. In 2025, MWCD supported multiple research projects with funding, manpower, and equipment usage. At Tappan Lake, researchers from Youngstown State University measured nutrient levels to model watershed management plans, while researchers from Ohio University sampled surface waters for

microplastic pollution. Other water quality projects included a study by Kent State University on algal populations in Pleasant Hill Lake.

At Clendening Lake, the University of Cincinnati is studying a colony of little brown bats. Once considered to be “common” in Ohio 25 years ago, this species is now “state endangered” due mostly to an exotic fungus and habitat loss. This study is intended to keep the colony safe and thriving in the future.

The Ohio State University was also funded this summer by the MWCD Fund for Environmental Stewardship, administered by the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. This project, with help from students at West Liberty University, is monitoring small, terrestrial wildlife around Tappan Lake and will document biodiversity as well as inform management and planning decisions.

### Inter-Agency Partnerships

Academic institutions are not the only entities that do research with MWCD. At Seneca Lake, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Wildlife conducted a study on the Blue Catfish population from May through July 2025. This project was meant to increase the number of tagged fish in the lake so that the population can be more accurately measured and managed as a fishery.

At Atwood and Wills Creek, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assembled three motus stations. These towers record banded birds, bats and insects that move through the area and help biologists better understand migration routes, seasonal timing, and animal behavior.



### New Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy (NPS-IS) Development Fund

In 2025, MWCD awarded \$97,000 to seven regional conservation organizations for the development of 11 nonpoint source implementation strategies (NPS-IS) within the Muskingum River Watershed.

#### Awardees include:

- Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District
- City of Mt. Vernon
- Holmes Soil & Water Conservation District
- Licking Soil & Water Conservation District
- Medina Soil & Water Conservation District
- Rural Action
- Village of Hebron

With these awards, NPS-IS coverage will expand from 6% to approximately 12% of the Watershed, encompassing nearly 296,000 acres and benefiting more than 144,000 individuals.

Early implementation efforts demonstrate the value of this investment. Projects identified through NPS-IS plans include restoration of agricultural land to riparian and floodplain wetlands, stream restoration along tributaries of the Mohican River, floodplain wetland enhancements to increase flood storage and wildlife habitat, and cost-sharing that extends MWCD conservation and engineering initiatives.

As MWCD looks ahead, focus remains on implementing funded projects and advancing the next round of watershed plans, with 11 additional NPS-IS anticipated for adoption by fall 2026.

### Advancing Conservation Through Partnership: Watershed Assistance Tour in Holmes County

In September, MWCD in collaboration with the Holmes County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted a Watershed Assistance Tour in Holmes County, highlighting the power of collaboration and the measurable impact of strategic conservation investments across the Watershed.

The tour showcased two exemplary projects made possible through MWCD's grant programs: the Rush Run Restoration Project and the Geographic Information System (GIS) Enterprise for Sewage Treatment Systems. These initiatives, led by the Holmes County SWCD in partnership with the Holmes County General Health District, demonstrate how targeted funding and local expertise can work together to protect and enhance natural resources.

This tour reflects the broader network of partnerships throughout the Watershed. Across the region, MWCD collaborates with local governments, conservation districts, health departments, and community organizations that are dedicated to protecting our land, water, and air.

### Agriculture Assistance Expands with SWCD Support

The Agricultural Assistance Program saw great success in 2025 with the help of the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices located throughout the District. The program includes four types of assistance: Cover Cropping, Stream Exclusion Fencing, Pasture Soil Testing, and shared toolkits for startup rotational grazing and long-term adoption.

The Cover Crop Cost Share Program saw outstanding participation with 319 producers across 17 counties within MWCD, cumulatively protecting over 32,536 acres. This level of participation equated to capturing approximately 268,280 pounds of nitrogen and 134,140 pounds of phosphorous that would otherwise enter and pollute our waterways, lowering water quality, had it not been planted in cover crops.





COUNTY SWCD	ACRES PLANTED	PARTICIPATION
Ashland	3,863.50	28
Carroll	751.50	6
Coshocton	2,870.24	28
Guernsey	6,07.29	6
Harrison	1,736.60	16
Holmes	5,493.80	52
Knox	5,207.94	44
Licking	1,532.00	20
Medina	206.20	3
Morgan	173.50	10
Muskingum	1,445.80	18
Noble	166.50	2
Richland	217.00	2
Stark	1,508.95	16
Tuscarawas	2,088.60	12
Washington	1,390.57	24
Wayne	3,276.30	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,2536.29</b>	<b>319</b>

### Abandoned Well Restoration

MWCD continued its efforts to plug and abandon old oil and gas wells located on its lands, demonstrating a strong commitment to environmental safety and the responsible stewardship of natural resources. In 2025, four abandoned wells were plugged at Atwood, Charles Mill, Tappan, and Seneca Lakes. By addressing legacy wells, MWCD not only prevents potential environmental hazards such as groundwater contamination and soil degradation but also reinforces its broader mission to protect and enhance the health of the Watershed for current and future generations.

