

Protecting Preserving Promoting

MCD protects communities in southwest Ohio from flooding, preserves the quality and quantity of water, and promotes the enjoyment of our waterways.



In 2016, six local rivers and streams became **Ohio's 1st** and only national water trail.

Great Miami Riverway — a great destination

When someone mentions “The Smokies” or “The Outer Banks,” you know just what they’re talking about. In a few years, people may have the same reaction to “The Great Miami Riverway.”

The Great Miami Riverway is the new brand for the 99-mile stretch of the Great Miami River from Sidney to Hamilton.

So much to see, so much to do

“We are working to market the Great Miami Riverway as a destination, a place to shop, dine, recreate,” says Kazy Hinds, mayor of Piqua. “With so many cities to explore, you’ll want to come again and again.”

A partnership of 18 cities and organizations, including MCD, worked with a consultant to develop the brand.

“The Great Miami Riverway is more than just the river or the bike trail, it’s the entire Riverway region,” says Sonny Lewis, Franklin city manager. “It’s the towns and nature connected by the Riverway, and the activities and events that happen along the Riverway.”

Many of the Riverway cities had been working to promote the river corridor as a single entity. In 2014, a study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helped put the group on a clear path. The study noted the region’s strengths, including 100 parks. It also noted the corridor’s challenges, including a lack of signage and wayfinding, and a unifying identity.

“While the corridor has many diverse attractions, it lacked the perception of being a destination,” says Janet Bly, MCD general manager. “The Corps study helped the cities realize all they have to offer if they worked together.”

Because of MCD’s abilities to cross jurisdictional boundaries, the cities asked MCD to facilitate the Great Miami River Corridor Placemaking Project that lead to the Riverway brand.

What’s next?

The partners are assembling funding to market the Riverway as a fun and active destination.

A Riverway coordinator will manage the Great Miami Riverway Placemaking Initiative, develop a marketing and communications plan to attract visitors to the Riverway, and help the partners promote the Riverway in their own marketing programs.

“The Riverway initiative is a wonderful example of how regional collaboration can lead to shared success for all,” says Rob Wile, Hamilton Councilman. “What better asset than the Great Miami River to illuminate our common aspirations. It is the thread that ties the region together.”

Visit the Great Miami Riverway at www.greatmiamiriverway.org



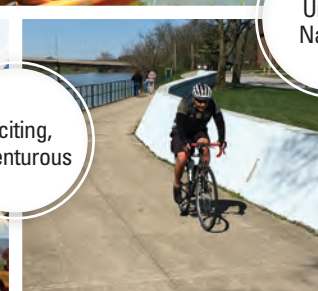
Connected,
Fun,
Active



Urban,
Natural



Exciting,
Adventurous



Riverfront development gaining momentum



Left: Rendering of the Lock 9 Park Renaissance project in Piqua

Below: Hamilton's Marcum Park opens in May



A wave of enthusiasm for riverfront development is rising in communities along the Great Miami River. Cities are working to fully develop their riverfronts with parks, meeting spaces and amenities. And many are seeing the value in involving MCD early in the process.

“We have been very intentional about including MCD in discussions throughout the design process,” says Chris Schmeising, Piqua city planner, of the Lock 9 Park project. “Involving MCD early and often has allowed us to advance the project design documents with confidence, knowing MCD is on board with the planned improvements. The collaborative spirit of the interactions has no doubt enhanced the project design.”

MCD staff is available to discuss the feasibility of ideas, offer suggestions, and review plans to make the project compatible with—and potentially enhance—the flood protection system, says Kurt Rinehart, MCD chief engineer.

“We want our cities to know we’re here for them,” Rinehart says. “We want what they want — to develop their riverfronts into places that will attract visitors, new

residents, and new businesses; and help grow their economy all while continuing to maintain the level of flood protection that keeps everyone safe.”

Among the projects recently completed or in the planning stages along the Riverway are:

Piqua

The Lock 9 Park Renaissance project plan includes terraced seating, a performance pavilion, spray park, and open lawn.

Troy

In 2016, the City of Troy completed construction of Treasure Island Park, including a renovated boathouse, a new amphitheater, lighthouse, parking lots, and walking paths.

Dayton RiverBank

This MCD-led, multi-partner project involves rebuilding the levee at the West Third Street gateway to the Wright Dunbar neighborhood. The levee will have a flatter slope that can be more easily maintained, and a ramp providing access to the river and bikeway. A wide top could accommodate a river walkway, lighting, benches, swings, and other amenities.

