

CONSERVATION NOTES

LickingSWCD.com

CHARTING RESILIENCE: RACCOON CREEK FLOOD STUDY GRANT

The South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (SLWCD), was established in 1968 to manage, conserve, and protect water resources, promote environmental sustainability, and mitigate flood risks within a designated watershed area. SLWCD received a 2024 Projects in Watershed grant from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to complete a Raccoon Creek Flood Study, offering essential insights into flood resilience for communities within the watershed.

The comprehensive study, conducted in collaboration with local stakeholders, identifies key areas vulnerable to flooding and offers actionable recommendations for flood risk management and mitigation. By analyzing historical data and employing advanced modeling techniques, the study will provide valuable guidance for improvements to lessen the extent of flooding and safeguarding critical infrastructure.



Alexandria Flood, April 2, 2024, Photo: Jerry Smith

This milestone achievement will provide valuable information to complete a Watershed Action Plan for the South Fork Licking River watershed. The official plan serves as the charter for the Conservancy District to implement flood damage reduction and watercourse protection projects.

The SLWCD consists of three appointed directors and holds bi-monthly meetings

on the fourth Tuesday of odd-numbered months at the Soil & Water office. Public meetings will be scheduled to inform the communities and gather input about flooding issues in the watershed.

For further information about the Raccoon Creek Flood Study, public meeting dates, and SLWCD's initiatives, please visit www.slwcd.org or call the Soil & Water office at 740-670-5330. 🌍

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H2OHIO COST SHARE PROGRAM AVAILABLE



There is an upcoming new program opening up to Licking County ag producers. The H2OHio program has been implemented in Northwest Ohio (Western Lake Erie Basin) for the last three years. This program will offer incentives for developing and implementing voluntary and comprehensive nutrient management plans. The goal is to prevent and slow Nitrogen and Phosphorus nutrient losses in the state's waters. This signup will be a first come first served until our acre limit is reached. If interested, visit the Ohio

Department of Agriculture's website for additional information or call Tayler Coy, Ag Technician at 740-670-5329 or email TaylerCoy@LickingSWCD.com.

Producers will be able to casually drop in to ask questions at our H2OHIO Upcoming Meetings:

April 23rd - Crossroads, Jacksontown, OH (11 am–3 pm)

May 14th - Ragamuffins, Alexandria, OH (7–10:30 am)

May 15th - The Cottage Restaurant, Newark, OH (7–11 am). 🌍

2024 Fish Sale order form is enclosed - Order Now!



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

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740-670-5340
www.nrcs.usda.gov

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

The Soil & Water Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

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

MEET OUR TEAM!

Tayler Coy is the new Ag Technician at Licking Soil & Water. Originally from Darke County, he grew up on a 60 acre farm outside of Greenville, OH that ran alongside the Greenville Creek where he spent most of his time fishing and just enjoying the outdoors.

Tayler graduated from the University of Toledo with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Geography and Planning. After graduation he was employed with an Ag Consultant from Ag Spectrum taking soil tests, Five Rivers Metroparks as a Horticulture Technician, and Paulding SWCD as a Nutrient Specialist. Tayler has years of knowledge in nutrient management, program coordination, pollution abatement, and agricultural practices.

Tayler will be assisting the Licking Soil & Water with the cover crop program, soil health initiatives, drill rentals, fish sale, H2Ohio, manure complaints, pond

concerns, farmland preservation, grass waterways, and any other agriculture needs.

For any information about agriculture, please reach out to Tayler by phone 740-670-5329 or TaylerCoy@LickingSWCD.com

Jenna Baer is Licking Soil & Water's AmeriCorps intern. She is from Columbus, Ohio and loved spending time on her Uncle's farm in Southern Ohio as a child. She obtained a BS in Animal Sciences from The Ohio State University with a minor in Agribusiness.

She adored living and working in Licking County during college and moved back in 2020 to be closer to nature. The rapidly expanding development in the area prompted her to learn about local conservation efforts and ultimately decide to assist in those efforts in an official capacity with Licking County Soil & Water. 🌱

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 the community.

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 \$1,000 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 \$5,000 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 2024 Conservation Mini-Grant is September 27, 2024.

