

# PLANNING AT THE WATERSHED SCALE

 Muskingum Watershed  
Conservancy District

## Why Plan at the Watershed Scale?

In the Muskingum River Watershed, spanning all or portions of 27 counties in eastern Ohio, **planning for flood risk mitigation is a priority at the watershed level.**

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) operates dams, while the MWCD manages reservoirs behind the dams in the watershed. Because of this, flood planning often occurs at the watershed scale, with the MWCD fostering coordination between districts and other political entities such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). Every county in Ohio has a SWCD that receives funding appropriations from the state. Many of these SWCDs are focused on flood mitigation and active in flood hazard planning. **By bringing together resources and experts from various districts, agencies, and contractors, this collaboration has paved the way for effective flood risk planning that often includes nature-based projects.**



### ABOUT THE MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

- Political subdivision of the State of Ohio
- Governed by a conservancy court with 18 judges
- No tax appropriations
- Partners with USACE in the operation of the dams and reservoirs in the watershed

**18**

counties  
in the jurisdiction of the MWCD

**20%**

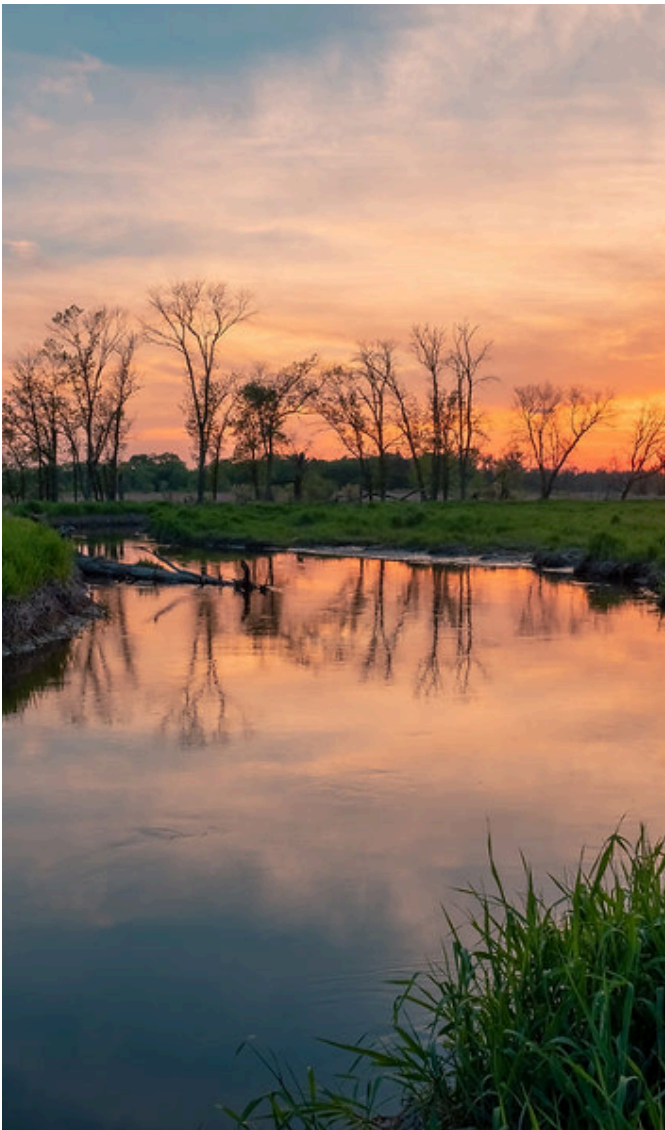
of the state's land  
falls within the Muskingum  
River Watershed

**\$1.5**

million  
provided each year through the  
Partners in Watershed  
Management (PWM) Grant Program



For additional resources, please visit [www.eli.org/wetlands/building-partnerships](http://www.eli.org/wetlands/building-partnerships).



Andover Meadows Wetland, a constructed stormwater wetland in OH. Source: MWCD Flood Mitigation BMP Guide

## Coordination Across the Watershed

- ◆ Hosting focus groups to foster dialogue and feedback
- ◆ Prioritizing outreach and providing educational materials
- ◆ Connecting districts with funding sources for projects addressing flooding and promoting conservation

## PWM GRANT PROGRAM

MWCD's Partners in Watershed Management (PWM) Program "aids local communities, agencies and groups involved in projects and programs that support the conservation and flood control missions of the MWCD." Since its creation in 2009, the program has distributed \$16 million to political subdivisions such as SWCDs and IRS section 501 groups across the Muskingum Watershed for flood mitigation projects. *The program is increasingly prioritizing natural infrastructure projects.*

## FLOOD MITIGATION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TECHNICAL MANUAL

MWCD partnered with an engineering firm to create a comprehensive guide to flood mitigation best management practices (BMPs). The guide provides design insight, implementation strategies, and maintenance advice for various BMPs, including constructed wetlands, floodplain reconnection, rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, and more.

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### ***Clear Fork Mohican River Wetland Restoration Project***

West Creek Conservancy receives funding from the PWM Program to conduct a restoration project with flood mitigation co-benefits.

- **Partners:** Richland County Park District and Ohio DNR
- **Funding:** H2Ohio and MWCD's PWM program
- **Project:** Converting agricultural land to riparian forest and wetland habitat and establishing a vegetated buffer throughout the watershed to restore the floodplain
- **Benefits:** Permanent land conservation, enhanced water quality, reduced flows during heavy precipitation events/mitigation of downstream flooding, and more

