

CONSERVATION NOTES

LickingSWCD.com

WHY ARE TREES IMPORTANT?

What would daily life look like without trees? Imagine no fresh fruit, murky water in every stream, and blistering sun on every hike. Trees work quietly every day to keep our air clean, our water clear, and our economy moving. From supporting agriculture to protecting waterways and strengthening communities, trees are not just beneficial—they are essential to everyday life.

Agriculture

Trees play a vital role in agriculture through cross-pollination. Cross-pollination occurs when pollen from one tree is transferred to a genetically different tree of the same species. This process increases genetic diversity and allows different varieties to produce higher-quality and more abundant yields. Simply put, more trees mean stronger, more productive crops.



In addition to pollination, trees provide natural windbreaks for crop fields. Dense leaves and needles reduce wind speed, helping retain topsoil and essential nutrients. Windbreaks also protect crops from damage and can even improve overall yield, making trees an invaluable tool for farmers.

Stormwater

Trees are a key component of riparian buffers, vegetated areas along waterways that provide numerous environmental benefits. Their extensive root systems help hold the landscape together, stabilizing soil and protecting water quality.

The conservation principle “Slow it Down, Soak it In” is clearly demonstrated by trees. Their roots absorb stormwater and filter out pollutants such as excess nutrients, pesticides, and bacteria before they can reach nearby waterways. By allowing

water to infiltrate the ground, trees also reduce runoff, lowering the risk and severity of flooding.

Along streambanks, tree roots prevent erosion that would otherwise cloud waterways with sediment. Murky water is harmful to aquatic life because it reduces visibility, limits oxygen levels, and blocks sunlight needed for healthy ecosystems.

Community

Trees provide an astonishing range of resources. Common products such as wood, paper, and cardboard—as well as maple syrup, chewing gum, and even medications—are derived from various tree species. When harvested responsibly, these resources support both the economy and long-term conservation efforts.

Beyond physical products, trees enhance community well-being. Parks and public spaces with trees are more inviting and encourage social interaction, helping people feel more connected to their surroundings and to one another. Trees also act as natural barriers, blocking noise and visually screening undesirable areas near busy roads or industrial sites.

Without conscious reflection, the true significance of trees often goes unnoticed. Lining streets, parks, and backyards, they fade into the background of daily life. Yet these familiar plants provide critical benefits that support communities, wildlife, and the planet as a whole. Recognizing and protecting trees is an investment in a healthier, more sustainable future. 🌍

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2026 Tree Sale order form is enclosed - Order Now!



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

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740-670-5330



LickingSWCD.com

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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 PM at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

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

STREAM TEAM OPEN HOUSE

Have you ever been interested in learning more about the health of Licking County water resources? You're in luck!

Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting an open house on Wednesday, April 1st, from 5:30–7 pm. Come out and learn about our Licking County Stream Team and the health of our streams and rivers with Watershed Specialist Kyle Seitz and Conservation Educator Deirdre Wise. There will be a short presentation at 6 pm, and staff will be available before and after for questions. A light meal will be provided. For our planning purposes, please RSVP using the



QR code to sign up or visit <https://lickingswcd.com/welcome.html/event/2026/04/02/stream-team-volunteer-open-house/553789>



NEW ANTI-ICING TECHNOLOGY

Imagine a winter storm is coming your way... what is your first instinct? Throw some salt down to prevent dangerous icy conditions.

Road salt is used to keep our roads, sidewalks, and driveways ice-free for safety and easier transportation in the cold months. However, an increasingly effective and environmentally responsible alternative is salt brine. Brine is a solution of salt and water that is also used for anti-icing methods.

Recently, Granville Township was the recipient of the H2Ohio Rivers Initiative Chloride Reduction Grant that was used to purchase a brine making machine. The difference between rock salt and brine, is that rock salt only begins to work after absorbing moisture and creating its own brine solution. By pre-mixing the salt and water it accelerates the ice melting process.

Brine uses one-quarter to one-fifth of the amount of rock salt compared to traditional de-icing methods! This

reduction helps minimize environmental impacts and protect local ecosystems.

