



Newsletter

Quarterly updates

SWMD Mini-Grant

The Mini-Grant application period is open! This grant is a collaboration with Summit County Engineers Surface Water Management District and Summit Soil & Water. If you live in one of the SWMD communities, then you are eligible to apply to receive funds to install a BMP. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are approaches to water management that protect waterways from pollution and help achieve healthy water quality.

BMPs are effective and economical, and they enhance public safety and the quality of life for residents and wildlife. BMPs can include shrinking lawns by planting native trees and plants and reducing stormwater runoff by installing rain gardens or rain barrels.

The application closes on May 1st, and award winners will be notified in June. To apply go to SummitSoil & Water.com



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Update from the Engineer's office

Hello SWMD Residents!

2025 is off to a fantastic start, and we're thrilled to share some exciting updates on the initiatives we're working on to keep our waterways clean and healthy!

Let's dive in by talking about the SWMD. You might be wondering, what exactly is the SWMD? Great question! SWMD stands for the Surface Water Management District, which is a stormwater management and utility program administered by the County Engineer's Office. The SWMD focuses on improving stormwater facilities and managing runoff to protect both surface and groundwater quality while preventing flooding and property damage.

You're receiving this newsletter because your community is part of the SWMD. Not all communities within the County are in the SWMD – to date, we assist all 9 Townships, along with the City of Reminderville and the Village of Lakemore with stormwater management and planning.

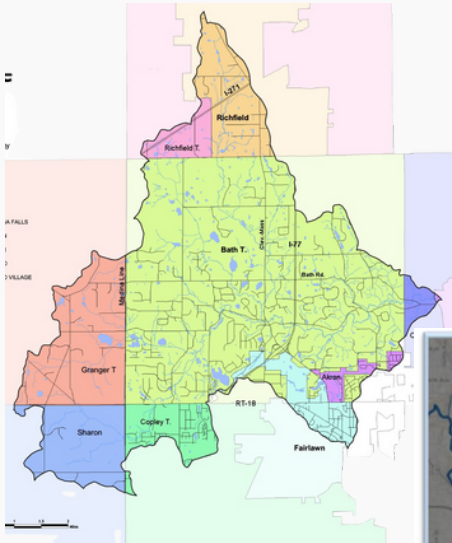
As you can imagine, managing stormwater and preventing flooding is no easy task – it's a challenge faced by many communities across the state. So, what does that mean for us? In short, the Ohio EPA sets the rules and guidelines of our stormwater management program. These guidelines lay out actions, strategies, and best management practices designed to reduce the flow of pollutants into our waterways, helping to protect both water quality and public safety.

For us, this means implementing a range of stormwater management projects and activities. From stream restoration and flood control to hands-on local outreach initiatives like the SWMD Mini-Grant mentioned earlier, we're working hard to improve water quality, reduce flooding risks, and build more resilient communities. And this year, we're teaming up with organizations like the Soil and Water Conservation District to bring you exciting opportunities to get involved and make an impact in keeping our waterways clean and thriving!

Keep reading to learn more about the events and volunteer opportunities planned for you. And be sure to look for our next quarterly newsletter – packed with events, updates, and all the info you need to help us manage stormwater and protect our waterways!

Sincerely,
[The SWMD](#)

2025 Stormwater Theme



Yellow Creek Watershed

*Image retrieved from the Bath Township website, "THE YELLOW CREEK WATERSHED."

The 2025 stormwater theme is Watersheds! Summit Soil & Water programming will revolve around what is a watershed and how residents can help protect their watershed.

This summer Soil & Water will pilot the HUC Highlight program. HUC stands for Hydrologic Unit Code and is used to distinguish the location and size of a watershed. Each watershed has a unique Hydrologic Unit Code. Each month a watershed will be featured with a variety of events taking place in that month.



Wingfoot Watershed

HUC Highlight Schedule

Yellow Creek- Month of May!

May 6th- Rain Barrel Workshop at Bath Nature Preserve

May 9th - Bird Watching at Bath Nature Preserve

May 14th- Water Quality Sampling at Bath Community Park

May 24th- Watershed Tour at Bath Nature Preserve

May 30th- Rain Garden Clean-up at Bath Nature Preserve



Wingfoot- Month of June!

June 5th- Water Quality Sampling Demo



June 11th -Invasive species pull at Springfield Lake

June 20th-Rain Barrel Workshop at Akron Water Supply
Water Distribution Division



June 28th-Lakemore Community Day

Rain Barrel Workshop



[Register!](#)

Cost: \$60 dollars

Registration required

**Tuesday, May 6th
5:30pm to 7pm
Bath Nature Preserve
4240 Ira Road**

- Build a functional rain barrel!
- Learn to conserve and collect water
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Save money \$