### Forestry Team Focuses on Forest Health and Sustainability

In 2025, emphasis was placed on acquired acreage at Wills Creek where close to 4,000 acres of forest were acquired in Linton Township in Coshocton County through the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program. These lands are subject to conservation and management restrictions. As a result of these additional restrictions, more specific management guidelines for these lands were updated accordingly in 2025. Finally, Timber Stand Improvement data in pine stands on these lands was collected to be analyzed for planning future management.

#### FORESTRY STATS:

- Completed 260 acres of Timber Stand Improvement
- Completed 9 harvest operations at Leesville, Tappan, and Atwood
- Completed 2 timber salvage operations at Tappan and Mohawk
- Completed 23 miles of outer boundary marking at Clendening, Atwood, and Charles Mill

The **Stream Exclusion Fencing Program** helped 8 landowners to protect nearly 2 miles of stream across Ashland, Holmes, Knox, and Wayne counties. These projects restrict direct access to waterways and provide alternative watering sources for those producers who used the stream.

57 producers received **Pasture Soil Tests** and five **rotational grazing kits** were deployed at partnering SWCDs. These programs improve grazing practices reduce pollutants and improve soil health – key components to a healthy watershed!



### Poplar Stand Challenges in 2025

2025 brought noticeable issues with several poplar stands on MWCD properties. Various stands appeared stressed by possible pest factors combined with drought level conditions the previous year. MWCD Foresters quickly assembled a field check and monitoring program, which included onsite visits and drone flights of several affected stands. Some areas appeared to recover while others had to be salvaged.

### Land Acquisitions Support Conservation Goals

MWCD made significant strides in 2025 protecting and enhancing the region's natural resources through several strategic land acquisitions. These acquisitions are a core strategy to safeguard and expand biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and healthy ecosystems across priority areas in the Watershed. By securing these key lands, MWCD not only preserves vital habitats but also creates new opportunities for outdoor recreation and community engagement.

- **300-acre acquisition in Coshocton County, Linton Township, at Wills Creek:** This acreage consists of mostly wooded reclaimed land, ponds, wetlands, and streams, providing conservation and recreational opportunities through MWCD.
- **40-acre acquisition in Carroll County, Rose Township, at Atwood:** This forested acreage directly connects to MWCD lands at Atwood Lake.
- **110-acre acquisition in Harrison County, Stock Township, at Tappan:** This wooded area expands MWCD's stewardship of natural resources at Tappan Lake.

### MWCD Acquires Broughton Nature and Wildlife Area

In December 2025, MWCD completed the purchase of the Broughton Nature and Wildlife Area, near the City of Marietta. This acquisition, made in partnership with the Broughton Foundation and the Marietta Community Foundation, secures over 700 acres for long-term preservation and ensures public access for outdoor recreation, education, and nature exploration. The property, the District's first major landholding in the southern portion of the Watershed and the first large-scale park expansion since 1965, features hiking and multi-use trails, disc golf courses, ponds, streams, picnic areas, and the Elizabeth Sugden Broughton Community Building. These amenities will remain open, offering opportunities for recreation, environmental education, and community events.

### Solar Dashboard Puts Renewable Energy To Work

In 2025, MWCD's Geographic Information System (GIS) and Survey staff focused on researching, developing, and promoting new practices to improve workflow efficiency, data accuracy, and cross-department collaboration. One of the major achievements was launching the MWCD Solar Dashboard, a public web-based platform highlighting the District's solar projects and reinforcing our commitment to renewable energy practices.

Survey staff supported District operations by reestablishing cottage area lot corners, assisting engineers during early phases of shoreline, dredging, and park projects, and remarking District boundary lines for forestry and public use. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle drones aided in project design support, construction monitoring, volume calculations, and georeferenced imagery of completed park projects.

In 2026, continued improvements in streamlining GIS strategies, along with ongoing advancements of surveying practices, will be paramount to expanding accessibility to GIS and data solutions to staff members and the public.





