

CONSERVATION NOTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District is currently seeking a conservation-minded individual to serve on its Board of Supervisors. This is the perfect opportunity for a dedicated leader in our community to have a lasting impact on natural resource conservation.

Board members play a vital role in guiding the mission of promoting the responsible use and protection of our natural resources through educating the community and inspiring action in everyday lives. In addition to setting the strategic direction for soil and water conservation efforts across the county, the Board provides supervision of the Executive Director, offers fiscal oversight, and lends technical expertise to key programs and initiatives.

If you have a passion for conservation and a commitment to public service,

we encourage you to consider applying. The deadline to submit a candidate information form is August 7, 2026.

Board Committee

Soil and Water is also seeking enthusiastic individuals to serve as members of our board committee groups:

Ag/Rural Committee

This committee will play a vital role in shaping the future of agriculture in Licking County by providing guidance, offering recommendations, and supporting the development of local agricultural programs and outreach.

Urban/Stormwater Committee

This committee will provide insight and guidance on improving stormwater education, internal program development, and regulatory strategies throughout the county. Its purpose is

to strengthen collaboration between public, private, and nonprofit sectors to better protect our water resources and support responsible development.

Education/Outreach Committee

This committee will help guide the development and enhancement of a variety of programs including classroom and community education, adult workshops, and volunteer opportunities. Members will help shape signature programs like River Roundup, Envirothon recruitment, and backyard conservation efforts.

For more information on how to get involved as either a Board Supervisor, or Board Committee member, please reach out to 740-670-5330, or visit lickingswcd.com/who-we-are/board.html.



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CONSERVATION MINI GRANT

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


2025 Projects:

- Village of Buckeye Lake - Native Planting
- Family of Faith Community Church - Community Garden
- Hopewell Commons Condominiums - Pollinator Pathway
- McKean Community Organization - Native Flower Beds
- Pataskala Public Library - Seed Library
- Second Presbyterian Church (Newark) - Pollinator Garden Plots

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 2026 Conservation Mini Grant will be September 25, 2026.

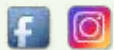
To learn more about Soil and Water's Mini-Grant program, or to apply for a Conservation Mini-Grant, please visit the lickingswcd.com/education/conservation-mini-grants-copy.html page of our website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Britney Miller at BritneyMiller@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5330. 





Promoting conservation of natural resources through local leadership, education, and technical assistance.

771 East Main Street
Suite 100
Newark, Ohio 43055-6971
740-670-5330



LickingSWCD.com

SOIL & WATER TEAM

- Alex Anhorn
- Brandon Bush
- Taylor Coy
- Kristy Hawthorne
- Briana Hodgson
- Harley Kirkingburg
- Megan Bottomley
- Britney Miller
- Danielle Nethers
- Linda Nicodemus
- Sophia Pajak
- Kyle Seitz
- Deirdre Wise

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

- Maddie Moss
- Percy Neff-Freil

BOARD MEMBERS

- Jeff Baker
- Jeff Carr
- Seth Dobbelaer
- Bill Goodman
- Ron Thompson

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

- Jeff Bates
- Diane Todd

USDA NRCS STAFF

- Joe Koehler
- Mike Puckett
- Bethani Chambers
- 740-670-5340
- www.nrcs.usda.gov

Office Hours: 8:00AM – 4:30PM
Monday – Friday
Closed Federal Holidays

The Soil & Water Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4 PM at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

What are you putting down your storm drains? Hopefully the answer to that question is ONLY RAIN!

Storm drains are essential for managing rainwater and preventing flooding in our communities. However, there is a common misconception that storm drains connect to the water treatment plants. In reality, storm drains are directly connected to local rivers, streams, and lakes. Whatever enters these drains, goes straight into our natural waterways, untreated.

Communities are encouraged to think about what enters their stormwater when it rains. Water always flows downhill, but it does not discriminate when picking up pollutants along the way. As stormwater moves across streets, parking lots, driveways, and lawns, it can carry litter, chemicals, pet waste, and other contaminants into nearby waterways. These pollutants can negatively impact wildlife, water quality, and recreational activities.

