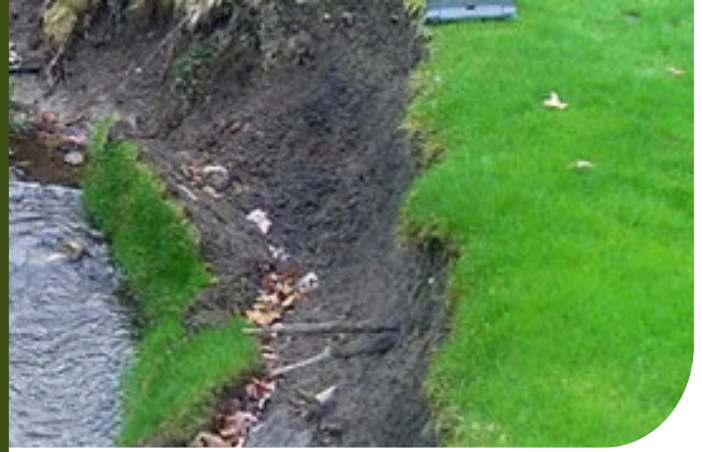


FINDING OPPORTUNITY IN A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING WATERSHED

Licking County
Soil and Water Conservation District



Coordinating Local Conservation Efforts

Licking County, Ohio faces frequent flooding on Interstate 70, including a 500-year flood event in 2020. The County SWCD is taking proactive strides to understand and mitigate flood risk by cultivating partnerships with various entities that provide additional resources and expertise for flood mitigation studies and projects.

For instance, “**Unite for Nature**” is a county-wide conservation consortium spearheaded by the Licking County SWCD to inventory local conservation and environmental agencies and organizations and coordinate collaboration on environmental priorities and actions which are tied to stormwater management.

SITUATED WITHIN THE WATERSHED

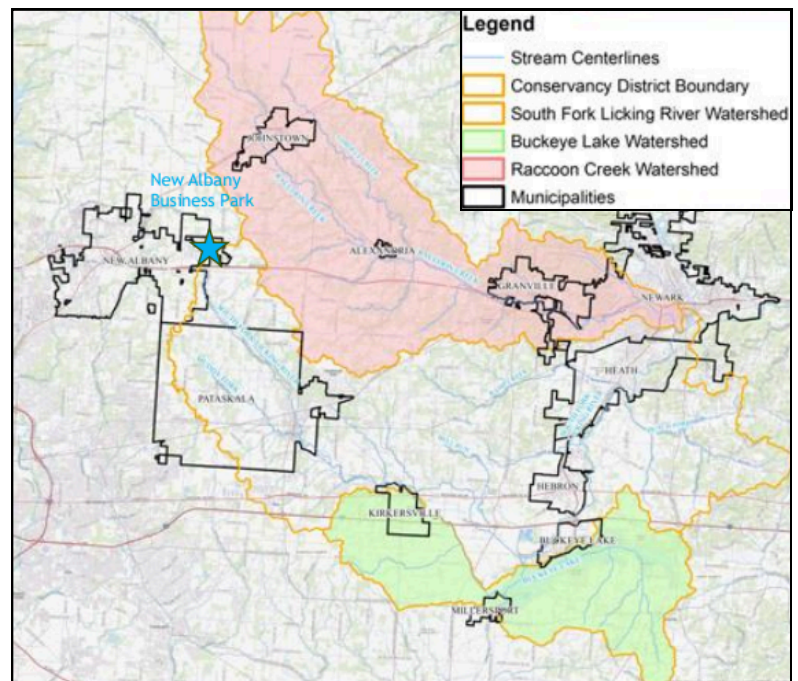
288

total square miles
in the South Fork Licking
River Watershed

105

river miles
in Licking County

The SWCD works closely with the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District because much of the watershed falls within Licking County. Licking County SWCD works with the Watershed Conservancy District on flood risk reduction studies and hydrologic mapping to identify estimated flood damages under existing and hypothetical conditions.



Source: Kristy Hawthorne, *Collaboration is Key in a Rapidly Developing Watershed* (PowerPoint Presentation)



Examples of Project Collaborators

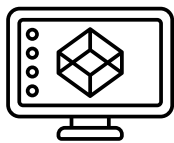
In addition to Unite for Nature, the SWCD coordinates with local districts, agencies. Other notable partners include:

South Licking Watershed Conservancy District



Partner on flood damage reduction studies (recipient of PWM funding); Licking County residents can report flooding issues on SLWCD website and at in-person open house meetings

Licking County Commissioners



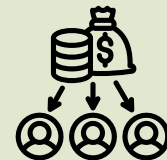
Provides funding for a 2D HEC-RAS flood risk model. The SWCD facilitated the project in conjunction with the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District flood study of the watershed

FEMA



Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant funds flood mitigation projects, including innovative, nature-based best methods to mitigate and improve recovery time

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)



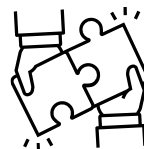
Companies who need to meet their environmental sustainability goals provide funding to TNC, who distributes funds to groups like the SWCD to design, implement, and monitor these projects

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District



Provides funding (Partners in Watershed Management Program) for Flood Damage Reduction Study, provides resources such as green infrastructure Best Management Practices manual; hosts focus groups with stakeholders

Neighboring SWCDs



Collaboration for funding and support for cross-boundary projects and studies

Ohio Department of Transportation



Conducting a flood risk study on Interstate 70. The data collected will be provided to partners and inform future SWCD efforts



For additional resources, please visit www.eli.org/wetlands/building-partnerships.