



Celebrate 30 Years of our Annual River Cleanup with Us!

This year marks the 30th Annual Licking County River Roundup. This milestone event brings our community together to make a lasting impact on the health of the Licking River and its tributaries. Let's make this year's cleanup the biggest and best yet!

In 2024, our volunteers helped remove:

- 12,000 pounds of trash
- 124 tires
- 1,420 pounds of scrap metal

With 288 dedicated volunteers at 12 different locations, we made a tremendous difference in just one day. Imagine what we can accomplish this fall with even more helping hands!

☐ Save the Date:

River Roundup 2025 will take place on Saturday, September 6th

☐ Registration opens Friday, July 11th

Please help us celebrate 30 years of environmental stewardship by being part of the solution. Let's keep our waterways clean, healthy, and thriving—for today and generations to come!

Check out our [River Round Up Fundraiser Store!](#)



[Join our Meadows for Monarchs Planting Demonstration](#)

July 19th, 2025 | 9 a.m.

771 East Main Street, Newark, Ohio

Licking County Agricultural Service Building

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Licking Soil and Water Conservation District are joining together to host a Meadows for Monarchs prairie habitat site preparation demonstration. This event aims to

showcase the techniques and plans for transforming the grassy field north of the building into a productive wildflower meadow. Biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct a live demonstration of the restoration techniques being implemented across Ohio.

Along with the Meadows for Monarchs demonstration, the Master Gardener Volunteers are hosting their [Garden Bash - Learning Garden Open House](#) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Keep an Eye Out for a Crabby New Invasive](#)

The Dawes Arboretum hosted the Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (COPRISM) to discuss their research and management practices for hybrid crabapples (*Malus* sp.).

As a result of hybridization, the crabapple varies visually in leaf lobing, coloration, size, and even structure. The Dawes Arboretum staff have seen crabapples range from large woody trees to a ground cover that can stretch 3 feet wide. The persistent growth of these plants raises concerns about their potential to become invasive species.



Invasive species are a significant concern for both the conservation community and the general public. The impact on native species poses a serious risk to the local wildlife and ecosystems. Species like crabapples can outcompete native plants by stealing nutrients, sunlight, and other necessary resources. Typically, invasive plants produce fruits and seeds that are not beneficial to wildlife and cause dietary problems.

Field Trip to Learn about Solar Farms

The Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District Board and staff, the Licking County Planning Commission, and the Farm Bureau partnered with Madison County to visit large-scale solar farms in action. With two commercial solar developments soon to be built in the local area, gaining firsthand visual insight into the construction and operation was incredibly beneficial. By attending this tour, Licking County will be able to implement design, construction, and maintenance techniques that are currently used at the projects we visited.

The Fox Squirrel Solar Farm demonstrated the potential for ecological conservation efforts to coexist with solar farms. Kristy Furbee, a farmer from Madison County, presented her experience of farming sheep under her solar field. Licking Soil and Water was also joined by two members of the OSU Extension, who were very informative on agricultural techniques under panels, also known as agrivoltaics.

Learn more about solar developments in Madison County: [Madison County Soil and Water.](#)



Air Quality Alerts

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has a program that notifies the public when air pollution levels in Central Ohio reach dangerously high levels.

If interested, you can sign up for air quality alerts via text or email by clicking [HERE](#).

By visiting the [MORPC website](#), you can also see information on air quality data and see the slight improvement in air quality thanks to local efforts.

Some ways to play your part in **improving air quality** include;

- Driving less
- Be idle-free
- Burn wisely





Slow it Down and Soak it In

As natural areas become more developed, this leads to a higher portion of impervious surfaces. An impervious surface is an area that is unable to absorb water, and instead causes the stormwater to runoff to surrounding areas.

Water runoff can lead to soil erosion and the accumulation of debris in waterways. This is very detrimental to surface water because it leads to the discharge of harmful chemicals, trash, and soil into our rivers and streams, which in turn causes a decline in the health of the habitats, as well as contamination of drinking water.

Rain gardens are designed to slow down and soak up the water. The reservoir design enables water directed from impervious surfaces to collect in rain gardens, rather than running off into nearby ponds, rivers, and streams. The water is then able to permeate the soil slowly, and filter naturally through sediment and plant roots, before entering the groundwater beneath.

IMPORTANT DATES

July 17 Educator Workshop- Environmental Education Early Childhood*

**July 19 Meadow for Monarchs Site Demonstration with Master Garden
Volunteers Open House**

July 20 Soil & Water at Velvet Ice Cream Event

July 22 South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Meeting

July 28 World Nature Conservation Day

July 29 World Rain Day

July 31 Educator Workshop- Project WILD*

Aug 3-8 Visit us at the Hartford Fair Natrual Resources Area

Aug 12 Soil & Water Board Meeting

Sept 6 River Round Up*

*Events require an RSVP

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

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