Salt brine is a proactive and efficient solution for winter road maintenance. It allows crews to pre-treat roads well before a storm, helping to improve response times and reduce emergency overtime. Brine uses significantly less salt than traditional de-icing methods, minimizing environmental impact and reducing harm to local ecosystems.

Although this specific brine making process is designed for large scale application, you can adopt this approach at home! You can easily make a brine solution that is more environmentally friendly by mixing two pounds of rock salt in 1 gallon of hot water. The most effective application method is a pump sprayer at least 1 hour before the beginning of a storm.

Visit <https://lickingswcd.com/urban/> for more information on how to protect our stormwater!

2026 SEEDLING TREE SALE



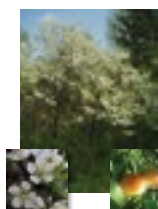
NATIVE SHRUBS, SMALL AND/OR FRUIT TREE SPECIES



American Hazelnut - *Corylus americana*

Mature Height: 10–16'
Mature Width: 8–13'
Growth Rate: F–M
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: M
Soil pH: N

edible nuts, autumn foliage, best in open areas



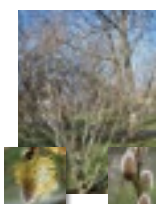
American Plum - *Prunus americana*

Mature Height: 15–25'
Mature Width: 15–25'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️
Soil Moisture: D–M
Soil pH: N

early summer, edible fruit, fragrant flowers, attracts birds



Get in touch
with your roots
and order your
trees today.



Pussy Willow - *Salix discolor*

Mature Height: 6–15'
Mature Width: 4–12'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️
Soil Moisture: W
Soil pH: N

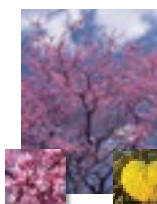
attracts pollinators and birds, soft fuzzy catkins



Red Mulberry - *Morus rubra*

Mature Height: 35–50'
Mature Width: 35–40'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: W
Soil pH: A, N

ornamental with berries for wildlife or used in jams



Redbud - *Ceris canadensis*

Mature Height: 20–30'
Mature Width: 25–35'
Growth Rate: M
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: M
Soil pH: A

adaptable with edible pink-magenta flowers, heart shaped leaves



Sweet-Shrub - *Calycanthus floridus*

Mature Height: 6–10'
Mature Width: 6–12'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: W
Soil pH: A

magnolia shaped fragrant flowers, deer resistant



Blueberry (bluecrop) - *Vaccinium corymbosum*

Mature: 6–8 years
Growth Rate: F–M
Light Required: ☀️
Soil Moisture: W
Soil pH: A

mid-season, fiery red fall foliage, soil wet but not standing



Strawberry (Albion) - *Fragaria x ananassa*

Mature: 1–3 years
Growth Rate: F–M
Light Required: ☀️
Soil Moisture: W
Soil pH: A

ever-bearing large, firm, sweet, and juicy red berries, needs moist, well drained soil

NATIVE LARGE BROADLEAF TREE SPECIES



Bitternut Hickory - *Carya cordiformis*

Mature Height: 50–80'
Mature Width: 30–50'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: W
Soil pH: N

host plant for many moth species, nuts are bitter and wildlife friendly



Black Walnut - *Juglans nigra*

Mature Height: 75–100'
Mature Width: 50–75'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: D, M, W
Soil pH: A, N

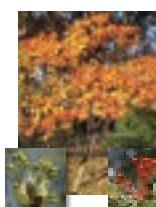
fragrant flowers, edible fruit with excellent shade, valued for timber



Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa*

Mature Height: 60–80'
Mature Width: 60–80'
Growth Rate: S
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: D, M, W
Soil pH: A

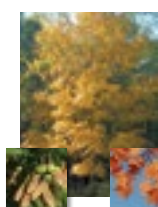
shade tree; drought resistant, fruit is an oval acorn