# Flood Mitigation

## Progress Through Maintenance Assessment Reviewed

MWCD's primary mission is Flood Control: to protect people, property, and water resources across an entire Watershed. Since the system of dams and reservoirs was completed in the 1930s, MWCD has successfully reduced flooding, improved water quality, supported economic growth, and provided recreational opportunities throughout Eastern Ohio. These benefits have saved lives and prevented billions of dollars in flood damage.

However, by the early 2000s, it became clear that the system had reached a critical turning point. MWCD reservoirs were initially designed for an expected service life of about 50 years. By 2005, they had been operating for nearly 70 years. Natural processes—such as sedimentation, shoreline erosion, aging infrastructure, and changing land use were steadily reducing reservoir capacity and increasing risk.

At the same time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) identified more than \$500 million in required dam and levee safety improvements across the Muskingum system. Several MWCD dams were ranked among the most critical in the Midwest,

requiring urgent repairs to prevent failure and protect downstream communities. As the federally designated local sponsor, MWCD was required to provide local cost-share funding for these projects.

In addition to the USACE dam concerns, other challenges were apparent. Water quality was being degraded by eroding streambanks, failing wastewater and septic systems, agricultural runoff, legacy acid mine drainage, and increased development pressure. Recreational revenues alone were no longer sufficient to address these system-wide issues. Continuing to defer maintenance would have jeopardized flood protection, drinking water supplies, and public safety.

To address these realities, and authorized by Ohio Revised Code, MWCD established a Maintenance Assessment—a dedicated, stable funding source to maintain and improve the flood control system responsibly. An amendment to MWCD's Official Plan in 2005 identifies priority projects, ensures accountability, and provides a long-term framework for action that no single county, township, or municipality could achieve on its own.



### Maintenance Assessment Achievements

#### **Dam safety has been significantly improved:**

Major repairs have been completed on the most critical structures, including Bolivar, Dover, and Mohawk dams, and the Zoar and Magnolia levees. Several dams have been reclassified from high-risk to substantially safer ratings, reducing the risk of catastrophic flooding and loss of life for downstream communities. To date, MWCD's cost-share for dam rehabilitation has been \$28,052,841 over the past 15 years.

#### **The reservoir lifespan has been extended:**

Sedimentation was anticipated, but without intervention, it would have permanently reduced flood storage. Reports indicate that MWCD reservoirs are about 25% silted. However, through shoreline stabilization, conservation practices, and financial investments, including \$17,431,985 in strategic dredging, MWCD has preserved storage capacity to manage water levels relatable to the Great Flood of 1913. MWCD can hold 549 billion gallons of water, about 36% more than the Great Flood.

**Water quality has been protected:** MWCD has invested in wastewater improvements, regionalization efforts, hydrogen sulfide mitigation, acid mine drainage remediation, and Watershed-wide monitoring. These efforts safeguard drinking water sources, support recreation and tourism, and reduce long-term environmental liabilities for local governments. This has included \$6,915,389 invested in water quality monitoring. The projected cost for this program was \$1,450,000. This includes funding provided to the U.S. Geological Survey for the stream gauge network in the MWCD, at \$400,000 annually, and an additional \$354,989 through the Partners in Watershed Management (PWM) program.

PWM has provided \$1,217,432 to improve water quality throughout the MWCD, focusing on wastewater treatment and sewer infrastructure.

Since 2005, many other state and federal sources of funding are available to meet the demands of communities needing infrastructure or development improvement; however, MWCD will continue to assist communities with infrastructure challenges as necessary.

Over the past 15 years, MWCD has collected approximately \$134 million and invested more than \$116 million. The work performed in PWM has provided funding in all counties within the Watershed's jurisdictional boundary.

### Partners in Watershed Management Supports Important Programs

The Partners in Watershed Management (PWM) Project Assistance Program supports the work of agencies and groups involved in conservation programs, water quality issues and flood reduction and mitigation projects, in cooperation with the MWCD Mission.

