



CONSERVATION NOTES

LickingSWCD.com

JOIN OUR BOARD

Board Supervisors

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District is currently seeking a conservation-minded individual to serve on its Board of Supervisors. This is an exciting opportunity for a dedicated leader to help shape the future of natural resource conservation in our community.

Board members play a vital role in guiding the mission of promoting the responsible use and protection of our natural resources through education, technical assistance, and local leadership. 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.

Board Committee

Soil and Water is also seeking enthusiastic individuals to serve as members of our new 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.

Focus areas include long-term agricultural planning through the Ag for Tomorrow initiative, fostering partnerships with organizations such as Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association and OSU Extension, and supporting youth programming. Members will also promote awareness of cost-share opportunities, help identify needs within forestry education, and advise on agricultural pollution concerns and workshop development.

We are looking for individuals with diverse perspectives and backgrounds in agriculture, including producers, educators, youth representatives, and professionals involved in conservation, organic practices, agritourism, and forestry.

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.

The group will help shape stormwater-related educational efforts tailored to urban communities, municipal partners, contractors, developers, and realtors. Members will also advise on training programs such as municipal good housekeeping practices and

contractor certification events like the Clean Contractor Expo. Internally, the group will support the development of streamlined drainage protection processes and help identify equipment and resource needs.

We are looking for participants from a wide range of sectors including local governments, engineering and planning professionals, developers, utilities, and educators.

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 inspired by successful models like Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

The group will also contribute to the growth of the Stream Team program, guide outreach strategies such as social media and website improvements, and suggest newsletter content. Members will evaluate branding, help maximize use of Land Lab for education, and partner with organizations like Unite for Nature to implement shared programs.

We are seeking a diverse group of members representing several local community organizations. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved, make an impact, and help foster environmental stewardship across Licking County.

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](https://www.lickingswcd.com/who-we-are/board).

IN THIS ISSUE

- Join our Board
- Meet our New Team Members
- Conservation Mini Grant
- River Round Up Registration
- River Round Up Poster-Contest Winners
- River Round Up Sponsorships
- Stream Team Breakdown
- Poison Hemlock
- New AR Sandbox
- Our LinkedIn
- Helping Monarch Migration
- Important Dates



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

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740-670-5330



LickingSWCD.com

SOIL & WATER TEAM

Jenna Baer
Jaret Boettcher
Brandon Bush
Tayler Coy
Chris Crawford
Kristy Hawthorne
Briana Hodgson
Harley Kirkingburg
Megan Longwell
Britney Miller
Danielle Nethers
Linda Nichodemus
Kyle Seitz
Deirdre Wise

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Baker
Jeff Carr
Seth Dobbelaer
Bill Goodman
Ron Thompson

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Bates

USDA NRCS STAFF

Joe Koehler
Mike Puckett
Bethani Chambers
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 p.m. at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

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

MEET OUR TEAM

Chris Crawford is Licking Soil & Water's new Program Manager. He developed an early interest in natural resources and conservation through time spent outdoors, where he became curious about how nature works. Chris earned his B.S. in Natural Resource Management from The Ohio State University and has built a career around using data and analysis to improve how communities manage their natural resources.

He's especially passionate about helping others understand the importance of natural resource planning and enjoys connecting technical data to everyday impacts. Chris continues to work toward helping communities prepare for the future by improving programs, policies and connecting people to the outside world.

Contact him at 740-670-5330 or ChrisCrawford@LickingSWCD.com

Brandon Bush is Soil & Water's new Urban District Technician. Brandon was born and raised in Muskingum County, but moved to Licking County in 2019. He grew up playing sports and enjoys being outside and hanging around a fire with friends, or doing DIY projects around the house.

Brandon is a graduate of Muskingum University where he earned a B.S. in Environmental Science. After graduation Brandon spent 7 years in the asbestos industry working for a private environmental consulting firm.

Brandon will support urbanized communities in meeting stormwater requirements, conduct erosion and sediment control inspections on construction sites, assist landowners with land use questions and concerns, and collaborate with various committees and partner organizations.

Contact him at 740-670-5355 or BrandonBush@LickingSWCD.com

Megan Longwell is the new Stormwater Educator and Outreach Coordinator. Megan was born and raised in Central Ohio and grew up doing all things outdoors. She was always found either outside exploring the local wildlife, or doing some random craft she found around the house.

She attended Otterbein University where she earned a B.S. in Environmental Science and Biology, with minors in Sustainability and Earth Science. During college, Megan had internships with August Mack Environmental, Mad Scientist Associates, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. These allowed her to gain an abundance of knowledge in the science field that will be greatly beneficial in stormwater and conservation topics.

Megan will be coordinating our social media, newsletter, and community outreach. She'll assist in stormwater and educational programming and coordinating community outreach initiatives.

Contact her at 740-670-5365 or MeganLongwell@LickingSWCD.com.

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.

Soil and Water established a Community Mini-Grant program in 2019. Each year, Licking County non-profit organizations have the opportunity to receive up to \$1,000. This is given to allow on-the-ground conservation projects to become a reality for local groups.

