



An 80-Year Legacy of Conservation and Charting the Path Forward

Celebrating 80 years is not just about acknowledging the past but also signifies a commitment to a sustainable future. The district's dedication to stewardship is a testament to its enduring mission to preserve and enhance the natural resources of Licking County for generations to come.

Legacy of Conservation: Celebrating 80 years of stewardship at Licking County Soil & Water marks a rich history of commitment to environmental conservation. The district has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable land and water management practices.

Community Impact: Over the eight decades, the Soil & Water Conservation District has had a significant impact on the local community. Through educational programs, outreach efforts, and partnerships, it has empowered residents and businesses to contribute to the well-being of the environment.

Continuous Innovation: The milestone underscores a tradition of continuous innovation in conservation methods. The district has adapted to changing environmental challenges, incorporating new technologies and strategies to address evolving issues related to soil health and water quality.

Partnerships and Collaboration: The long-standing presence of the district highlights successful collaborations with local stakeholders, government agencies, and community organizations. These partnerships have been crucial in implementing effective conservation measures and initiatives.

Moving forward, the leadership team is working on a strategic plan to help navigate the future of a rapidly developing watershed. We encourage you to join us for the Local Work Group meeting and the Open House celebration to learn more about how we are adapting to the changing times and let us know what is important to you!

Annual Local Work Group Meeting

- Locally-led conservation is based on the principle that local people make the best decisions for their own communities.

- The purpose of the LWG is to gather landowners to discuss local conservation practices and needs. Provide guidance to your NRCS and Soil & Water field offices concerning the implementation and delivery of conservation programs.

Friday, March 15, 2024 11:30am-2pm

Free Lunch !

At Ag Services Center, 771 East Main Street,
Newark, OH 43055

- In addition to these topics, Farm Bureau works on a diverse list of policy issues including trade, ag education, infrastructure, commodities and crop insurance. Farm Bureau believes that the best policies start at the grassroots level from people who live it every day.

Local Work Group RSVP

80th Anniversary Open House



This year Soil and Water is celebrating our 80th anniversary of serving Licking County! Since our official Charter Day was March 17th, 1944, we are having an Open House Celebration on March 15th from 4-6 pm at the Ag Service Center, the same day as the local workgroup! Join us as we reminisce and look forward to the next 80 years! Can't wait to see familiar faces at both events.

80th Anniversary Open House RSVP

Stream Team Training

Soil & Water's first stream team training of 2024 is April 2 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Karr Park in Pataskala! Licking County Stream Team is a Citizen Science Water Quality program focused on the health of our County's streams and rivers. Volunteers will be trained and equipped with the knowledge to identify common orders of macroinvertebrates, assess the health of the stream and surrounding habitat, and test for some common chemical parameters, including dissolved oxygen, nitrate, and phosphate.



Sign up!



2024 Native Seedling Tree Sale

Our native seedling tree sale closes this month! Order now, we are quickly approaching our order deadline, March 22. We have 16 species this year, including two berry bushes, raspberry and blueberry! Additional items include wildflower seed mix, tree tubes, tree watering rings, and more. Order yours today!

Volunteer with Us to Prep for Tree Sale!

We are preparing for our Tree Sale distribution on April 19th and our annual Backyard Conservation Day on May 11th. This is a great experience for service groups or students who need volunteer hours. Adventures abound; we have inside and outside needs, sitting and standing, and for a couple of hours or a whole day. All activities will be held at our office at 771 E Main St, Newark, OH 43055.

[Volunteer!](#)

Plant Native this Spring!

This warm weather has us all thinking about gardening extra early this year. Consider Native Plants this spring when planning your yard/garden! Native plants have been adapting to Ohio's climate for hundreds of years, making them more suitable for surviving our cold winters and dry summers. Through their evolution, they have co-evolved with wildlife which makes them a crucial source of food and habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, and many other organisms.

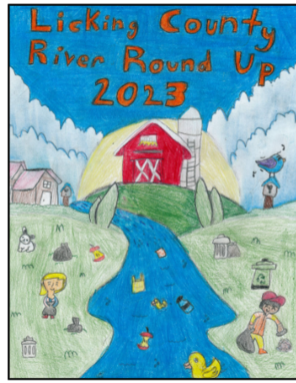


The root systems of native plants are considerably deeper than their non-native counterparts and thus create anchors and protect our soils from erosion during storm events. After it rains, deep roots help soak up excess water and nutrients and therefore protect our local waterways from flooding and pollution.

Reasons to Plant Native:

- They are more drought tolerant, so less watering!
- They are hardier than non-native species, requiring less fertilizer.
- Native plants provide food and habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.
- They have deeper root systems which helps to soak up excess rainfall and prevent erosion.
- They provide beautiful landscapes.

When planting this spring, plant native!



The River Round Up Poster Contest

The River Round Up Poster Contest is open to all school-aged youth living in and/or attending school in Licking County (public, private, and home school; K-12). Posters submitted must reflect water pollution awareness and encourage volunteer participation in the River Round Up.

- Poster Awards: \$100 is awarded to the student artists of the winning posters (one from each of the three categories, below) and \$500 to the student's school for advancing science and art programming.
- The winning poster artwork will be used as the primary electronic marketing images for the 2024 River Round Up event. Winning posters will be displayed at River Round Up Event sites on September 7, 2024, and in promotional displays around Licking County throughout the year.
- Categories: Elementary (K-4), Middle/Intermediate School (5-8), and High School (9-12). One winner will be chosen from each grade category.



Free Trees for Students

Sponsors

Consider becoming a free tree for students' sponsor! Free Trees for Students is a program Licking Soil & Water offers to elementary and middle school students. Students receive free seedling trees! We offer two options to schools to participate in this program that allows students to gain a sense of stewardship towards the land. A huge thank you to past and current sponsors who make this program possible. To become a sponsor check out our [website](#).

Spring Fish Sale

Want to stock your pond this fall? Need conditioner or fish food? Check out our sale!

1. Channel Catfish
2. Fathead Minnow
3. Bluegill
4. Hybrid Bluegill
5. Redear Shellcracker
6. Largemouth Bass
7. Channel Catfish
8. Yellow Perch
9. White Amur



Orders are due by April 29, 2024. Order online or download an order form [here](#).

Fish pick up: Tuesday, May 7, 2023, from 2:00-3:00 pm at the Soil & Water office.

Not sure which fish would work best in your pond? Contact Tayler Coy at 740-670-5330 or TaylerCoy@LickingSWCD.com

Important Dates

Mar. 15 Local Work Group and 80th Anniversary Open House

Mar. 22 Tree Sale Order Deadline

Mar. 23 Licking County Master Gardener Conference

Mar. 23 Farm Bureau Farmer Share Breakfast

Apr. 8 Solar Eclipse

Apr. 21 Tree Pickup

Apr. 22 Earth Day

Apr. 26 Arbor Day

Apr. 29 Pond Clinic

May. 11 Backyard Conservation Day

Visit our calendar for all upcoming events!

www.LickingSWCD.com

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