Urban District of the Year



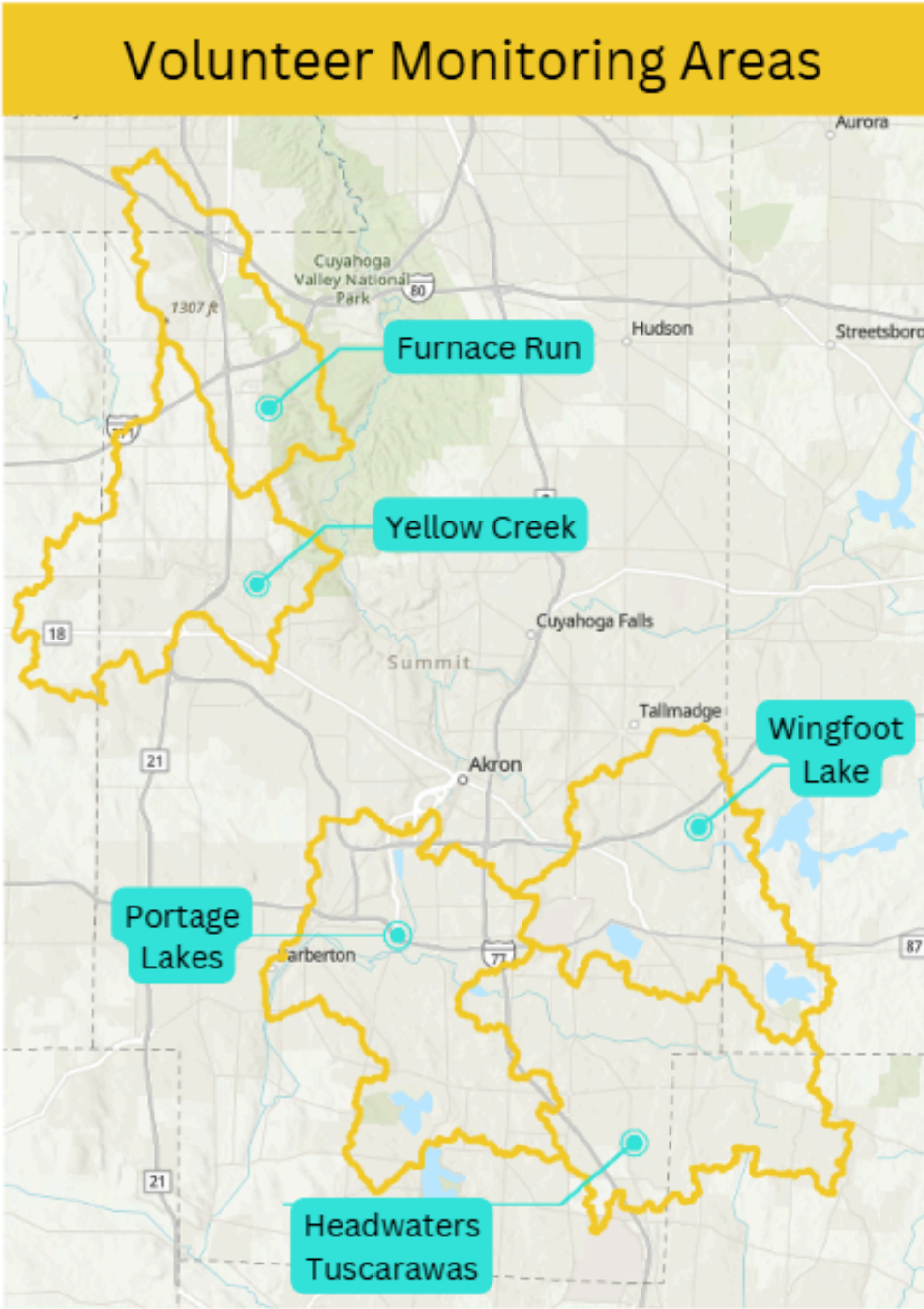
Last month, Summit Soil & Water proudly received the Urban District of the Year Award at the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Partnership Meeting.

- Our team was recognized for our widespread efforts, including:
 - Completing over 1,800 annual site inspections across more than 300 active construction sites
 - Offering a mini-grant program
- Authored multiple approved NPS-IS plans
 - Certifying over 500 professionals through our Inspection and Maintenance Certification, with even more earning their QHEI and HHEI certification
 - Promoting public participation in our water quality efforts through our volunteer water quality monitoring program, training workshops, and extensive sampling initiatives
 - The development of the Water Quality Volumes Spreadsheet Tool, which calculates stormwater management requirements which is now utilized by the Ohio EPA.

"Summit Soil & Water's ability to balance local responsibilities with regional leadership illustrates its exceptional capacity to advance urban conservation. Through its dedicated efforts, the District has not only improved environmental outcomes within Summit County but also empowered communities across Ohio to adopt sustainable practices. Its innovative tools, collaborative programs, and unwavering commitment to conservation excellence make Summit Soil & Water a deserving recipient of the Urban District of the Year award."



Get into Action! Be a Volunteer Stream Stomper!



Summit Soil & Water is seeking passionate volunteers who want to join our local stream monitoring team for the 2025 field season!

This year, the program includes both the Cuyahoga River Basin and the Tuscarawas River Basin, meaning more opportunities for you to make a meaningful impact in your community.

The watershed coordinators will teach you all you need to know to measure the health of our local streams, so no prior experience needed! All monitoring equipment is provided, and our coordinators are available to support your efforts throughout the season.

If you're interested in learning more about joining the volunteer program, [click here to visit our webpage!](#)