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 Conservation Mini-Grant Online Application page of our website. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Britney Stuller at BritneyStuller@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5330. 🌱





Channel Catfish

4-5" fingerling- a sport and food fish; spawns are forage for bass; can grow up to 14"; easier to catch after a hard rain



Fathead Minnow

1-2" fingerling- a forage fish; can grow to 3"; readily consumed by predatory species



Hybrid Bluegill

2-4" fingerling- a forage and sport fish; known for their rapid growth to 10"; the primary prey of largemouth bass



Largemouth Bass

2-3" fingerling- primarily a sport fish; can grow over 25" and 14 lbs.; ravenous predatory feeder; will eat anything that fits in mouth



Japanese Koi

6-8"- Maximum length is 3 ft; do best in ponds with more than one Koi; get along well with other, non-aggressive fish; great for controlling duckweed and other aquatic weeds



Red Ear Shellcracker

2-4"- closely related to the bluegill; popular pan fish; can grow up to 11"; eats snails, crayfish and small fish



White Amur (Grass Carp)

8-14"- good for aquatic weed control



Bluegill

2-3" fingerling- a forage and sport fish; can grow to 10"; the primary prey of largemouth bass



Yellow Perch

2-3" fingerling- requires brush or weeds to lay eggs during the first part of April

Recommended Stocking Rates Number Per Pond Surface Acre

Fathead Minnow	1000
Bluegill	200
Hybrid Bluegill	100
Red Ear Shellcracker	100
Largemouth Bass	100
Channel Catfish	50-100
Yellow Perch	100
White Amur 20-40% Pond Cover: 5 Fish 40-60% Pond Cover: 10 Fish	

For more information on any of the items sold in this year's sale, you may visit our supplier's website:
Fender's Fish Hatchery
www.fendersfishhatchery.com

Pond Conditioner

Nature's Pond Conditioner by Koenders is a two in one bottle product.

Pond Management Book— The Common-Sense Guide Written by Steve Fender

Fish Sale Pick Up Information

Order forms are due by **April 29, 2024** with payment

Fish pick up: **May 7, 2024 from 2:00pm-3:30pm**

Location: **Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District**
771 E Main Street Newark, Ohio 43055

- Bring a 10-20-gallon garbage can or 5-gallon bucket
- Line container with non-deodorized plastic liner
- Fill half full of **your own pond water**

Approx. 10 gallons of water holds 100 fingerlings. Each White Amur and Koi requires 2 gallons of water and must be placed in a container with a lid or a liner that can be tied at the top. All fish guaranteed to be delivered in good condition, however, we cannot guarantee survival after being picked up.

2024 Fish Fingerling Order Form

Return this form with payments by April 29, 2024
Licking SWCD, 771 E Main Street Newark, Ohio 43050
Cash and Checks (payable to Licking SWCD) accepted
Order online at www.LickingSWCD.com
Descriptions and pick up information on back

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Species	Size	Quantity	Price	Item Total
Fathead Minnow	1-2"		\$9.00 / 100	
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"		\$1.00	
Red Ear Shellcracker	2-4"		\$1.00	
Largemouth Bass	2-3"		\$1.10	
Channel Catfish	4-5"		.95 ¢	
Bluegill	2-4"		\$1.00	
Japanese Koi	6-8"		\$13.00	
White Amur	8-14"		\$16.00	
Yellow Perch	2-3"		\$1.10	
Nature's Pond Cond	1 GAL		\$95.00	
Nature's Pond Cond	5 GAL		\$375.00	
Pond Management Book			\$20.00	
Optimal Fish Food	40# bag		\$55.00	
			Subtotal	\$
			*Tax 7.25%	\$
			Total Due	\$

*If you are tax exempt you must provide our office with your exemption form for our records.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

CASH _____ CHECK # _____ RECEIPT # _____

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

THE 2024 SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

Join Licking Soil & Water in helping restore Ohio's native vegetation by purchasing a native plant kit.

ORDER DEADLINE:
MAY 13th, 2024

Each Kit Contains 16 Native Plant Plugs

The Cost of Each Kit Is \$50

Kits Can Be Picked Up

May 23, 12 pm – 4 pm

May 24, 9 am – 4 pm

There are 3 kit types available with a variety of 4 plant species in each.

