



January 30, 2009

Did you know?

- A watershed is the land area that drains rainwater runoff to a common stream. The 166-square-mile Mill Creek Watershed is home to 450,000 residents and 36 local governments.



- The Mill Creek starts in small headwater streams in Liberty Township and flows 28 miles to its mouth on the Ohio River.



- Water pollution, flooding and loss of streamside habitat are major challenges for the Mill Creek watershed.



Dear Friend,

The Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities, a broadly based nonprofit organization, works to improve water resources in the heart of our region. The Mill Creek's long history of industrial and urban land use has raised concerns about increased flooding, degraded water quality and vanishing greenspace. We have a vision to revive the Mill Creek as an environmental, economic and recreational asset for our local communities. **I ask for your help today because the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities needs your membership support to achieve that vision.**

Our primary goal is to create and implement projects that have a positive impact throughout the watershed – including the land areas and small streams that drain to the Mill Creek. Specific projects include:

- **Mill Creek Confluence Project:** Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA are funding \$2 million worth of stream restoration where the Mill Creek and its East Fork flow together in Sharonville. The 28-acre site will feature meandering stream channels, a wetland and a walking trail.
- **Rain Gardens:** The Watershed Council and its partners have helped fund and install rain gardens at local municipalities (Elmwood Place, Forest Park, Amberley Village and Springdale), schools (Hilltop Elementary and Pleasant Ridge), and popular destinations (Coney Island and Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens). We're also creating rain gardens at Habitat for Humanity homes in Colerain Township.
- **Residential and Professional Workshops:** We facilitate a variety of training workshops on rain gardens, bio-retention ponds, rainwater harvesting systems and stormwater management techniques, including the Ohio Stormwater Conference on May 14-15, 2009.

The Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities serves a diverse membership of residents, local governments, public agencies, environmental nonprofit groups, small businesses and large companies. **We form innovative public-private partnerships to create successful**

Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities

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Did you know?

- Rain gardens help filter pollutants out of stormwater and replenish drinking water supplies.



- Stream restoration projects have multiple benefits: improved water quality, reduced flooding, and better in-stream habitats for the “fish and bugs.”



- Our public education events and workshops often include “hands-on” experiences for students and adults.



outcomes in the Mill Creek watershed. That’s precisely why I am asking you to join the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities.

In these hard economic times, it can be difficult to decide where to give your support. By investing in the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities you can nurture on-the-ground projects that improve our quality of life and beautify our communities with healthy waterways, wetlands, rain gardens and greenspace. We actively engage in public outreach and training events to involve students, parents and professionals in the protection of our watershed. However, **many of our projects require local matching dollars to win state, federal or foundation grants** – making your financial support very important.

Please join the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities by returning the enclosed envelope with your membership contribution or join online at www.millcreekwatershed.org/donate.

Together our efforts will lead to a healthy and vibrant Mill Creek,

Tara A. Maddock

Tara A. Maddock, Ph.D.
Executive Director

P.S. Your financial contribution is critically important to support watershed improvements through stream restoration, stormwater management, bio-retention and public outreach.