Last year, six applications were received from non-profits, local government entities, and/or schools for local conservation projects. \$4,150.00 were distributed to the selected organizations.

The Mini-Grant program is open to non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, local government entities, municipalities,
continued on page 3

CONSERVATION MINI-GRANT

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community groups, and civic associations within Licking County. The deadline to apply for the 2025 Conservation Mini Grant is September 26.

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. 🌍

RIVER ROUNDUP REGISTRATION

It's that time of year again! River Roundup is quickly approaching on September 6th. Registration will be open from July 11th to September 2nd. 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.

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

6th to make an impact! Reach out to Chris Crawford at 740-670-5330 or ChrisCrawford@LickingSWCD.com with any questions. 🌍

RIVER ROUNDUP POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our 2025 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 2025 River Roundup Event. Congratulations to Isaac Haylett (1st grade) from Lima Ridge Elementary, Eva Haylett (5th grade) from Summit Station Intermediate, and

Lillian Sotkovsky (10th grade) from Newark High School. 🌍



Isaac Haylett, 1st grade,
Lima Ridge Elementary



Eva Haylett, 5th grade,
Summit Station Intermediate



Lillian Sotkovsky, 10th grade
Newark High School

RIVER ROUNDUP SPONSORSHIP

Would you like to help support a cleaner environment? Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District and River Roundup committee are looking for sponsors for the River Roundup. No matter how large or small, your donation can have an impact that extends beyond your lifetime. Want to sponsor or donate? Visit LickingSWCD.com/how-to-help/river-round-up.html or reach out to ChrisCrawford@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 celebration lunch for up to 10 people. 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. Invitation to celebration lunch for up to 6 people. 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. Invitation to celebration lunch for up to 4 people. 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. Invitation to celebration lunch for up to 2 people. 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. Invitation to celebration lunch for up to 1 person.

2024 STREAM TEAM BREAKDOWN

Licking County is overflowing with water resources. From lakes, ponds, and wetlands to the miles of streams and rivers, one thing all bodies of water need to support life is proper habitat. Habitat is essential for aquatic populations to grow, feed, and flourish.

The most common threat to high-quality habitat in Ohio is land use change. This includes impacts from riparian clearing, siltation, and channelization. By continuing to monitor these changing habitats, we can help ensure that wildlife and the natural landscape are conserved.

Factors such as substrate, flow, and water quality, among others, are assessed and scored using a metric called the Quality Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI). This tool is used throughout Ohio to measure how suitable a habitat is for fish populations. The Licking County Stream Team uses a variation of this metric to evaluate the health of our local waterways.

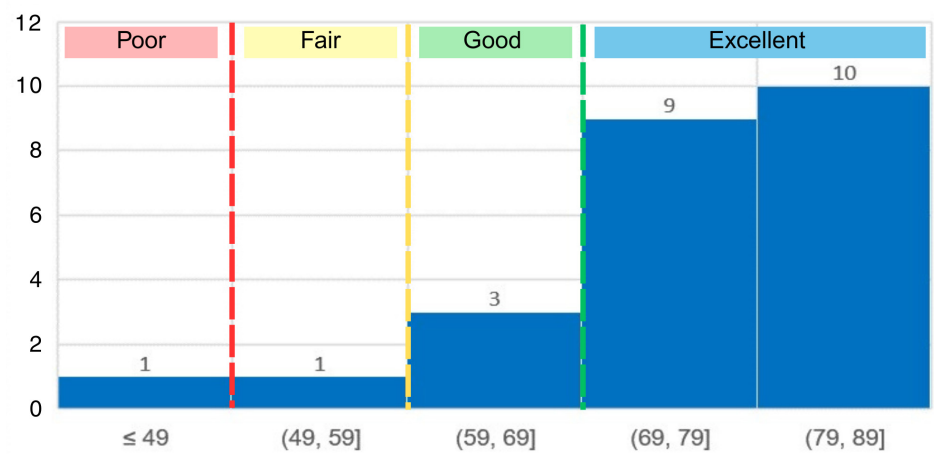
The graph displays habitat quality scores in 2024, ranging from “poor” to “excellent.” About 92 percent of the habitats scored above the threshold for a “good” rating. Even more encouraging, nearly 80 percent were rated as

“excellent.” These results show that the rivers and streams in Licking County are in great condition.

Protecting stream health means minimizing erosion whenever possible. Deep-rooted vegetation can help reduce soil loss in areas with mild stream bank erosion, although more severe erosion may require additional strategies. Many effective solutions are available to protect both your land and the stream.

For more information about stream habitat or stream bank erosion, contact Kyle Seitz at KyleSeitz@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5330.