Dayton River Run

The River Run officially opens May 5. Five Rivers MetroParks (FRMP) built two in-river play areas—one near the Dayton Art Institute and the other at RiverScape MetroPark. MCD and FRMP collaborated on several project components.

Miamisburg

In 2016, the City of Miamisburg completed construction of the Riverfront Park gateway and restroom building. MCD and the city are working jointly to seek funding for additional levee and park improvements.

Middletown

MetroParks of Butler County is building a River Center. The center will be a hub for walkers, cyclists and paddlers along the Great Miami River. MCD sold land to MetroParks for the project. Construction is expected to get under way this year.

Hamilton

The official opening of this 6-acre park east of the RiversEdge Amphitheater in downtown Hamilton is set for May 6. It offers walking paths, a lawn, and water features. A ramp for pedestrians and cyclists connects the levee top to the path along the river.

Hairline cracks repaired in Germantown Dam conduit

A pilot project to repair hairline cracks in half of the right conduit at Germantown Dam may not only fix the cracks but prevent further cracking.



A worker injects polyurethane material to seal hairline cracks in the Germantown Dam conduit.

The MCD Board of Consultants—a group of world-renowned experts—recommended the repair. A previous inspection noted multiple hairline cracks on the side walls, plus cracking at the top of the conduits at both Germantown and Englewood dams. Both dams have earthen material above the conduits unlike Taylorsville, Huffman and Lockington dams.

“Earthen material sits above the conduits (concrete openings in the dam),” says Kurt Rinehart, MCD chief engineer. “Pressure from the weight of the material—and possibly other factors—have caused cracks in the conduits. If those cracks were to continue to progress, the earthen material could make its way into the conduit and cause a problem with the dam. That’s not likely to happen but we want to prevent the possibility.”

Cracks were repaired along 250 feet of the right conduit of Germantown Dam. A polyurethane grout filled the cracks. A urethane injection resin—that seeks moisture and adheres itself to the concrete, sealing the cracks—also was used.

MCD will regularly inspect the cracks, monitoring the effectiveness of the project.



These collector pipes at Germantown Dam will reduce the potential for erosion.

Montgomery County aids project

New catch basins improve drainage and maintenance

New catch basins on the road atop Germantown Dam will reduce the potential for erosion at the dam and improve maintenance.

MCD and Montgomery County teamed up on the project. The county coordinated the closure of Conservancy Road on top of the dam while MCD replaced nine roadway drains.

The existing catch basins were undersized and easily became clogged. Clay pipes from the catch basins drained onto the dam’s upper berms, and many of the clay pipes were broken along the slope, causing maintenance issues.

As part of the project, MCD:

- Replaced the catch basins with larger, standard-size catch basins and metal grates.
- Installed larger collector pipes and additional catch basins on the upper berms both upstream and downstream of the dam.

Cost savings - FEMA accredits Franklin levee

Improvements to the Franklin levee mean people and businesses behind the levee remain exempt from mandatory flood insurance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accredited the levee after MCD finished the improvements last year. MCD was required to submit 12 levee systems in Miami, Warren and Butler counties for accreditation by FEMA. All have been accredited.

Accreditation does not guarantee the levee’s performance; it simply indicates the levee meets FEMA requirements.

Businesses and residences behind accredited levees are exempt from flood insurance, although FEMA recommends flood insurance for everyone. Property owners behind an accredited levee can buy flood

insurance at a preferred rate. Find more information at floodsmart.gov.

Improvements to the Franklin levee led to FEMA accreditation.





In 2016,
MCD helped
2,500+
elementary
students learn
about the
importance
of water.



MCD
assisted
communities
with **6**
riverfront
projects.

MCD information crucial to water study

When 15 wastewater treatment plants needed an impartial partner to facilitate a water study, MCD was the logical choice. The group needed water data as well as a partner with no skin in the game, so to speak.

The group reached out to MCD, which works to collect water data that can help officials make informed decisions. The water information comes from studies, modeling, monitoring and more.

As study facilitator, MCD hired LimnoTech to complete the study. LimnoTech is an environmental science and engineering firm, with headquarters in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The company developed a water quality model and ran scenarios, looking for potential improvement to river quality, specifically from decreased phosphorus discharges. Phosphorus discharges can come from places such as wastewater treatment plants and agricultural runoff.

