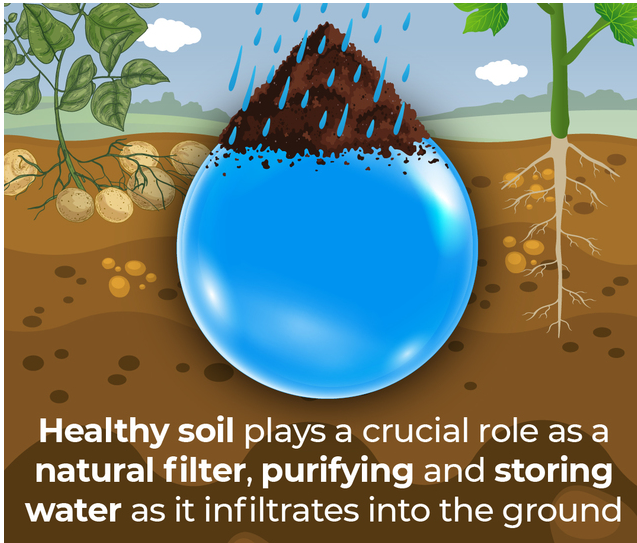




LICKING COUNTY

**SOIL & WATER**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**Healthy soil** plays a crucial role as a **natural filter, purifying and storing water** as it infiltrates into the ground



## World Soil Day

World Soil Day is December 5, 2023 (WSD) and its campaign aim is to raise awareness of the importance and relationship between soil and water in achieving sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

Sustainable soil management practices, such as minimum tillage, crop rotation, organic matter addition, and cover cropping, improve soil health, reduce erosion and pollution, and enhance water infiltration and storage. These practices also preserve soil biodiversity and improve fertility. To learn more click [here](#)!

## LANDSCAPE FOR LIFE™

Based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™

Would you like to learn more about how to manage your yard sustainably? Join in for a 4 class series called Landscape for Life™. This interactive learning series will cover soils, water & plant practices, sustainable materials, pollinators, and maintenance. Start planning now for your gardening plans next spring and harness the power of nature by creating gardens that work!

This free program is part of the Newark library's lifelong learning series, Empowered Minds.



**Dec 11th - 14th  
10:30AM - 12:30PM**

**Register today:  
[www.lickingcountylibrary.org](http://www.lickingcountylibrary.org)**



LICKING  
COUNTY  
LIBRARY



[Register Now!](#)

## Looking for Citizen Water Quality Monitors

Are you looking to be an ambassador of healthy waterways in your community? Consider joining our stream team. Stream Team is a Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program offered by Licking Soil & Water.

Through a 2-hour workshop volunteers will be educated on the status of our rivers in the county, the role citizen science can play as an early warning system, and the importance of watershed health. The workshop will include an instream assessment of habitat, biology, and chemical parameters. Our volunteers will leave with the tools to complete the tests and evaluations needed to determine the health of a waterway.

Team members will be given a Stream Team Kit upon completion of training with macroinvertebrate net, turbidity testing equipment, and chemical testing equipment. A list of all provided materials can be found at the bottom. Team members will then agree to adopt a stream



site for continued monitoring.

Those interested in becoming guardians of our water resources should contact Kyle Seitz at (740) 670-5330 or [KyleSeitz@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:KyleSeitz@LickingSWCD.com)

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## Farmland Preservation

Soil & Water receives funds from Clean Ohio to preserve farmland under the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). An agricultural easement is a voluntary and legally binding restriction placed on a farm. The easement limits the use of the land to predominantly agricultural activity. The land remains under private ownership and management and stays on the tax rolls under the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV). The farmland can be sold or passed along

as a gift to others at any time, but the restriction prohibiting non-agricultural development stays with the land.

The Licking Soil & Water Farmland Preservation Program:

- Has been preserving farmland since 2009
- Holds 29 Agriculture Easements totaling 4,158 acres, and
- Has brought in over \$5 million in Clean Ohio funds to Licking County

The initial application deadline is **Friday, January 12, 2024**. For additional information and the application contact Briana Hodgson, at 740.670.5330, [BrianaHodgson@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:BrianaHodgson@LickingSWCD.com)

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## AmeriCorps Positions

### Available

AmeriCorps members gain valuable service experience and have access to professional development and skill-building opportunities while also earning scholarship

dollars to be used toward education or student loan repayment. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 1 million AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Licking County Soil & Water is looking to fill two AmeriCorps positions!

