

Watersheds: Moving from Plans to Action

Friday, March 5, 2010

Sponsored by:

All Ohio Chapter-Soil and Water Conservation Society
and
Water Management Association of Ohio

Success stories are growing in the number of watershed plans that have been and are being implemented in Ohio. Recent high profile attention has been drawn to the Great Lakes with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Ohio with the Mississippi River hypoxia and recent designation by the USDA Secretary for a Mississippi River Basin Initiative among others. It is time to share those successes and others and discuss ways to continue to move forward.

Location

We have a great location at the new Grange Insurance Audubon Center located on the banks of the Scioto River in Columbus, Ohio. Enjoy the surrounding habitats and Metro Park.

Agenda

9:30	Welcome	Dave Libben, AOC-SWCS President Greg Nageotte, WMAO, President
9:45	Audubon Center: A Success Story in the Scioto Watershed	Heather Stark Audubon Ohio
10:15	Mississippi River Basin Initiative	Mike Laughrey Natural Resources Conservation Service
10:30	Dialogue on Watershed Tools: More than the Same Old Cheese	Russ Gibson Division of Surface Water Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
11:15	Setting up for Success: The Watershed Academy What it is and changes to keep it current	Joe Bonnell The Ohio State University
11:35	Watershed Coordinators Roundtable: Successes at the grass roots and lessons learned	
12:00	Lunch	

12:45	Lake Erie Watershed with a focus on Basinwide Stormwater Management	Robert McCall, et al. Cooperative Extension Service
1:15	Successes in Sugar Creek	Rob Hamilton ONDR Division of Soil and Water Resources
1:35	White Oak Creek Success	Rob Hamilton ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources
2:00	Conference Closing Comments and WMAO Breakout for Organization Business AOC-SWCS Breakout for Organization Business	
2:30	Adjourn	

Put March 5 on the calendar to learn, network, and enjoy the surroundings!

REGISTRATION

Registration should be sent by MARCH 1:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Costs: Member, Non-member, and Student (\$25) \$_____ (INCLUDES LUNCH)

Please fill out and return this sheet along with a check payable to: **AOC – SWCS**

Mail to:

Rick Wilson

882 McClain Road

Grandview Heights, OH 43212

Questions: E-mail: rwilson882@gmail.com

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Directions

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

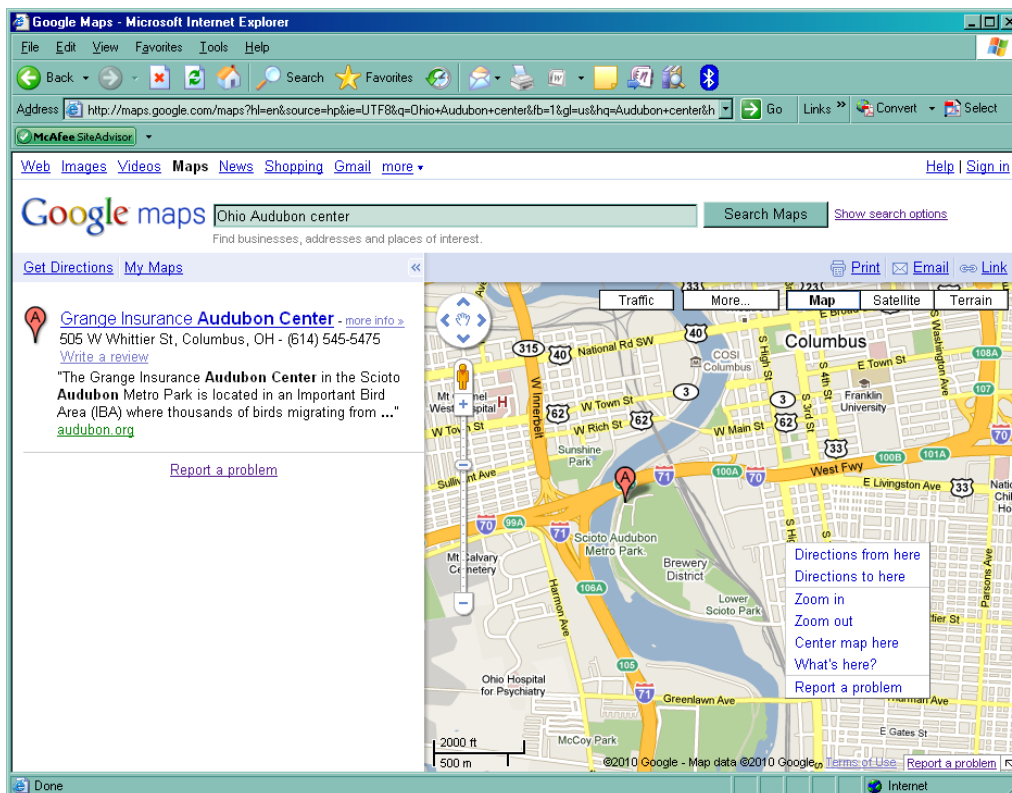
505 W Whittier St, Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 545-5475