The model relied on many types of water-quantity and water-quality data collected by MCD's hydrology team. The model utilized MCD's flood forecasting models, MCD/United States Geological Survey stream gage information, MCD nutrient monitoring data, and MCD-published reports about the river.



MCD's Mike Ekberg, right, and two Wright State University students collect a sediment core sample from the riverbed.

"MCD works to help communities solve water issues, so facilitating this study was perfectly aligned with our mission," says Mike Ekberg, MCD manager for water monitoring and analysis.

Participating in the study were the cities of Dayton, Englewood, Fairfield, Franklin, Hamilton, Miamisburg, Middletown, Springboro, Troy, Union and West Carrollton; Tri-Cities Wastewater Authority on behalf of the cities of Huber Heights, Vandalia and Tipp City; and Montgomery County.

2017 River Summit Corridor Champions named

Officials from 18 cities and organizations, including MCD, were honored as Corridor Champions during the 10th annual River Summit on March 24.

The local officials were honored for their leadership and investment in developing the Great Miami Riverway (see story on page 1). The Riverway is the new brand designed to promote riverfront communities, from Sidney to Hamilton, as a unified, connected regional place.

The Corridor Champion of the Year is presented to an individual, organization, or group that makes a significant contribution to improving the Great Miami River corridor, now known as the Great Miami Riverway.



Tait Station low dam removal

Project to improve river access and safety

By next summer, paddlers should be able to launch upstream of downtown Dayton and float all the way to West Carrollton without a single portage.

That's because the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) plans to remove the Tait Station low dam, near the University of Dayton Arena, this summer.

Tait Station low dam was built by DP&L in 1935 to supply cooling water as part of a power plant. In the 1980s, DP&L shut down the plant, and transferred ownership of the low dam to MCD in 1990 for recreation.

The dam no longer serves any purpose and needs extensive repairs totaling \$5 to \$8 million. Removing the low dam will

improve river access and safety.

Low dams provide a pool of water upstream for recreation but they have several drawbacks. They are notoriously dangerous. Boaters can get trapped at low dams. Low dams also slow river flow, impacting the health of fish and bugs.

"Removing Tait Station low dam is very positive for the paddling community," says Sarah Hippensteel Hall, MCD manager for watershed partnerships. "More people will be able to access the river. We should see

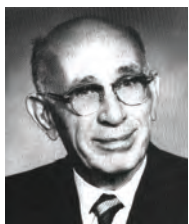


Tait Station low dam needs \$5 to \$8 million in repairs.

more—and healthier—fish, and the river will look better as it returns to its natural state."

ODOT is removing the dam to restore the Great Miami River. The project will offset expected adverse impacts in another ODOT project.

Groundwater observatory reveals the mysteries of our aquifer



Charles V. Theis

Looks can be deceiving. That's especially true at the new C.V. Theis (pronounced Tice) Great Miami Groundwater Observatory in Hamilton County. While there might not be much to

see above ground, there's a lot going on underground and out of sight.

MCD partnered with the University of Cincinnati (U.C.) and Duke Energy to create the observatory along the Great Miami River in Hamilton County.

A network of shallow and deep monitoring wells installed in the buried valley aquifer will allow undergraduates to learn

groundwater science.

Graduate students and university faculty members are expected to use the observatory for research. U.C. hopes to collaborate on research with MCD, the United States Geological Survey and other agencies.

The site also could become a testbed for new water sensing technologies, says Mike Ekberg, MCD manager for water monitoring and analysis.

The C.V. Theis Groundwater Observatory is the first of its kind east of the Mississippi River. It is named for the late Charles Vernon Theis, who is "considered one of the most influential hydrogeologists of the past century," according to a U.C. news release.

MCD has a unique connection to Mr.



Janet Bly, MCD general manager, shares MCD's unique connection to C.V. Theis during the dedication.

Theis. MCD employed Mr. Theis as a co-op student in 1918 and 1919 while he studied at U.C.

The observatory will have a website with dynamic displays of groundwater flow and river levels, showing the interconnected nature of the Great Miami River and the buried valley aquifer.

The observatory was dedicated in March.



Paddlers need less effort at new Needmore portage

If you paddle the Great Miami River, making your way to downtown Dayton is a bit easier these days.

Paddlers now have a new, easy portage around a low dam just south of Needmore Road on the Great Miami River near the City of Dayton's well field.