#### **Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator**

- Assist with water quality education activities including youth programming in schools and community events.
- Prepare a monthly Buckeye Lake Watershed report for Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow Board meetings



- Coordinate Buckeye Lake Citizen Water Quality Testing Program including training the volunteer Lake Keepers to collect monthly water samples
- Support the grant application process and implementation of grant-funded projects in the watershed

### **Education and Outreach Specialist**

- Assist with outreach activities such as preparing displays, setting up/tearing down, and representing Soil & Water at community events.
- Assist with education activities including youth programming in schools and educator workshops.
- Provide support for Stormwater permit education and outreach activities, collecting data for Annual Report
- Participate in water quality monitoring activities such as field monitoring/data collection, data entry and analysis, and mapping.

**To apply or request more information, please e-mail the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, Emily Fouts, at [efouts@franklinswcd.org](mailto:efouts@franklinswcd.org) or call 614.486.9613.**

Job Descriptions!

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## **Board of Supervisors** **Election Results**



Congratulations to Kim Byce and Bill Goodman for being re-elected to the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors to serve a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2024!

As unpaid Public Officials, the Board members are responsible for conducting business within the scope of the laws and administrative rules that govern Soil & Water. Board members also help guide Soil & Water's mission with professionalism, efficiency, and effectiveness.

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## **Looking for Interested**



## Community Members to Serve as a Board Member

Unfortunately, our current Board of Supervisors member, Rodney Tornes, is moving out of the county, and we are searching for a community member to fill the rest of his term.

As unpaid Public Officials, the Board members are responsible for conducting business within the scope of the laws and administrative rules that govern LCSWCD. Board members also help guide Soil & Water's mission with professionalism, efficiency, and effectiveness. The Supervisors represent our county's soil conservation and water conservation needs in rural, suburban, and urban settings, on farmland, and in our backyards and public lands. They voluntarily work with community members and organizations to encourage wise use of our land and water.

Interested individuals should contact Kristy Hawthorne at 740.670.5330 or [ContactUs@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:ContactUs@LickingSWCD.com)

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## The Gift of Clean Water

This Holiday season, give the gift of clean water by being stormwater smart! Responsible stormwater management is always a priority, but it's even more apparent during the holidays with increased driving, cooking, and shopping.

**Driving:** If you're planning a long trip to see family or looking at Christmas lights make sure your car doesn't have oil leaks or damage. When washing your car, it's advised to use an automatic car wash to reduce water use and keep pollutants out of the storm drains.

**Cooking:** Holiday cooking is delicious but can be greasy. Don't put grease down the sink drain because it can harden and clog plumbing. Dispose of grease in the trash. Prevent food waste by properly storing leftovers in air-tight containers in the fridge. Remember that paper plates with food/grease spots can't be recycled.

**Shopping:** As buying and shopping increases, so do packing materials, boxes, and trash. Remember to secure trash set out for pickup, so easily blown items don't end up in our waterways. Recycling materials reduce the trash in our landfills. Paper boxes, cardboard, wrapping paper (non-metallic), holiday cards, envelopes, and gift bags can ALL be recycled.

Check out [Licking County Recycling](#) for updated recycling do's and don'ts.



## Newsletter!

Are you an educator looking for more resources? Then sign up for our newsletter specifically for educators! The newsletter is designed to keep you updated on workshops, programs, class loner kits, and other support we provide for natural resources education. If you'd like to learn more contact Deirdre Wise at 740.670.5330 or [DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com).



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## Important Dates

Dec 1: South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Annual Meeting  
Dec 7: Soil & Water Board Meeting  
Dec 11-14: Landscape for Life Workshops\*  
Dec 14: @ Homer Library: Tree Program  
Dec 25: Christmas Day- Office Closed  
Jan 1: New Year's Day- Office Closed  
Jan 12: Farmland Preservation Pre-Application Deadline  
Jan: Tree Sale goes live!

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## Opt-out of hard copies newsletters

Take a simple step and help us accomplish our mission. Save paper and receive our monthly newsletter via email only. If you are still on our mailing list and would like to opt-out, click [here](#) to remove your physical address, and go green!

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**[Visit our calendar for all upcoming events!](#)**

**[www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com)**



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