#### 2025 PWM OVERVIEW:

- 11 Projects Awarded
- \$1,689,483 Awarded
- 7 Counties Awarded
  - Ashland, Carroll (2), Harrison, Holmes, Morgan (2), Stark (2), and Tuscarawas (2)
- Over 200 Projects Awarded Since 2009
- Around \$15 Million Awarded Since 2009
- \$116,145 Awarded to 10 Projects through Debris Removal Grants in 9 Counties
  - Ashland, Coshocton, Guernsey, Licking, Muskingum, Noble, Richland, and Tuscarawas (2), and Wayne



PROJECTS			
Applicant Name and County	Project Title	Project Total	Grant Awarded
Stillwater Watershed Partners <b>HARRISON</b>	Stillwater Creek - Milarcik Logjam Removal	\$356,039	\$321,039
Holmes County SWCD <b>HOLMES</b>	Rush Run Corridor Stabilization and Restoration	\$50,180	\$44,290
Plain Township Trustees <b>STARK</b>	Nimishillen Wetlands Acquisition	\$913,890	\$237,611
Ashland County Park District <b>ASHLAND</b>	Carpenter Preserve Extension	\$335,850	\$127,623
Western Reserve Land Conservancy <b>CARROLL</b>	Kensington Forest Preserve Acquisition	\$766,817	\$193,000
Carroll County SWCD <b>CARROLL</b>	Carroll SWCD Green Infrastructure-Construction Phase	\$238,550	\$238,550
Village of Magnolia <b>STARK</b>	Magnolia Stream Restoration-Sandy and Beaver Canal	\$140,750	\$135,750
Morgan County EMA <b>MORGAN</b>	Morgan County EMA UAV Purchase	\$12,500	\$10,500
Mill Township Trustees <b>TUSCARAWAS</b>	Newport Logjam Removal	\$102,970	\$102,970
Village of McConnelsville <b>MORGAN</b>	McConnelsville Emergency Sewer Line Relocation	\$5,540,000	\$250,000
Twin City Parks and Waterways <b>TUSCARAWAS</b>	Big Stillwater Creek Logjam Removal	\$28,150	\$28,150
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,485,696</b>	<b>\$1,689,483</b>

## Reservoir Maintenance Efforts Include Dredging, Shoreline Work

Two main reservoir maintenance programs are managed through MWCD and include dredging and shoreline protection. Both programs are made possible through funding from the Maintenance Assessment. The programs are summarized below:

**Dredging:** Design of an excavation/dredging project was completed in 2025 for a half-acre bay in the Atwood Pines Cottage Area. In February 2025, the MWCD heavy equipment crew removed sediment from this area to increase water depth. A \$46,500 contract was then awarded for the remaining work to be done in 2026.

Design was also completed and bids received for a 12,750 cubic yard project at Piedmont Lake. This work, to be completed in early 2026, will improve water depth for docking in several key areas.



Atwood Lake Park Area 4 Campground

The Seneca Lake Park/State Route 147 project included 675 linear feet of rock riprap and coir log in the main campground to protect the asphalt trail against further impacts from erosion. The project also included 275 linear feet of rock riprap with soil encapsulated lifts to restore a severely eroded slope along a section of State Route 147.



Seneca Lake SR 147 Before

**Shoreline Stabilization:** Since 2010, MWCD has completed over 12.3 miles of shoreline stabilization at its reservoirs, investing \$15.6 million in these projects. In 2025, four shoreline stabilization projects were completed at a total cost of \$1,591,500:

- \$634,000 Atwood Lake Park Area 4 Campground
- \$ 23,100 Charles Mill Lake Park Campground
- \$514,400 Seneca Lake Park/SR 147
- \$420,000 Seneca Marina Boat Ramp

The Atwood Lake Park Area 4 Campground shoreline stabilization project was approximately 780 feet in total length, including rock riprap along the entire project length for shoreline protection and 220 linear feet of drilled soil nails near the top of the slope to stabilize a significant landslide.



Seneca Lake SR 147 After



Seneca Lake Park

The Charles Mill Lake Park Campground project included 300 linear feet of rock riprap and coir log installed by the MWCD heavy equipment crew to protect camper pads from further erosion.



Charles Mill Lake Park

The Seneca Lake Marina Boat Ramp improvement project included 540 linear feet of concrete block retaining wall to repair the eroding shoreline, adding space for docks and continuing the waterfront design from the marina building to the launch ramp.



Seneca Marina Boat Ramp



Seneca Marina Boat Ramp

**Two Subdistricts are Currently Active**

Ohio law allows for the creation of smaller subdistricts within MWCD, five of which exist in the District. Three — Black Fork, Clear Fork, and Buffalo Creek — are currently inactive.

