



## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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### **Two Organizations (Groundwork Cincinnati – Mill Creek and The Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities), One Executive Director**

#### **Reading, Ohio—July**

Groundwork Cincinnati - Mill Creek and The Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities announce that David J. Schmitt will lead both organizations as Executive Director. A native Cincinnati, Schmitt practiced environmental law for 25 years with Cors & Bassett, LLC.

Schmitt is experienced in river conservation, solid waste management, brownfield remediation, and the gamut of federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations. In his legal work, he has represented plaintiffs, defendants, municipalities, businesses, and private land owners.

He also has a broad understanding of non-profits. Schmitt currently serves on the Board of Directors of American Rivers; the Grant County, Kentucky Solid Waste Management District; and on the Xavier University Sustainability Program Advisory Board. He has formerly served on the Boards of the Ohio Environmental Council, The Nature Conservancy (Kentucky Chapter), and the Kentucky Center for Native American Arts and Culture. He is a member of the Environmental Law Committee of the Cincinnati Bar Association and the Environmental Committee of the Cincinnati, USA Chamber of Commerce. He is a frequent speaker about environmental and conservation topics.

Schmitt earned a B.S. in Biology from Marietta College (Marietta, OH), an M.S. in Forestry from University of Maine (Orono, ME), and a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

“Dave will be a bold leader for our organizations,” says Pat O’Connor, Groundwork Cincinnati – Mill Creek’s Board Chair. “He is thoughtful, strategic, and energetic – and he is thoroughly versed in environmental issues. I think he is just the leader that we need to make the Mill Creek into a vibrant crown jewel of our region.”



Steve Johns, The Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities' Board Chair, says, "Dave brings many strengths to the Mill Creek. What most impresses me are his deep networks - both regionally and nationally," said Steve Johns, Board Chair of the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities. "His vision to connect with these networks will quicken the pace of the recreation, flood mitigation and economic development projects we implement," added Johns.

Schmitt says, "Both Groundwork Cincinnati-Mill Creek and the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities have worked tirelessly for over 20 years to improve the health of the Mill Creek and the people who call the watershed home. I am deeply honored that these organizations are giving me the opportunity to work with their dedicated staffs, boards, volunteers, donors, and partners to continue and expand their many efforts. I am looking forward to working with the entire community to address the many challenges that remain."

Mr. Schmitt assumes leadership and day-to-day management of both organizations. He will also work with a joint team of board members to develop a reorganization plan whose purpose is to increase mutually beneficial collaboration and to potentially merge both organizations. This plan will be subject to the approval of the boards of both organizations.