

- **Watershed:** East Fork Little Miami River Watershed
- **Watershed Coordinator Sponsor:** Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- **Sponsor Web Page:** <http://clermontswcd.org/WatershedPrograms.aspx>
- **Most recent year on the grant: 2009**
- **Implementation Priorities:**
  - Reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from agricultural and urban areas
  - Restore aquatic habitat in the East Fork LMR and tributaries; maintain the river's Exceptional Warm Water habitat Designation
  - Repair/replace failing septic systems
- **Primary Implementation Partners:**
  - Clermont Office of Environmental Quality
  - East Fork Watershed Collaborative/Cooperative (U.S. EPA ORD, Ohio EPA, ODNR, USACE, Local agencies/organizations)
  - Highland SWCD
  - Brown SWCD
  - Clinton SWCD
- **Documented Water Quality Improvements**
- **Implementation Project Highlights (since going off the grant)**
  - ***Solomon Run Low-head Dam Removal:*** Working with Ohio Valley RC&D, the Ursulines of Brown County and Brown SWCD, secured \$367,805 in Ohio EPA 319 funding to remove the dam and restore Solomon Run, a tributary to the East Fork Little Miami River.
  - ***Batavia Low-Head Dam Removal:*** Working with the Valley View Foundation and the Village of Batavia, secured \$783,000 in Ohio EPA WRRSP funding to remove a low-head dam on the East Fork Little Miami River in the Village of Batavia (Clermont County).
  - ***Williamsburg Low-Head Dam Removal:*** Working with the Village of Williamsburg, \$674, 000 of WRRSP funding was awarded to remove a low-head dam on the East Fork Little Miami River (Clermont County).
  - ***Shank Park Storm Water Retrofit:*** Partnering with the Village of Amelia, secured \$95,000 from Ohio EPA SWIF to retrofit an existing detention basin using bio-infiltration (Clermont County).
  - ***Conservation Innovation Grant—Grassy Run:*** Working closely with the East Fork Watershed Cooperative to implement/research agricultural BMP effectiveness. Project includes focused planting cover crops in a subwatershed of Grassy Run, a tributary of the upper EFLMR; installation of an innovative BMP – combination detention basin and submerged vegetated bed – in an eroded waterway on a farm within the watershed. Documented Water Quality Improvements: Initial sampling results show significant removal of phosphorus in the detention basin and nitrogen in

the vegetated bed. Monitoring is ongoing. This project received a visit from then-Deputy Administrator of USEPA Bob Perciasepe (Clermont County).

- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant:** USDA funding secured for 5-years at \$600,000 to implement agricultural BMPs and research effectiveness. Collaborating with Clermont OEQ, NRCS and East Fork Watershed Cooperative to install agricultural BMPs, including cover crops, gypsum application and nutrient management). Project area includes the East Fork Little Miami River watershed, upstream of Harsha Lake (East Fork Lake) where harmful algal blooms (HABs) have been observed. The project goal is to reduce to reduce nutrient loading and help control harmful algal blooms in the lake. The project also includes edge-of-field monitoring at two farms (both with paired control and treatment fields); develop a fertilizer “app” that will be based on the Tri-State Fertility Guide that will enable farmers to enter crop and soil test information and obtain fertilizer recommendations (Clermont, Brown, Highland and Clinton counties).
- **Shayler Creek Bioretention Project:** Working with USEPA ORD, Shayler Crossing Hometown Association to install a storm water bioretention system in a suburban subdivision located in the headwaters of Shayler Creek, a tributary of the East Fork Little Miami River. Utilizing funds from the Duke Energy Foundation, project partners will monitor flow reductions and pollutant removal after installation.

#### **Other Highlights—organizational, funding, outreach, initiatives, etc.**

In addition to the ongoing projects, Clermont SWCD and the East Fork Watershed Collaborative continue to work with East Fork communities to implement the recommendations in the Middle East Fork Balanced Growth Plan. Since the Plan was adopted in 2010, Clermont County has completed a Comprehensive Plan and the county’s planning department is adopting changes to the subdivision regulations to allow for more flexible development and natural resource protection. The Collaborative has also begun work to update the five Watershed Action Plan for the East Fork.

#### **Funding Leveraged—major grants, funding sources**

- Ohio Water Resources Council—Balanced Growth: \$90,000
- Ohio EPA 319—Solomon Run: \$367,805
- Ohio EPA WRRSP—Batavia Dam: \$783,000
- Ohio EPA WRRSP-Williamsburg Dam: \$674,000
- Ohio EPA SWIF-Shank Park: \$95,000
- USDA RCPP: \$600,000

Total: **\$2,609,805**