**Duck Creek Subdistrict:** Supports three flood gauges that provide early warning information for residents.

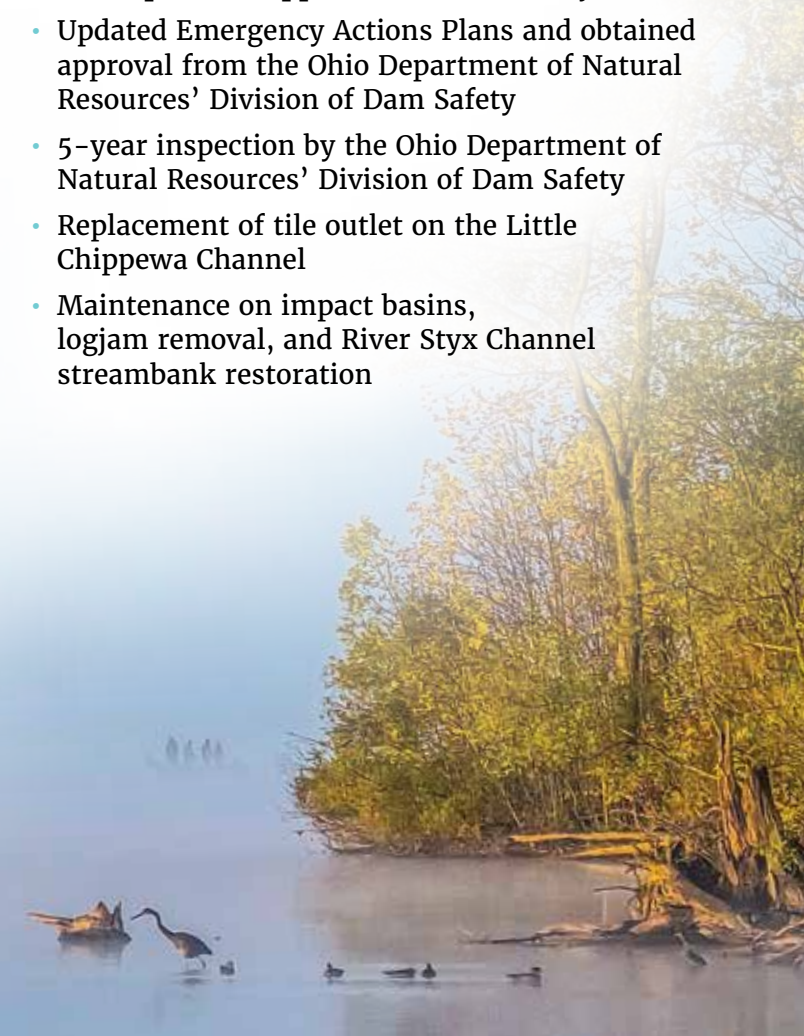
**Chippewa Subdistrict:** Manages a flood control system with eight dams and 33 miles of modified channels in Wayne and Medina counties.

**Current Chippewa Subdistrict Maintenance Needs Include:**

- Removing logjams, downed trees, and debris
- Slip repairs along Chippewa Creek and other channels
- Hydraulic structure repairs and sediment monitoring
- Ongoing mowing and maintenance of dam slopes, berms, banks, and spillway systems

**2025 Completed Chippewa Subdistrict Projects:**

- Updated Emergency Actions Plans and obtained approval from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Dam Safety
- 5-year inspection by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Dam Safety
- Replacement of tile outlet on the Little Chippewa Channel
- Maintenance on impact basins, logjam removal, and River Styx Channel streambank restoration





## EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Executive Director/Secretary

**James L. Crandall, III**  
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

**David G. Lautenschleger**  
Chief of Engineering

**Mary C. Burley**  
Chief of Human Resources

**Bradley P. Janssen**  
Chief of Natural Resources  
and Land Management

**Peter M. Novotny**  
Chief of Recreation

**Adria L. Bergeron**  
Director of Marketing and Communications



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**Jonathan Downes**  
Granville

**Sarah Orlando**  
Avon



# Trust Strengthens MWCD Financial Future

In 2024, Ohio law was amended to provide MWCD with the ability to establish a trust funded by surplus revenues from eligible sources, excluding the Maintenance Assessment. The legislation sets forth clear guidelines for the creation and management of such trusts, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and responsible governance.

This statutory change significantly enhances MWCD's ability to plan for the future, reinforcing the District's commitment to long-term

sustainability, organizational stability, and sound financial management that will benefit the Watershed and its communities for decades.

The inaugural meeting of the MWCD Trust in August 2025 took formal action to advance the trust's creation, including a vote to formalize a Board of Trustees and outline its foundational responsibilities. In December, the MWCD Board of Directors approved a \$25 million investment in the MWCD Trust.