In Licking County, we have begun noticing an increase in certain pollutants entering our waterways. One pollutant in particular has been growing ever more popular. Fat, oil, and grease have been making their way into storm drains and creating substantial problems. Just like in your home plumbing, when fat, oil, and grease are poured down the drain, it solidifies and creates a stubborn blockage. The same thing happens in storm drains, which further traps debris and drainage flow. The oils and grease that do make it through the

drain cause problems in our waterways as well. Wildlife and water quality struggle significantly when a film or oil blocks sunlight from entering the water column. Make sure you are researching correct disposal methods of fats, oil, and grease to keep our water clean for our future generations.

The message “Only Rain Down the Drain” encourages communities to be more mindful of what enters stormwater systems. Simple actions can make a huge impact in the effectiveness of stormwater safety. Pick up litter, properly dispose of household cleaners and chemicals, and always pick up pet waste. Teaching others any environmental messaging you find interesting is more impactful than you can imagine!

Public awareness is a key component of successful stormwater management. Educational campaigns, storm drain markers, community cleanups, and school programs help reinforce the message that everyone has a role to play on protecting local waterways. Storm drains are not trash cans or disposal sites, they are direct pathways to rivers, streams, and lakes.

Protecting water quality starts with everyday choices. By remembering that only rain belongs in storm drains, individuals can help create cleaner rivers, healthier ecosystems, and more sustainable communities. Small actions taken by many people can have a lasting positive impact on the environment. 🌍



RIVER ROUND UP SPONSORS

Would you like to help support a cleaner environment? The River Roundup committee is looking for sponsors for the 2026 River Roundup. No matter how large or small, your donation can have an impact that extends beyond your lifetime. The yearly cleanup is fueled by sponsorships which allow it to

RENT OUR NO-TILL DRILL



Have a pasture or hay field to replant? Small soybean field? Other planting needs? Our no-till drills rent for only \$12 per acre.

**Call to schedule:
740-670-5330**

Great Plains 706NT Drill
Tractor Requirements – 85 hp
Planting Width – 7 feet
Total Width – 9 feet 10 inches

John Deere 1590 Grain Drill
Tractor Requirements – 55 hp
Planting Width – 10 feet
Total Width – 10 feet 6 inches

grow and develop. Want to sponsor or donate? Visit lickingswcd.com/how-to-help/river-round-up.html or reach out to BritneyMiller@LickingSWCD.com.

Sponsorship levels

Presenting - over \$5,000. Includes:

Logo on top of event marketing materials, t-shirt, social media, webpage and special recognition at the event. Recognized on event print marketing materials and radio ads. Invitation to table at post-celebration event. Plaque of recognition to display in your work space.

Platinum - up to \$5,000. Includes:

Logo on event t-shirt, social media, webpage and recognition at the event. Recognized on pre-event print marketing materials. Opportunity to

table at post-celebration event. Plaque of recognition to display in your work space.

Gold - up to \$2,500. Includes: Listed on event t-shirt, on social media, webpage and recognition at the event. Opportunity to table at post-celebration event. Certificate of recognition for your work space.

Silver - up to \$1,000. Includes: Listed on event t-shirt, on social media, webpage and recognition at the event. Opportunity to table at post-celebration event. Certificate of recognition for your work space.

Bronze - up to \$500. Includes: Listed on event t-shirt, on social media, webpage and recognition at the event. Opportunity to table at post-celebration event. 🌍

LINDA NICODEMUS RETIRING

It is with both great pleasure and sadness that we announce Linda Nicodemus, our Stormwater Manager, is retiring July 31. Although we will miss Linda's kindness and knowledge on stormwater conservation, we are wishing her nothing but happiness in her retirement journey.

Linda has only been with Soil and Water since 2022 but that does not even begin to cover her experience and passion. She is a certified National Stormwater Inspector, and certified FEMA CRS Coordinator.

