

Educator Newsletter

New Education Programs

Licking Soil and Water offers multiple education programs, all free of charge. We offer a variety of in-person education programs, where our staff comes out to teach your students, as well as several loaner kits that educators can check out to use in their own classrooms or educational settings. This year we have two new education programs that we would like to highlight: the erosion simulator and our pollinator program!



Erosion Simulator (pictured) - Students learn about the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition through a PowerPoint presentation and an interactive experiment. Students learn about the impacts that the forces of weathering, erosion, and decomposition have on soil health and aquatic life. The program ends with a hands-on experiment where students can see, first hand, the effect that ground cover, or the lack of it, has on erosion.

Pollinator Program - Students learn what a pollinator is and why pollinators are so important. We look at what factors are negatively affecting our pollinator populations and some actions that we can take to help protect our pollinators. Students can also learn about the life cycle of a butterfly by observing resin models of the butterfly's different life stages.

We would love your feedback as we continue to work on our list of programs! Please take a couple of minutes to fill out this quick survey. It will help us develop the types of programs you seek in your classroom or educational setting. The link to the survey can be found below.

For more information on our education programs, please visit the [Education Page](#) of our website or contact Deirdre Wetmore at DeirdreWetmore@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5333.

Take Our Survey



See us at the Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area!

Join Soil and Water and our partners at the Natural Resources Area of the Hartford Fair during the week of August 6th!

The beautiful 4-acre Natural Resources Area is located behind the horse arena and goat barn. Free family-friendly programs and contests will be offered throughout the week of the Hartford Fair. Some of the programs and contests include the Bug Mobile, the Skill-A-Thon, and the FFA Competition.

Bug Mobile - Sun. Aug. 6: OSU's Bug Mobile is a mobile zoo of insects! A visit to the Bug Mobile is a one-of-a-kind education experience where you can learn facts and dispel myths about insects. Some of the insects you may see include: the desert millipede, the Blue Death Feigning beetle, the Australian walking stick, and the Madagascar hissing cockroach.

Skill-A-Thon - Fri. Aug. 11: Participants take a digital test to gauge their knowledge of natural resource topics in the areas of wildlife, forestry, soil and water conservation, recycling, fish and fishing, and Ohio plants and flowers. Competitors are split into three age classes: Junior (10 years old and younger), Intermediate (11-14 years old), and Senior (ages 15-18). Winners from each category will receive a prize!

FFA Competition - Fri. Aug. 11: FFA teams from school districts around the county come together for a fun and friendly competition. Teams compete in four different competitions: quiz bowl test, canoe tug-of-war, recycled boat float, and a canoe relay race. Points are awarded based on place in each event. The team with the highest points overall will receive a prize!

The Natural Resource Area program schedule can be found below. For any questions about the Hartford Fair Natural Resource Area, please contact our office at Information@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5330.

Program schedule



Sun. Aug. 6 Licking Soil & Water-

- OSU Bug Mobile
- Soil & Water Make & take a Craft
- Velvet Ice Cream Eating Contest

Mon. Aug. 7 Licking County Recycling-

- Archery
- Paddle the Pond
- Recycling Make & take a Craft
- Sweets, Greens, & Wild Proteins Cooking Contest

Tues. Aug. 8 Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists-

- Paddle the Pond
- Archery
- Ohio Bird Sanctuary Program
- Fur Trappers Program

Wed. Aug. 9 Licking Park District-

- Open Fishing
- Ohio Nature Education Program
- Art in the Park
- The Canid Center Program

Thur. Aug. 10 The Dawes Arboretum-

- Fishing Contest
- Paddle the pond
- Archery
- Dawes: Saving Species Program
- Wildflower Walk Program

Fri. Aug. 11 FFA Challenge and the Natural Resources Skill-a-Thon

- BB Gun Range
- The Works make & take Craft



Volunteer for the Licking County River Round Up!

Encourage your high school students to volunteer for the 2023 River Round Up on September 9, 2023!

Every September, Licking Soil and Water hosts the Licking County River Round Up! This event brings out hundreds of volunteers to help clean up the Licking River and its tributaries and is a great opportunity for high school students to earn volunteer hours!

Each volunteer group meets at different locations along the tributaries of the Licking River to clean trash from different sections of the river. There are clean-up routes along the shore and on the water by kayak or canoe.

Registration is required for participation. To learn more about the River Round Up or to register yourself or your students for the River Round Up, please visit the [How to Help](#) page of our website. If you have any questions about the River Round Up, please feel free to contact our office at Information@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5330.



Conservation Mini-Grant Program

The Soil and Water Conservation Mini-Grant program is an excellent opportunity to help fund a conservation-based service learning project for your students.

In celebration of Soil and Water's 75th Anniversary, the Board established a Community Mini-Grant program in 2019. Each year, the program offers up to \$1000 to Licking County non-profits that demonstrate the need and ability to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects.

Last year, eight applications were received from Licking County non-profits, local entities, and schools for local conservation projects. Just over \$5000 was distributed to all eight organizations!

The Mini-Grant program is open to non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, local government entities, municipalities, community groups, and civic associations within Licking County. The deadline to apply for the 2023 Conservation Mini-Grant is September 29, 2023.

To learn more about Soil and Water's Mini-Grant program, please visit the [Conservation Mini-Grant](#) page of our website. To apply for a Conservation Mini-Grant, please visit the page [Conservation Mini-Grant Online Application](#) on our website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Britney Stuller at BritneyStuller@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5330.

Important Dates

Aug 6-12: Soil & Water at Hartford Fair in the Natural Resources Area

Aug 25: Downtown Newark Association STEM on the Square

Sep 4: Labor Day Office Closed

Sep 9: Licking River Round Up*

Sep 24: World Rivers Day

Sep 29: Conservation Mini-Grant Application Deadline

Oct 2: World Habitat Day

Oct 9: Columbus Day Office Closed

Oct 14: World Migratory Bird Day

* RSVP Required

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

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