MCD built two 100-foot-long boat ramps—one north of the low dam and one south of the low dam—along the left bank. A layer of concrete near the water on the north ramp provides better footing as paddlers exit the river.

"These boat ramps improve safety for paddlers and make the portage so much easier," says Janet Bly, MCD general manager.

Hamilton and Miamisburg featured

Storms can't stop GOBA cyclists

About 1,500 cyclists weathered storms and tired legs, pedaling more than 250 miles along streets and trails in our region last June.

The cities of Miamisburg and Hamilton were featured stops in the 28th Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA). GOBA is a one-week bicycling-camping tour among Ohio cities.

The night before cyclists were to ride into Miamisburg, severe weather hit the area downing trees. MCD field staff worked quickly to remove limbs and debris from the trail for the riders.

"I was impressed," says Vickie Test, an MCD staff

member and GOBA participant. "The scenery was nice, and it was relaxing along our trails. Our trails were so clean. I noticed things I hadn't noticed before."



In 2016, MCD dams collectively stored floodwaters 12 times, protecting downstream cities.

MCD named 'bicycle friendly'

The League of American Bicyclists named MCD a bronze level Bicycle Friendly Business in 2016.

The award is presented to businesses with commitments to bicycling. MCD owns and manages bike trails, and offers staff fleet bikes to use around town. MCD also offers on-site bike parking, and participates in efforts to develop a regional trails map

and website.

Through the Bicycle Friendly Business program, employers are recognized for their efforts to encourage a more welcoming atmosphere for bicycling employees, customers, and the community.





Region's waterways named Ohio's first and only national water trail

This region is known for its 340 miles of paved bike trails. And now the region is also known for Ohio's first and only nationally designated water trail—one of only 22 in the entire country.

The Great Miami River Watershed Trail was one of six water trails awarded the national designation in 2016. The trail includes the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad rivers along with Twin, Buck and Greenville creeks.

“Our local communities are leaders at providing world-class outdoor recreation opportunities,” says Sarah Hippensteel Hall, MCD manager for watershed partnerships. “Projects such as Treasure Island in Troy and River Run in Dayton helped the region earn the national water trail designation from the U.S. Department of the Interior.”

The Great Miami River Water Trail features:

- 291 miles of rivers and streams.
- Three whitewater kayak parks.
- World-class fishing.
- 117 public access sites.
- 100-plus natural and urban parks.
- Unique river cities and towns.

The national water trail designation is given only to those water trails that are exemplary. It recognizes the local community and partners in promoting the use of these rivers and streams.

Hundreds of enthusiasts expected May 7-10 International Trails Symposium headed to Dayton

Hundreds of trail lovers from around the world will descend upon the region for the 23rd International Trails Symposium (ITS) May 7-10.

The biennial symposium brings together the worldwide trails community to experience regional trails and advocate for the economic and environmental power of trails.

More than 500 trail and greenway advocates, managers, planners, and users, along with those involved in tourism and business, are expected. More than 80 cutting-edge trail presentations, field trips, and workshops will be offered.

“I have never seen a community with such

powerful relationships,” says Candace Mitchell, director of operations for American Trails, which sponsors the event. “We are excited to showcase what they have accomplished with their trails.”

Dayton joins a prestigious list of cities that have hosted the ITS, including Portland, Oregon; Chattanooga; Austin; Orlando; and Tucson. The Dayton region was selected for its convenient location and dynamic trail-based assets.

For more information, visit americantrails.org



Two boat ramps open river to those with physical challenges

If a physical limitation, whether it's a bad knee or hip or something else has kept you from exploring the Great Miami River, you are docked no longer.