Before joining the Soil and Water team, Linda worked for the Village of Hebron for over 20 years, and became their Stormwater Coordinator in 2010. In 2013, she was given additional tasks as Community Development Coordinator and Floodplain Administrator. She was asked to serve on the River Roundup Committee with Licking County Soil & Water. This is when she began to see the extreme issues and problems Licking County experiences in rivers and streams. Linda also serves as a Member of the Ohio Floodplain Managers Association Board.

In 2015, she was appointed as a Director of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District by the South Licking Watershed Conservancy Court, helping our community better maintain and protect our waterways. As a Director, she's a member of the Ohio Silver Jackets Team. This interagency team is dedicated to working collaboratively with the Federal, State and appropriate stakeholders in developing and implementing hazard mitigation actions that leverage available agency resources, which include funding, programs, and technical expertise.

Linda joined the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District in September of 2022 and has really made her mark. She was a key contributor to broadening the team's technical assistance and expertise in conservation best management practices to help Licking County with stormwater compliance as it continues to grow.

Linda's last day will be July 31, 2026. Join us to celebrate the impact Linda has had on stormwater conservation on July 17, 3:30–5:30 pm. Thank you! 🌍

RIVER ROUND UP REGISTRATION

It's that time of year again! River Roundup is quickly approaching on September 12th. Registration will be open from July 1st to September 7th. Sign up to volunteer at lickingswcd.com/how-to-help/river-round-up.html.

River Roundup is a county-wide cleanup event focused on the Licking River and its tributaries. Each year, community volunteers come together to remove trash, tires, scrap metal, and more from

our waterways: making a lasting impact on the health of our local environment. It takes hundreds of dedicated volunteers to make this event possible.

Last year we had 277 volunteers who helped to clean up 8,610 pounds of trash, 1,321 pounds of scrap metal, and 174 tires!

With cleanup sites spanning more than 30 miles of streams, there's a location near you where you can lend a hand.

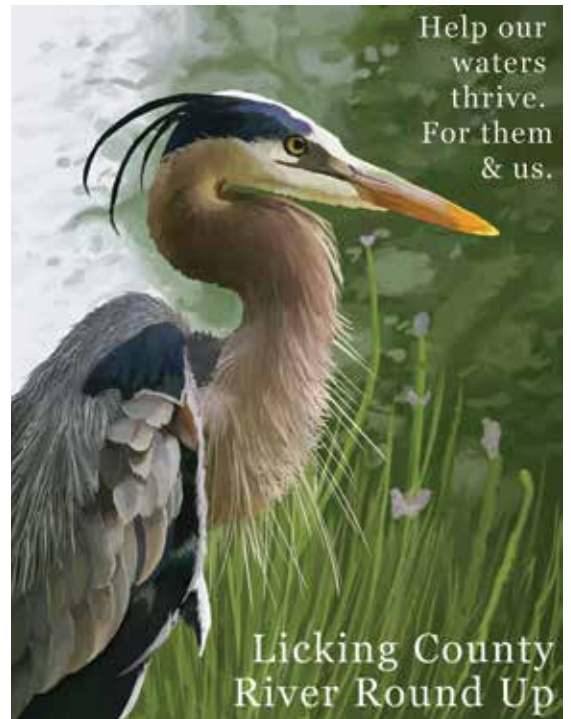
We rely on the incredible support of volunteers, partners, and sponsors to bring this event to life; thank you for helping us keep our rivers clean.

We hope to see you at one of our locations in the streams and rivers of Licking County on September 12th to make an impact! Reach out to Megan Bottomley at 740-670-5365 or MeganBottomley@LickingSWCD.com with any questions. 🌍