audubon.org

for directions:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&source=hp&ie=UTF8&q=Ohio+Audubon+center&fb=1&gl=us&hq=Audubon+center&hnear=Ohio&ei=g2RsS9eXM4HiyASH1oGQCg&ved=0CBgQpQY&view=map&cid=8895899707204354536&iwloc=A&sa=X>



About the Grange Insurance Audubon Center

On the Whittier Peninsula, just south of downtown Columbus, Audubon Ohio has just completed a nature center that will provide vital educational services to central Ohio – especially the city of Columbus and its public schools. Audubon increases environmental awareness through education, but also will provide cross-curricular nature-based education designed to improve the academic performance of students and schools in all areas.

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center is the first in the country to be built so close to the heart of a major city- only one mile from downtown Columbus. It is the focus of a major urban reclamation and redevelopment project that involves Audubon, the City of Columbus, and Franklin County Metro Parks. The facility will be located within a new public park, The Scioto Audubon Metro Park, on the Scioto River.

The center will act as a community gathering place for those who live and work downtown, as well as everyone in the Central Ohio area.

The Audubon Center will also serve as a model for sustainable design thereby promoting the economic, health and aesthetic benefits of green building. Students and visitors alike will learn first-hand the benefits of “going green.” Plans for the Center depict a green facility of 18,000 net useable square feet built with recycled construction materials. Heating and Cooling will be provided by alternative energy sources.

The plans include:

- Three classrooms
- Native plant demonstration gardens
- Natural playground area
- Habitat areas---- with its distinctive flora and fauna
- Library
- Outdoor amphitheater
- 200-seat multipurpose room
- Temporary and permanent exhibits
- Nature store
- Outdoor observation deck and terrace, with bird feeders

Whittier Peninsula and Center History

For central and southern Ohio, the Scioto River watershed is a beautiful and irreplaceable asset that has supported plants, animals, and people for thousands of years. At the end of the 18th century, Lucas Sullivant traveled up the river to reach central Ohio and establish Franklinton, its first settlement, on the west bank, just south of what is now downtown Columbus.

Ohio's new capital city was founded fifteen years later on the east side of the river. A bridge was built to connect the two towns, and Franklinton was soon engulfed (though not annexed until 1871). As Columbus grew, many German immigrants found homes in the Franklinton area. On the other side of the river, the Whittier Peninsula (really just a bulge in the shoreline) emerged as an industrial district.

In our time, civic leaders in Columbus and Franklin County have worked to harmonize ongoing development of our riverfront areas with the preservation of open space for public use. In 1998, the

City of Columbus adopted the Riverfront Vision Plan as developed by Riverfront Commons, a nonprofit organization created for that purpose.

This ambitious plan recommended the creation of 600 acres of new parkland, which would give the city 1,300 acres of interconnected open space along the river. This extensive cultural and recreational use of the riverfront truly distinguishes Columbus among major cities, in Ohio and beyond.

In 2001, Audubon began meeting with city officials to discuss a plan for the Whittier Peninsula, an industrial strip of land that, coincidentally, is positioned on a major migratory bird flyway. The integration of a nature center and new park with appropriate commercial and residential development was at the heart of this plan.

In 2003, Audubon Ohio, Franklin County Metro Parks, and the City of Columbus agreed to collaborate on a project to reclaim and restore 160 acres on the Whittier Peninsula. Of this acreage, Metro Parks will lease 84 acres, and Audubon Ohio will sublease 5 acres from Metro Parks for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. The Whittier Peninsula was renamed The Scioto Audubon Metro Park in early 2007 and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center opened in August 2009.

