

Flood Awareness

Public Safety Campaign

The Ohio Silver Jackets is conducting a year-long flood awareness promotion that focuses on the 100th anniversary of the Great Ohio Flood. By recalling the widespread impact of this flood, the Ohio Silver Jackets will transform this major event into a public awareness campaign on flood safety, preparedness and mitigation.

Flood Safety Promotions

- * Develop flood safety brochures and posters to distribute to communities and schools
- * Install High Water Mark signs in areas where record flooding occurred during the 1913 floods
- * Install and promote “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” (TADD) road signs at flood-prone locations
- * Using the impacts of the 1913 floods, conduct community outreach in the form of presentations and webinars
- * Develop a “Great Flood of 1913” website accessible to all Silver Jackets participating agencies
- * Work with universities and other state and local agencies to promote flood safety and awareness
- * Conduct interviews with local media

Ohio Silver Jackets

Mission

The Ohio Silver Jackets is an implementation sub-team of the State of Ohio Mitigation Team, which is dedicated to creating a collective environment that brings together federal, state, local and other stakeholders to address the state’s flood risk management priorities.



Partners

Association of State Floodplain Managers
Cuyahoga National Park
Miami Conservancy District
Muskingum Conservancy Watershed District
Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Historical Society
Scioto Conservancy District
Federal Emergency Management Agency
National Weather Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
US Dept. of Agriculture (NRCS)
US Economic Development Administration
US Geological Survey



Ohio Silver Jackets

Many Agencies ... One Solution

The Great Ohio Flood of 1913 100 Years Later

Flood Awareness Campaign



<http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/1913Flood/>



The Great Ohio Flood of 1913



Dayton Ohio -1913

The Flood of March 22-27, 1913 is known as the greatest natural disaster in Ohio history.

The heavy rains that occurred in

March that year exacerbated flood conditions.

Most - if not all - communities located along Ohio rivers experienced flooding.

By the end of the heavy rains and flooding, more than 467 lives were lost and more than 20,000 homes were destroyed.

The most severe flooding took place along the Great Miami River. Dayton, Ohio received the brunt of the flood destruction. On Tuesday, March 25, 1913, Downtown Dayton was 9 feet under water. Ninety-six people died.

After the flood waters receded, Dayton officials and residents were determined to prevent another disaster of this magnitude. A hydrological engineer, Arthur Morgan, was hired to come up with an extensive plan to protect the city from floods. Morgan recommended the construction of multiple earthen dams on the Great Miami River and modifications to the Dayton river channel.

The Ohio Conservancy Law was passed in 1914, which gave the state the authority to establish watershed districts and to raise funds for improvements through taxes. In 1915, the Miami Conservancy District was created, making it the first major watershed district in the nation.

Perfect Flood Conditions

The winter of 1913 produced above-normal precipitation. Weather pattern was dominated by high pressure off the east coast, which supported moisture transport from the Gulf of Mexico into the Ohio Valley. The weather pattern kept temperatures ranging 6-9 degrees above normal with frequent rain. By January, precipitation was 200-300 percent above normal over the western part of Ohio.

February produced temperatures 5-10 degrees below normal which produced heavy snow in the north and ice along area rivers. By mid-March, warmer temperatures and heavy rain returned, resulting in rising rivers and ice jams. Between Saturday, March 22 and Monday, March 24, 6-8 inches of rain fell across the state. The subsequent flooding all but crippled the state of Ohio.

The rivers in northwest Ohio, including the Sandusky River, began flooding on the 23rd. By the 24th, the western basins of the Great Miami and Scioto rivers flooded. By the time the rain ended on the 25th, every river in Ohio had reached or exceeded flood stage.

More than 100 communities and municipalities in Ohio were impacted by the flood. Approximately 40,630 residences flooded - 2,220 of the homes completely destroyed.

Information provided by:

Ohio Historical Society - Ohio History Central
www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=497

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Resources - Floodplain Program
www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/3511/Default.aspx

NOAA National Weather Service
www.weather.gov

(Ohio) Silver Jackets
<http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/1913Flood/>



Columbus Fire Department Rescue Unit - 1913