

Mill Creek Barrier Dam Tour – Wednesday, July 19

WHO: SWOWEA members (YPs and Non-YPs welcome)
WHAT: Free Tour of the Mill Creek Barrier Dam – 1.0 Contact Hour
WHEN: **Wednesday, July 19**
Barrier Dam Tour Group 1 – 1:00 to 2:00
Barrier Dam Tour Group 2 – 2:00 to 3:00
WHERE: Barrier Dam Building – 798 Evans St Cincinnati, OH 45204

The Mill Creek Barrier Dam is part of the Cincinnati Local Flood Protection Program (LFPP) and was built in response to the disastrous 1937 flood. See attached brochure for additional information.

Meet at the Barrier Dam Building for the walking tour, where we will learn about flood control, pumping facilities, flood wall and gates, and the history of the facility.

Parking is available inside the fence to the left of the entry gate. Please wear closed-toe shoes.

Due to the limited space in the facility, each tour group is limited 15 people, and we will have two start times: Tour Group 1 at 1:00 PM, and Tour Group 2 at 2:00 PM. **Registration is first-come-first-serve.**

RSVP BY July 17

SPONSORS:





Mill Creek Barrier Dam Cincinnati Local Flood Protection Project

The City of Cincinnati operates one of the largest stormwater pumping facilities in the country. This flood protection facility, known as the Mill Creek Barrier Dam, is part of the Cincinnati Local Flood Protection Project (LFPP). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) built the Cincinnati LFPP in the 1940's to protect the highly industrialized Mill Creek Valley from the type of catastrophic flood damage that occurred during the 1937 flood. The basic concept is simple: a dam across the Mill Creek closes off the valley from the Ohio River and a pumping station pumps the creek flow over the dam.

The project was authorized and selected for construction under the general authorization for the Ohio River Base contained in the Flood Control Act approved June 28, 1938. The project was designed and constructed by the USACE. In general, the City of Cincinnati furnished the property and the Federal government furnished the construction costs. The construction period was from January 1941 to March 1948. The City of Cincinnati has operated and maintained the project since it was completed in 1948.

Eight large pumps can pump over nine billion gallons of water each day from the Mill Creek into the Ohio River. One or more of the eight pumps is activated whenever the Ohio River approaches its flood stage of 52 ft. In addition to the dam and pumping station, a 1.5 mile long floodwall is included as part of the LFPP to protect the area from a river stage of up to 80 ft (the highest flood stage on record, recorded during the 1937 flood). The wall is mostly concrete but includes a short section of earthen levee just west of the Barrier Dam. The floodwall includes 14 openings or flood gates through which highways and rail lines pass. Most of the gates are of a "knockdown" type construction, composed of steel trusses that support aluminum panels. One gate is a "swing" type, consisting of two hinged steel doors each approximately 23 ft wide, 30 ft tall and weighing approximately 30 tons.