

# MWCD Celebrates 15 Years of its Partners in Watershed Management Grants Program

March 12, 2025

***Over \$10 million in Grants Have Gone to 156 Projects in 18 Counties***

***\$1,305,707 in New Grants Approved to Help Prevent Flooding and Improve Water Quality***

This year, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) is celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Partners in Watershed Management (PWM) grants program by awarding \$1,305,707 in new grants to 11 projects that will support flood mitigation and water quality improvement and conservation across Eastern Ohio.

“Eastern Ohio is blessed with talented, committed professionals and organizations that share a common mission: preserving and managing the Muskingum River watershed to protect life, property and our natural resources. For 15 years, MWCD has shared its resources with dozens of these organizations to invest over \$10 million in strategic efforts to both reduce flooding and drive conservation. They have made a difference, and we look forward to another 15 years—and more—of working together,” said MWCD Executive Director Craig Butler.

Since its inception in 2009, PWM has provided over \$10.7 million in grant funding for 156 projects in 18 counties across the Muskingum River watershed, the largest watershed contained entirely within Ohio and a watershed covering almost a third of the state. The program is highly competitive with a multi-step review process to ensure that highly effective projects receive grant dollars. All applications are reviewed by MWCD staff and a select group of volunteer industry experts prior to the Chief Engineer and Chief of Conservation recommending applications for approval to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.

Here’s what others are saying about PWM and its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

“We have received three impactful PWM Grants over the last several years and are so grateful for the partnership with MWCD. The first funded our Aquatic Education Trailer, teaching water quality through a visual contrast of healthy and polluted streams. Since 2011, hundreds of students have benefited. The second grant supported water testing in farm tile drainage, leading some farmers to reduce fertilizer use without impacting yield. The latest grant funds our ‘Grow Native’ project, providing a small no-till drill to help landowners establish pollinator habitats.” – Lisa Crock, district administrator, Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District.

This year’s projects are:

APPLICANT	COUNTY	PROJECT TITLE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
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Ashland County Park District	Ashland	Greentown Native American Preserve	Acquire 58.4 acres of Black Fork riverbank habitat to protect native wildlife, high-quality meadow, forest, wetland areas, and historic Native American sites.	\$194,000
Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow	Licking	Buckeye Lake Water Quality Monitoring	Expand water monitoring to canals and inlets to collect more data and enhance nutrient mitigation.	\$33,721
Carroll Soil and Water Conservation District	Carroll	Carroll SWCD Green Infrastructure Design	Green infrastructure and architectural improvements to the HQ building to enhance usability and serve as a model for best practices.	\$21,850
Holmes County Health District	Holmes	Sewage Treatment System GIS Development	Create an inventory of existing sewage treatment systems to facilitate permitting and inspections in pursuit of better water quality and public health.	\$95,000

Village of McConnellsville	Morgan	McConnel Run Stream Project	Restore and stabilize McConnel Run Stream in the Village of McConnellsville to enhance floodplain control and allow for redevelopment of the adjacent property.	\$150,472
Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District	Muskingum	Grow Native	Purchase a mobile seed drill to assist removal of invasive plants by replacing them with native species in small or hard-to-access areas.	\$25,760
Natural Areas Land Conservancy	Summit	Clinton Wetlands Preserve	Acquire 19.17 acres of wetlands in Village of Clinton and help protect Tuscarawas River water quality.	\$114,551
Noble County Engineer	Noble	Noble Local School District Flood Reduction	Mitigation efforts to reduce flooding impact to buildings and bus routes and can force school closures.	\$156,945
Stillwater Watershed Partners	Harrison	Milacik Log Jam Removal	Remove current log jam that is impeding Stillwater Creek natural watercourse and flow	\$321,039

Tuscarawas Soil and Water Conservation District	Tuscarawas	Village of Baltic Streambank Stabilization	Stabilize 500 ft of streambank in Village of Baltic along Brush Run Creek to protect against soil erosion and preserve water quality.	\$156,869
West Creek Conservancy	Richland	Clear Fork Mohican River Wetland Restoration Project	Restore 62-acre property with riverfront forest and wetlands to mitigate downstream flooding and protect water quality in the Clear Fork Mohican River.	\$35,500
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$1,305,707</b>

Organizations interested in future rounds of funding are encouraged to contact MWCD to discuss their projects at least 30 days prior to the application deadline of September 1, 2025, to learn more about the application process and have their applications preliminarily screened for eligibility. Please contact Lynn Gilland, Administrative Specialist at 330-556-4817 or by email at [lgilland@mwcd.org](mailto:lgilland@mwcd.org). Further information about the PWM program can be found at [www.MWCD.org](http://www.MWCD.org).