To place an order, please visit
www.LickingSWCD.com
or call 740-670-5330 for more information



POND CLINIC HOW TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY POND

April 29, 2024 from 5:00–7:00 pm

Fackler's Pond

2400 Montgomery Rd NE, Newark, OH 43055

Taylor Coy of Soil & Water will cover considerations for building a new pond, including soil types and how to determine the size based on your watershed. He will discuss common issues and complaints.

Steve Fender of Fender Fish Hatchery will address pond concerns, fish stocking, fish habitat, and methods to control aquatic vegetation. He will also provide insight on how to maintain a healthy pond.

Soil & Water will be taking orders for our Fish Sale until April 29th. Fish details and order form on pages 3 and 4.

A light dinner and refreshments will be served at 5:00 pm

Please RSVP at www.LickingSWCD.com or call 740-670-5330

BACKYARD CONSERVATION DAY

A Day of Education and Celebration!

May 11, 2024 - 8:30 am – 1 pm

771 East Main Street, Newark, OH 43055

*Join us for a day of hands-on activities
at Soil and Water's very own Land Lab.*

- Explore our rain gardens, wetland, and woodlot.
- Learn about invasive species & native plants.
- Create a custom button or make native seed bombs.
- Buy tree seedlings, rain barrels, wildflower seeds, and more!
- Talk to our natural resource professionals.
- Visit the Licking County Master Gardeners plant sale.
- Mini Rain Barrel Workshop- Learn how to build a rain barrel and how they help reduce runoff and conserve water.



WHAT IS A FLOODPLAIN

Do you live in a floodplain? A floodplain is a flat or nearly flat area adjacent to a river, stream, or other water body that experiences periodic flooding. Floodplains can vary in size and characteristics depending on factors such as topography, climate, and the size of the water body they border.

Floodplains play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity and providing various ecosystem services. One of their key functions is acting as natural buffers against flooding. During periods of high water flow, floodplains absorb excess water, reducing the risk of downstream flooding and minimizing damage to human settlements and infrastructure. This natural flood control not only

protects human communities but also helps maintain aquatic habitats and riparian zones.

Floodplains serve as vital habitats for numerous plant and animal species. The periodic flooding and nutrient-rich soils support diverse vegetation, including wetland plants, grasses, and trees. These habitats provide food, shelter, and breeding grounds for a wide range of wildlife, from fish and amphibians to birds and mammals. Additionally, floodplains serve as important migration corridors for many species, facilitating the movement of animals between different habitats.

Water quality is also affected by floodplains. Floodplains filter pollutants and

sediments from surface runoff before they reach rivers and streams. The dense vegetation and complex root systems of floodplain plants help stabilize soil, prevent erosion, and improve water infiltration, thus reducing sedimentation and nutrient loading in water bodies.

How to protect floodplains:

- Establishing riparian buffers: Maintaining or restoring natural vegetation along riverbanks and streams helps stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Seeding and maintaining vegetation along waterways prevents soil erosion and flooding. 🌱

EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

Soil & Water has partnered with Licking Park District and Dawes Arboretum to offer a series of workshops for educators. This workshop series is correlated to state and national education standards and focuses on utilizing different natural resource-based programs within the classroom and other educational settings.


The workshops offered include:

- Project WET/Healthy Water, Healthy People
 - A water-focused conservation education program for educators and their students. Participants receive a K-12 Project WET guide and *Healthy Water, Healthy People*, a grade 6 through university guide with activities to help raise awareness and understanding of water quality issues.
- Newark Water Infrastructure Tour
 - Participants learn how stormwater affects our watershed and what citizens, educators, and landowners can do to help by exploring water facilities in Newark.
- Project WILD/Aquatic WILD
 - A program to help students evaluate choices and make responsible decisions about wildlife and the environment: participants will receive the *Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide* as well as the *WILD Aquatic K-12 Activity Guide*. Participants are also eligible for WILD School Site grants upon certification.
- Project Learning Tree
 - This workshop covers topics in both the natural and built environments with hands-on activities centered around forests, wildlife, water, air, energy, planning, and culture. Participants receive a *Project Learning Tree* guide.
- Environmental Education for Early Childhood
 - Delve into early childhood activities centered around nature and natural resources. Participants will receive *Growing Up WILD, Project Learning Tree: Environmental*



Experiences for Early Childhood, and Getting Little Feet WET guides.

- Citizen Science
 - Learn how your students can experience project-based learning in any setting, outdoors or in the classroom.