2025 YTD Cash and Investment Balance - By Fund	Balance
001 Improvement Fund	997,422
002 Maintenance Fund	114,798,500
003 Recreation Improvement Fund	117,017,908
004 Bond Fund	100
009 Maintenance Assessment Fund	8,705,638
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>241,519,568</b>

2025 YTD Actual Revenue - By Fund	YTD Actual Revenue 2025
001 Improvement Fund	257,794
002 Maintenance Fund	108,710,264
003 Recreation Improvement Fund	956,073
009 Maintenance Assessment Fund	2,483,205
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>112,407,336</b>

2025 YTD Revenue - By Department	YTD Actual Revenue 2025
10 Administrative	2,182,326
15 Finance	8,886,110
20 Engineering	423,551
50 Conservation	112,591
60 Leasing	4,178,228
65 Natural Resources	80,706,597
80 Parks & Recreation	12,281,348
85 Marinas	3,561,085
89 Rangers	75,500
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>112,407,336</b>

2025 YTD Revenue - By Activity		YTD Actual Revenue 2025
13000	Purchase & Sale Land/Building	4,750
15000	Easements & Right of Ways	253,044
21000	Use of Water Assets	563,899
21002	Use of Water Assets	37,245
23000	Land & Building Rental	30,338
24000	Farm Operations - Sharecrop	171,709
27000	Assessment	2,014,696
29100	Mineral Operations - Oil and Gas	78,926,051
33000	Timber Harvesting	629,745
36000	Pine Pulpwood Operations	260,231
43300	Road Maintenance	341,630
48000	General Park Facilities	7,176
48200	Trails	4,902
49000	Master Plan	6,466
50000	Water Systems	35,752
51000	Fishing Rights	62,647
51600	Lake Patrol Operations	75,500
52000	Marina Operations	2,989,879
52100	Marina Operations - Camping	571,207
53000	Cottage Sites	3,420,903
53100	Club Sites	86,686
53200	Multiple Docks	614,943
54002	Sites Lake Sewer System	48,755
54003	Mifflin Water System	2,100
54009	Seneca Chestnut Grove Sewer	24,600
54012	Park Sewer System	1,039
55000	Vacation Cabins	950,939
56100	Park Refreshment Stands	84,876
56300	Boat Rentals	36,305
56500	Activity Centers	125,205
56700	Vending Machines	18,894
57000	Park Camping	10,090,162
57100	Trailer Pump Out	22,839
57200	Camper Trailer Storage	245,461
57500	Firewood	32,304
58000	General Park Facilities	323,514
58100	Park Shelters	19,809
58800	Special Events	163,467
58801	Alive	154,454
75000	Conservation	14,509
80000	Interest on Investments	8,885,760
81000	Miscellaneous Income	3,266
81100	Bad Check Charges	350
81500	Construction Permits	8,199
84700	Capital Credit Refunds	23,971
86200	Misc Revenue - Taxes	17,159
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>112,407,336</b>

2025 YTD Actual Expenditures - By Fund		YTD Actual
001	Improvement Fund	5,586,022
002	Maintenance Fund	54,929,427
003	Recreation Improvement Fund	29,865,085
009	Maintenance Assessment Fund	5,238,218
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>95,618,752</b>

2025 YTD Expenditures - By Department		YTD Actual
10	Administrative	13,312,957
11	Information Technology	1,095,425
12	Public Information	329,283
13	Human Resources/Safety	802,423
14	Legal	713,619
15	Finance	739,876
20	Engineering	22,926,767
50	Conservation	32,477,925
60	Leasing	1,512,329
65	Natural Resources	6,347,023
80	Parks & Recreation	11,138,148
85	Marinas	2,647,235
89	Rangers	1,575,742
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>95,618,752</b>

2025 YTD Expenditures - By Appropriation Grouping		YTD Actual
Personnel		14,169,597
Materials & Supplies		1,726,497
Publicity & Advertising		248,426
Utilities		1,918,887
Gas & Oil and Service		501,160
Contracts		70,932,856
Resale		507,032
Operating Equipment		1,722,273
Real Estate Taxes		532,847
Other		3,359,177
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>95,618,752</b>



## OUR MISSION

Responsible stewards dedicated to providing the benefits of flood reduction, conservation and recreation in the Muskingum River Watershed



## OUR VISION

Respected and Valued Leader,  
Employer and Partner in Flood Reduction,  
Conservation and Recreation



**MUSKINGUM  
WATERSHED**  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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**MAIN OFFICE**  
1319 Third Street NW  
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

**MAIN OFFICE ANNEX**  
(Engineering and Recreation)  
2050 Reiser Avenue SE  
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

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