

An aerial photograph of a river valley. On the left, a multi-lane road with cars runs parallel to the river. A brick building and a parking lot are visible near the road. A paved path runs along the riverbank. On the right, a train with several white boxcars is on tracks. The river flows through the center, with a small weir or dam structure visible. The background shows more trees and distant hills under a clear sky.

Mill Creek Valley Conservancy District

Stormwater Management Utility
A Funding Proposal

January 2026

What is the Mill Creek?

- **28.4-mile waterway from Butler County to the Ohio River, near the Cincinnati Barrier Dam**
- **The 170 square mile watershed is home to**
 - Multiple political subdivisions
 - Vulnerable flood plain neighborhoods
 - Major industry: Procter & Gamble, GE Aircraft Engines
 - MSD's main treatment plant, I-75, railroads

MILL CREEK WATERSHED COMMUNITIES



A History of Flooding

- **Ohio River backwater flooding:**
1913, 1937, 1945
- **Flooding from storms and flashfloods:**
1958, 1959, 1964, 1971, 1996, 1998, 2001



Millcreek Valley Conservancy District (MVCD)



The Region comes together to prevent future flood disasters

In 1960, the **Chamber of Commerce committee** studied forming a conservancy district – a regional cross-jurisdictional local government to address flooding in the Mill Creek basin.

- **Nine local governments petitioned to form the MVCD:**
 - Cincinnati, Sharonville, Evendale, Reading, Lockland, Arlington Heights, Elmwood Place, St. Bernard, and Sycamore Township
- **Resources**
 - **Local business**, including GE, P&G and Ford, **funded detailed engineering study**
 - **MVCD - US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contract** to construct a **flood management Project (\$100 million+ in 1976 dollars)**
 - MVCD acquire and provide land
 - Hamilton County and State of Ohio provided \$14 million
 - USACE to pay the remainder of costs and construct the Project
 - **MVCD to operate and maintain following Project completion**



MVCD's Flood Improvement responsibilities

Army Corps is preparing to turn project over to MVCD:

- **Millcreek Flood Improvements:** 17 miles of channel, pumps, etc.
 - \$275M (2025) construction costs
 - **Annual capital/O&M approximately \$7.5M**
- **Cincinnati Barrier Dam Improvements:** Pumps, floodgates, floodwalls (pursuant to 1975 City-MVCD agreement)
 - \$200M (2025) construction costs
 - O&M currently funded by stormwater rate funds
 - MVCD to take over Barrier Dam costs from City (per 1979 City contract)
 - **Annual capital/O&M \$4.5M**

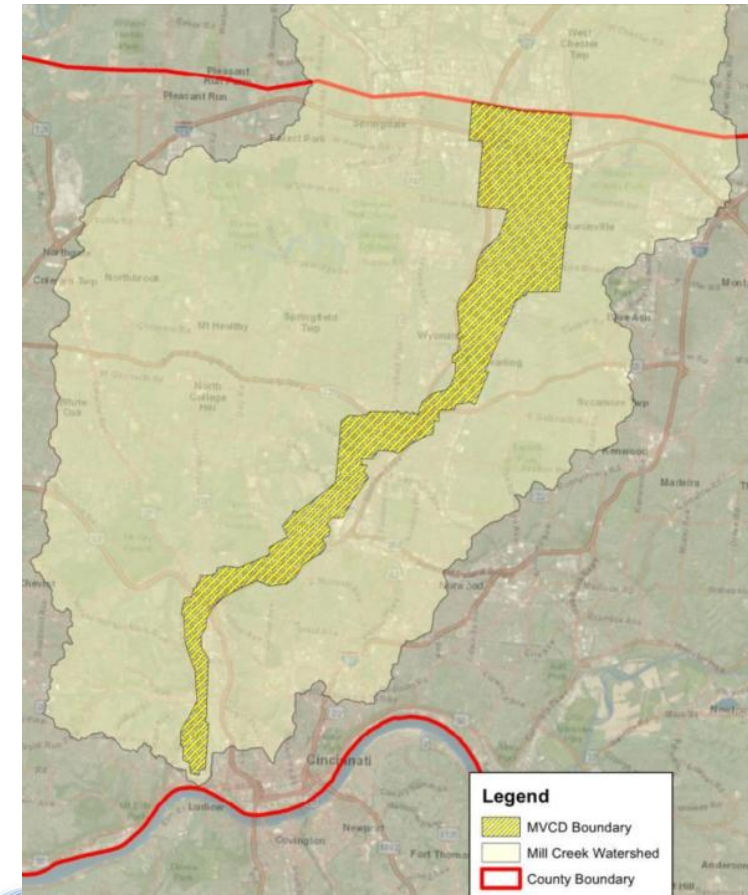
MVCD will need revenue to meet these responsibilities



MVCD Protected Area

Current District Boundaries:

- **14 Cincinnati Neighborhoods:**
 - Hartwell, Roselawn, Carthage, Winton Hills, Spring Grove Village, Northside, South Cumminsville, Millvale, English Woods, Camp Washington, North Fairmount, South Fairmount, Lower Price Hill, and Queensgate
- **10 Jurisdictions:**
 - Cincinnati, Sharonville, Evendale, Reading, Lockland, Arlington Heights, Elmwood Place, Saint Bernard, Springfield Township, and Sycamore Township
- **Major Regional Commercial and Industrial Properties:**
 - MSD main sewage treatment plant
 - Procter & Gamble, General Electric
 - Duke Energy and railways



MVCD at a Crossroads

Since 2006, MVCD has continued minimal operations:

- No permanent staff
- No sustainable source of income
 - \$20k/year from Cincinnati
 - Contributions from Evendale and Sharonville
 - Grant funding
- Board cannot convene except by public meeting with notice

MVCD does not have capacity or revenue to meet its obligations as the Army Corps completes the project.



Risks

Without path to funding, MVCD board will file to dissolve:

- City will inherit improvements within our boundaries and capital/O&M costs of \$2.5 million/year impacting SMU's \$28M/year budget and the stormwater rates
- Cross jurisdictional flood control will end
- Other jurisdictions may not be able to maintain upstream sections
- Increased localized flood risks



A Vision for the Millcreek Corridor

Flourishing Conservancy Districts can work across boundaries to:

- Provide flood protection
- Foster a recreation corridor
- Spur economic development
- Clean up polluted water ways, improve water quality

A thriving **MVCD** can be partner to further build on efforts of the **Millcreek Alliance, Experience Mill Creek, SMU** and **MSD** to make the Mill Creek cleaner and safer for recreation opportunities.



Contract to Develop MVCD Capacity

MVCD \$1.5 million loan request:

- Hire Executive Director to work with the Board on district management
- Develop Sustainable Revenue Stream (R.C. 6101)
- Outreach to community and stakeholders

Loan Terms

- Loan funds provided on a reimbursement basis at 0% interest
- No repayments years 1-6, followed by 10 years (years 7-16) of annual repayment of 1/10 of disbursements
- Up to six years to complete Revised Code assessment and revenue approval process
- MVCD should seek:
 - funding and support from other jurisdictions
 - to promote equitable sharing of costs by expanding district boundaries to include properties contributing stormwater runoff
 - to keep assessments affordable



Questions?