Sassafras - *Sassafras albidum*

Mature Height: 30–60'
Mature Width: 25–40'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: M
Soil pH: A

attractive tree hosts many butterfly species; aromatic bark



Sugar Maple - *Acer saccharum*

Mature Height: 40–80'
Mature Width: 30–60'
Growth Rate: M
Light Required: ☀️ 🌥️
Soil Moisture: M
Soil pH: A

valued for it's sap, and timber and vibrant autumn foliage



Swamp White Oak - *Quercus bicolor*

Mature Height: 50–60'
Mature Width: 50–60'
Growth Rate: M
Light Required: ☀️
Soil Moisture: M, W
Soil pH: A

one of the faster-growing oaks; gorgeous fall foliage, attracts wildlife

NATIVE CONIFER TREE SPECIES



Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Mature Height: 70–100'
Mature Width: 15–25'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️
Soil Moisture: M, W
Soil pH: N

fast-growing conifer with soft, feathery foliage, reintroduced to North America in 1940s



White Pine - *Pinus strobus*

Mature Height: 60–80'
Mature Width: 20–40'
Growth Rate: F
Light Required: ☀️
Soil Moisture: M
Soil pH: A, N

timber, windbreak, wildlife, soft long needles

Growth Rate:

F = fast, 12"+ per year,
M = medium 6–12" per year,
S = slow 2–6" per year

Light Required:

☀️ = sun
🌥️ = part sun/shade
☁️ = shade

Soil Moisture:

D = dry, M = medium, W = wet

Soil pH:

A = acidic (6.5 or less),
N = normal pH range (6.5–7.5),
B = basic/alkaline (7.5+)

2026 SEEDLING TREE ORDER FORM



Indicate quantity of saplings or packs in area provided for each variety					
Native Shrubs, Small Trees, and Fruit Bearing	Saplings (2'-4')	Pack of 5 (12"-18")	Pack of 25 (12"-18")	Total # of packets × price	
	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$45.00		
American Hazelnut					
American Plum					
Pussy Willow					
Red Mulberry					
Redbud					
Sweet-Shrub					
Blueberry		Sold as 2 yr rooted cuttings (fruit bearing 2 nd yr)			
Strawberry (pack of 10 plants)		Sold as 1 yr seedlings (fruit bearing 2 nd yr)			
Native Large Broadleaf Tree Species	Pack of 5 (12"-18")	Pack of 25 (6"-12")	Pack of 100 (6"-12")	Total # of packets × price	
	\$15.00	\$40.00	\$110.00		
Bitternut Hickory			N/A		
Black Walnut					
Bur Oak					
Sassafras			N/A		
Swamp White Oak					
Sugar Maple					
Native Large Conifer Tree Species	Pack of 5 (12"-18")	Pack of 25 (6"-12")	Pack of 100 (6"-12")	Total # of packets × price	
	\$15.00	\$35.00	\$80.00		
Dawn Redwood					
White Pine					
Additional Items	Cost	Total Qty × price	Additional Items	Cost	Total Qty × price
Wildflower Seeds	\$5.00		Pond Book	\$20.00	
Marking Flags	\$0.20		Dibble Bar	\$95.00	
Marking Paint	\$9.00		Rain Barrel	\$65.00	
Tree Tube / Stake	\$7.50		Geotextile	\$2.00/Lin. Ft.	
Watering Rings	\$12.50		SUB-TOTAL:		
Order Deadline: March 20, 2026 Pick Up: April 10, 2026				**Sales Tax (7.25%)	
** Starting 2022 State Auditor requires Soil & Water to collect tax. Non-profits and farms must provide tax exempt form with order.				Complete Total	

Licking SWCD reserves the right to make reasonable substitutions if our vendors' supplies are limited.

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Remit to: LCSWCD • 771 East Main St., Suite 100
Newark, OH 43055
Order online at www.LickingSWCD.com

For office use only

FREE TREES FOR STUDENTS

Licking Soil & Water is offering free trees to students through the generous support of our sponsors, thank you! Seedling trees are given to elementary and middle schools that serve Licking County students. We offer two options to schools to participate in this program that allows students to gain a sense of stewardship towards the land.