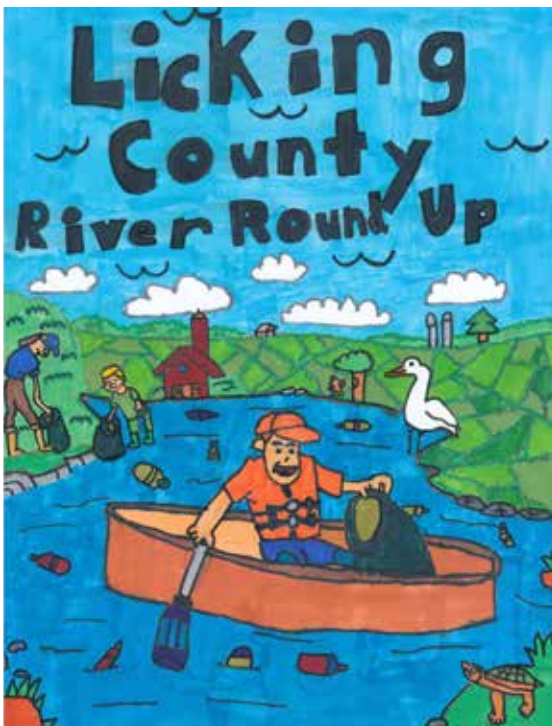
RIVER ROUND UP POSTER WINNERS

Congratulations to our 2026 River Roundup Poster Contest winners. The winners received \$100, and their schools received \$500 for science or art programming. The posters are used as advertising materials for the 2026 River Round

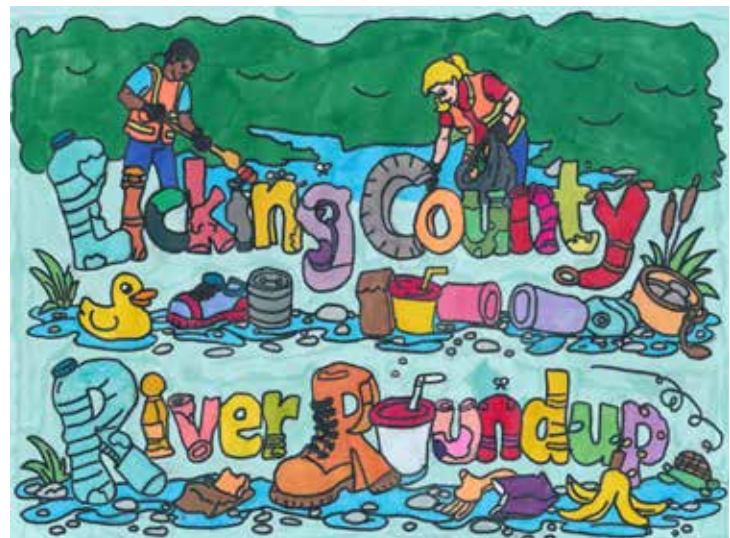
Up Event. Congratulations to Sam Haylett from Lima Ridge Elementary, Becca Haylett from Summit Station Intermediate, and Scarlett Woltz from Granville High School. 🌍



Scarlett Woltz
Granville High School



Sam Haylett
Lima Ridge Elementary



Becca Haylett
Summit Station Intermediate

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

Grazing management is a conservation plan that lays out elements such as resource inventory, forage, grazing systems, and risk management.

Through livestock rotation and grazing intensity management, you can achieve more profitable farming, healthier soils, and risk reduction.

This year we are offering our first cost share program for grazing. Funds will be made available for writing grazing management plans to give to producers. Cost Share payment will be \$10/acre up to 100 acres (\$1,000 total) per producer.

Funding is limited, so the program will be available on a first come first serve basis. Licking Soil and Water has the ability to fund 500 total acres. If you are interested, the process includes site visits and in-person meetings. Completed grazing plans are due by April 1, 2027.

We are partnering with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Perry and Muskingum to start a grazing council. This council will provide in-person meetings and field day events throughout the year. The locations of these will rotate between Licking, Perry, and Muskingum Counties. If you are a part of a grazing and/or livestock group and

interested in this council please contact TaylorCoy@LickingSWCD.com.

Grazing is a practice that we are hoping to provide more beneficial services toward in the future.

The Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District is here to help. Our staff can assist with questions related to grazing plans. Contact Taylor Coy, Ag Technician at TaylorCoy@LickingSWCD.com or come by our office early to take advantage of this planning window and set your operation up for a successful, conservation-minded grazing season. 🌍

AMERICORP RECRUITING

Launch your environmental career while making a real impact in Licking County!