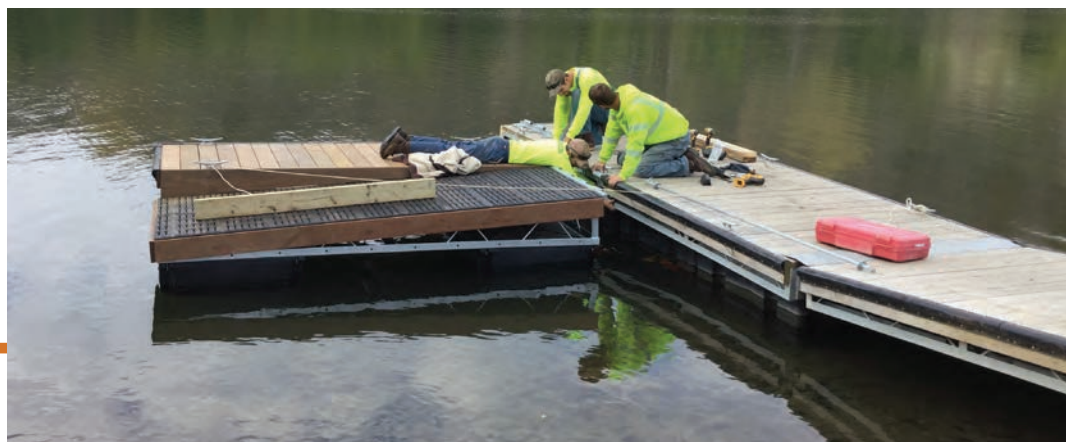
MCD has installed two ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliant boat docks for those with physical challenges. One ramp is at the East River Road access in Moraine, and the other is at the South Montgomery County low dam in West Carrollton.

“These new boat docks offer a more

welcoming and inclusive environment for all boaters, especially those with physical challenges,” says Janet Bly, MCD general manager.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft funded the project.

This boat ramp in Moraine is one of the first ADA-compliant boat ramps on the Great Miami River.



Conservancy Court

MCD is governed by a Conservancy Court comprised of one common pleas court judge from each of the counties within the Conservancy District boundaries. The Conservancy Court appoints MCD's Board of Directors and Board of Appraisers, and approves their plans.

Honorable Barbara P. Gorman,
Presiding Judge
Montgomery County

Honorable Keith M. Spaeth
Butler County

Honorable Thomas J. Capper
Clark County

Honorable Stephen A. Wolaver
Greene County

Honorable Robert P. Ruehlman
Hamilton County

Honorable W. McGregor Dixon, Jr.
Miami County

Honorable David N. Abruzzo
Preble County

Honorable James F. Stevenson
Shelby County

Honorable Robert Peeler
Warren County

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Appraiser, Dayton, OH

James E. Sherron
Attorney, Middletown, OH

In Memoriam

Thomas B. Rentschler, 1932-2016

MCD lost a dear friend, dedicated advocate and long-time board member with the passing of Thomas B. Rentschler on Oct. 25, 2016.



Thomas B. Rentschler
1932-2016

Mr. Rentschler, 84, served 29 years on the MCD Board of Directors, 16 of them as board president.

Mr. Rentschler was the fourth member of his family to serve on the MCD Board of Directors.

He was passionate about his work with MCD. Mr. Rentschler was a strong leader, thoughtful in his decision-making, wise, humble and quick-witted.

Mr. Rentschler joined the Board of Directors in June of 1982 and retired in September of 2011. The Conservancy Court appointed Mr. Rentschler's son, Mark, to finish out his term. Mark Rentschler continues today as president of the board.

Mr. Rentschler was part of many important MCD developments including:

- Divestiture of wastewater treatment plants to refocus staff and organizational resources on the core mission of flood control and on watershed-wide programs to benefit the region.

- Creation of The Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict to establish and implement a collaborative, non-regulatory, watershed-wide program in support of the comprehensive protection, management, and understanding of our region's water.

- Formation of The River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict to consolidate management of existing and future river corridor recreational improvements, amenities, and activities.

- Reinvestment in flood protection infrastructure, including implementation of the Dam Safety Initiative to upgrade the structures' integrity and extend the life of the flood protection system.

Mr. Rentschler was a lifelong resident of Hamilton. He began his career in Hamilton at The Citizens Bank, and was ultimately named president, chief executive officer, and director.

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A message from the general manager

If you're lucky, you have someone in your life you can always count on. In good times and bad, they help you out, sometimes without even being asked.



When it comes to water in southwest Ohio, MCD strives to be that reliable friend. From preventing flooding in our riverfront towns, to protecting the sustainability of our drinking water source, to creating fun along our waterways, we want to be here for you.

We are committed to serving you and our region.
#MCDHereForYou.

Janet M. Bly

Janet M. Bly
General Manager

The MCD system is unique in many ways, including the high level of protection it offers, the environmental and recreational opportunities it provides, and the fact that it is almost 100 percent locally funded.

Contact us at (937) 223-1271 or bgibson@mcdwater.org.

MCDWATER.ORG