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

Option 1 is that each student at a participating school or class receives a staghorn sumac seedling to take home to plant. This option is ideal for schools where students have a place at home to plant a tree.

For option 2, you can request a certain number of trees to be planted on your school grounds. This option is perfect for enhancing an outdoor classroom and allows all students to have ownership and responsibility for the trees planted at their school.

The free trees will be available for pick up at our office on Friday, April 10th between 8:30 am and 7:00 pm.

The deadline to reserve your free trees is Friday, March 20th.

If you are interested in reserving free trees for your students or school, please contact Deirdre Wise at DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com. Visit <https://lickingswcd.com/education/free-trees-for-students.html> for more information.



ENTER THE 2026 RIVER ROUND UP POSTER CONTEST TO WIN CASH PRIZES

The 2026 River Round Up Poster Contest is open to all school-aged youth living in Licking County.

Posters should reflect water pollution awareness and encourage volunteer participation in the 31st Annual River Roundup. The deadline to submit posters is April 3rd, 2026.

Posters will be judged in three age categories: Elementary (K–4), Middle School (5–8), and High School (9–12). One winner will be chosen from each age category. Prizes will be awarded to students and their respective schools.

Poster Awards: \$100 to the student artists of the winning posters from each of the categories and \$500 to each student's school for advancing science and art programming. The winning poster artwork will be used in the electronic marketing images for the 2026 River Round Up event.

Details can be found at <https://lickingswcd.com/education/river-round-up-poster-contest.html> and on the Licking County River Round Up and Soil & Water social media pages.



The 6th Annual Backyard Conservation Day

Join us for a day of hands-on activities in conjunction with Master Gardener Volunteer plant sale!

May 9, 2026
8:30am-1pm

At:
771 E Main St,
Newark, OH 43055



- Explore Nature
- Make Mother's Day conservation crafts
- Discover at home conservation projects
- Talk to professionals about the environment
- Rain barrel painting and raffle
- Attend adult and youth education activities



CROP PLANTING PREP

That time of year is right around the corner—**planting season!** Late winter through early spring is a critical window for producers as they prepare for a successful growing season. This is when careful planning and preparation help to ensure operations run smoothly once fieldwork begins.

Over the next few months, producers will be making important decisions such as selecting crops, completing soil tests, working with agricultural consultants to determine fertilizer needs and application rates, and preparing

equipment to be field-ready for spring. Each step plays a key role in maximizing efficiency while protecting soil health and water quality.

With Ohio Springs becoming increasingly unpredictable, preparation is more important than ever. Heavy Spring rains—often delivering 2 to 5 inches or more in a single day—can quickly delay fieldwork, increase runoff, and cause soil and nutrient loss.

Planning ahead with soil and water conservation in mind can help reduce these risks. Practices such as proper nutrient management, cover crops,

reduced tillage, and field-specific planning can improve resilience, protect natural resources, and keep fields productive throughout the growing season.

The Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District is here to help. Our staff can assist with soil testing, nutrient management planning, and identifying practices that fit your operation. Contact Tayler Coy, Ag Technician at TaylerCoy@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 growing season. 🌱

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 16	Office Closed for Presidents' Day
Feb. 28 – Mar. 1	@STEMfest @The Works
Mar. 7	@Farmer Share Breakfast
Mar. 10	Soil & Water Board Meeting
Mar. 12	Forestry Field Day*
Mar. 20	Tree Sale and Free Trees for Students Order Deadline
Apr. 1	Stream Team Volunteer Open House*
Apr. 3	River Round Up Poster Contest Deadline
Apr. 10	Tree Sale and Free Trees for Students Pick-Up

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

FORESTRY FIELD DAY

March 12, 2026, 5:30–8:00 pm

- Explore the woods
- ID Native and Invasive Trees
- Learn about CAUV
- Woodland Management
- Timber Harvesting

Learn more: <https://lickingswcd.com/welcome.html/event/2026/03/12/forestry-field-day/553203>