Registration opens May 1, 2024 at 8:30 am. Pre-registration is required for all workshops. For more information on workshop dates and costs or to sign up for a workshop, please visit the [Education Page](#) of our website or contact Deirdre Wise at DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5333. 

CAMP CANOPY

Licking Soil & Water is again offering a scholarship for one Licking County high schooler to attend Camp Canopy!


Camp Canopy is a one-of-a-kind summer camp, located in Carrollton, Ohio, for students interested in forestry, wildlife, conservation, ecology, and other natural resource fields. It is a week-long, co-ed residential camp open to high school students entering their freshman year up through graduating seniors.

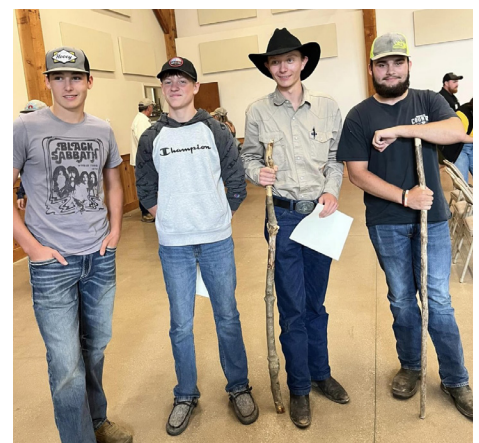
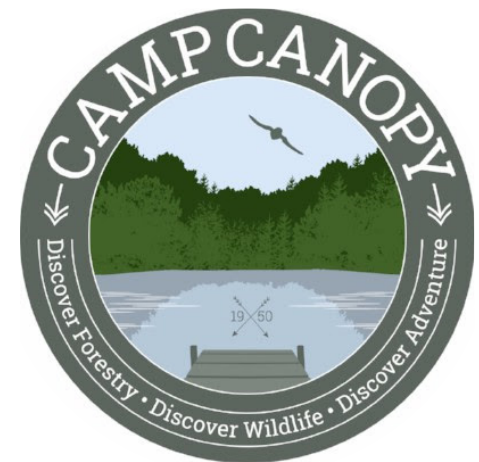
Supported by the Ohio Forestry Association, the camp offers a mixture of educational sessions with traditional camp activities and adventures. All educational sessions are taught by instructors from Ohio's top natural resource organizations and industry experts from the state's top educational institutions. Together, the OFA and Camp Canopy provide a curriculum that gives a comprehensive overview of the

forestry and wildlife disciplines through lessons that incorporate both adventure and education.

At the end of camp, campers can take a test to qualify for a scholarship to The Ohio State University's School of Environment and Natural Resources, Hocking College's School of Natural Resources, Zane State College, or a scholarship for the student to use at a natural resource school of their choice.

If you have any students who may be interested in attending Camp Canopy, encourage them to apply to the Licking Soil and Water Camp Canopy Scholarship! The Scholarship application can be found on the [Education Page](#) of our website.

If you have any questions about Camp Canopy or the scholarship process, please contact Deirdre Wise at DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5333. 



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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 to sign up or contact 740-670-5330.

Scan to sign up!



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Newark, Ohio 43055-6971

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Newark, Ohio
Permit No. 326

POLLINATOR PATHWAYS

Pollinator Pathways promotes native plant landscapes and works to connect public parks and private land to create a continuous corridor of pollinator-friendly habitat. Even the smallest green spaces, home gardens and median strips can be part of the Pollinator Pathways. Learn more: www.LickingPollinatorPathway.org.



Bradford Pear Bounty Program

Remove invasive Bradford Pear trees from your property and receive a pollinator-friendly native tree as a reward.

LickingPollinatorPathway.org/bounty



Pollinator Pathway of Licking County

IMPORTANT DATES

Apr. 27	@ Dawes Arboretum Arbor Day Festival
Apr. 27	@ Hebron Earth Day Celebration
Apr. 29	Pond Clinic* & Fish Sale Order Deadline
May 11	Backyard Conservation Day
May 13	Native Plant Sale Orders Due
May 14	Soil & Water Board Meeting
May 23	South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Meeting
May 23 & 24	Native Plant Sale Pick Up Days

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

Spring Dates to Celebrate

April 22 – Earth Day
April 26 – Arbor Day
April is Native Plant Month
May is Wetlands Month
May 20 – World Bee Day