Looking for an opportunity that goes beyond a typical first job? Spend a year protecting natural resources, educating your community, and gaining hands-on experience that will set you apart.

We're currently accepting applications for two full-time, one-year AmeriCorps positions:

- Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator
- Environmental Educator & Outreach Specialist

As an AmeriCorps member, you'll:

- Build valuable real-world experience in the environmental field
- Work alongside conservation professionals
- Make a lasting impact in our community
- Receive a bi-weekly living stipend
- Earn an Education Award upon successful completion of your service term

Whether you're a recent college graduate or someone passionate about conservation and environmental education, this is an incredible opportunity

to jumpstart your career while serving your community.

For more information go to LickingSWCD.com or call 740-670-5330. 🌍



WATKINS WARRIORS AT STATE ENVIROTHON

A big congratulations goes out to the Watkins Warriors Team! This team from Watkins High School placed second in the State of Ohio Envirothon Competition, which tests their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues.

This team has progressed from the Tri-County Envirothon, to the Area 3 Envirothon, and finally made it to the Ohio State Envirothon.





LICKING COUNTY STREAM TEAM

Join us for an evening filled with fun in the water! You will learn how to check water quality through chemical, biological, and physical characteristics.

You can start here to become a Stream Team member!



SOIL & WATER

Velvet Ice Cream

July 9, 2026

5:30-7:30 PM

11324 Mt Vernon Rd, Utica, OH 43080




2026 Hartford Fair Schedule

8/9 Sunday	8/10 Monday	8/11 Tuesday	8/12 Wednesday	8/13 Thursday	8/14 Friday
8:30am Church Service	11am-2pm OSU Bug Mobile	11am-12:30pm Make your own duck call	9am-12pm Fishing Competition	11am-12pm Nature Detectives w/ ONE	9am-4pm Licking County Library Bus
11am-2pm Rain Barrel Painting	11am-2pm Licking County Library Bus	11am-2pm Rain Barrel Painting	11am-12:30pm Make your own duck call	11am-2pm Rain Barrel Painting	11am-1pm Open Fishing
11am-3pm Open Fishing	12-2pm Bug Face Painting	12-1:30pm Rubber Duck Race	11am-2pm Open Fishing	11am-4pm BB Gun Range	11am-2pm Nature Skill-athon
12pm-2pm Midwest Falconry	12-3:30pm Paddling and Archery	12-3:30pm Paddling and Archery	11am-2pm Rain Barrel Painting	12-3:30pm Paddling and Archery	11-2pm Rain Barrel Painting
2:30-4pm Velvet Ice Cream Eating Contest	2-4pm Bug Craft with OCVN	1-3pm Beautiful Bees w/ ECOBA	12-1:30pm Rubber Duck Race	12am-4pm Licking Recycling Craft	11am-4pm BB Gun Range
		2:30-4pm Air Bee-N-Bees Craft	1-3pm Fish Fillet Demo	1-2pm Young Nature Artists w/ ONE	12-4pm FFA Challenge
			1-3pm Wetland Fun w/ Mad Scientist		2:30-4pm The Garden for All



Check out the Hartford Fair Facebook Page for more details!

IMPORTANT DATES

July 7	Educator Workshop - Project WET*
July 9	Stream Team Training @ Velvet Ice Cream*
July 14	Licking Soil and Water Board Meeting
July 16	Educator Workshop - Newark Water Infrastructure Tour*
July 18	Master Gardener Open House
July 26-28	OFSWCD Summer Supervisor School* - Office Closed
July 29	Educator Workshop - Citizen Science
Aug. 9-14	Visit us @ Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area

*Events require RSVP. Please visit our website at LickingSWCD.com, or call our office at 740-670-5330.

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Take a simple step to help us accomplish our mission. Save paper and receive our monthly newsletter via email. Visit LickingSWCD.com/who-we-are to sign up or contact 740-670-5330

Scan to sign up!