2024 Habitat Scores



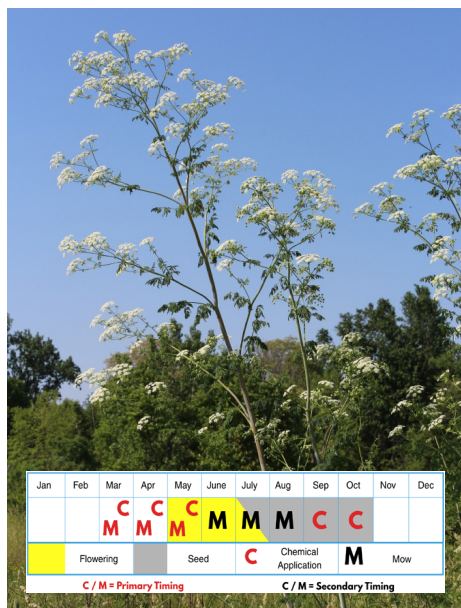
NO FISH SALE

Sadly, due to supplier issues, the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District will not be conducting a Fall 2025 fish sale.

INVASIVE CONTROL GUIDE

Poison Hemlock

Keep an eye out for poison hemlock. This invasive and nuisance plant can be seen growing all throughout the right-of-way between roads and property encroachment. The sap of this plant is highly toxic if ingested and can cause skin to blister upon contact. Use extreme caution if you encounter it.



This broadleaf biennial weed can grow a single stem upright 3–8' tall. The white flower heads branch off creating an umbrella shape. The flowering timeframe is early spring to mid-summer. During spring and fall poison hemlock can be found as low-growing reseters.

Leaf: Fern-like, green, glossy, and deep pointed lobes

Flower: White, umbrella shape, clustered

Stem: hollow, smooth, purple spots

Seed: yellowish green, round with vertical ridges. Seeds tend to fall near the parent plant.

Control instructions

Mow spring to early summer to reduce seed production. Chemical control should be done in spring to early summer before bloom. Fall application can also be done on young plants. Clean all equipment of seeds to prevent spread.

Thank you to Fairfield County Soil & Water for the information and OSU CFAES for the images.

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

AUGMENTED REALITY SANDBOX

With a generous donation from Amazon Web Services, Licking County Soil &

Water was recently able to purchase an Augmented Reality (AR) Sandbox! An AR Sandbox is a 3D, interactive educational tool that can help users understand many different Earth Science subjects including (but not limited to) geography, topography, erosion, mapping, landforms, and watersheds.

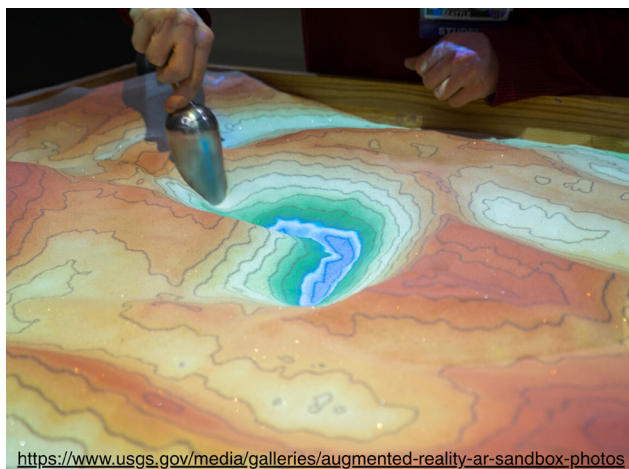
The AR Sandbox is an interactive sandbox that consists of a sand table, a scanner, a computer, and a projector. The scanner detects the height and depth of the sand in real time as it is moved by participants. The computer calculates the appropriate projection which is then displayed on the sand as topographical lines and colors on the contours of the sand below. As participants move the

sand, the topographical lines and colors change instantaneously to reflect the new contours of the sand. Participants can also simulate rain, which shows how water flows over land masses and within watersheds.

The AR Sandbox will soon be available to schedule for educational programs and events!

Are you interested in scheduling the AR Sandbox in your educational space or at your next indoor event? The AR Sandbox can be set up in an indoor location with access to electricity. Because the AR Sandbox takes a significant amount of time to move and set

up, we will only be scheduling at events for at least 4 hours with the opportunity to interact with at least 100 participants. To schedule a program or event with the AR Sandbox, please contact Deirdre Wise at DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com or 740-670-5333.



Hartford Fair Schedule



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am Church Service 11am-3pm Try Fishing 1pm & 3pm Ohio Nature Education ★ 3-3:30pm 4H Band Concert 4-5pm Velvet Ice Cream Eating Contest All Day Make and Take Craft	11am-1pm Face painting / Make and Take Craft 12-3:30pm Paddling and Archery 1pm-2pm Columbus Zoo ★	12-3:30am Paddling and Archery 12-1pm Ohio Falconry 3-4pm ★ Ohio Falconry All Day Make and Take Craft	9am-12pm Fishing Contest 11am-3:30pm Try Fishing 11am-2pm OSU Bug Mobile ★ 12-1:30pm Fish Fillet Demo	11am-4pm BB Gun Range ★ 11am-4pm Make and Take Craft 12-3:30pm Paddling and Archery 1-2pm (TBD) Newark Earthworks ★	10:30a-2:30p Licking County Library Bus ★ 11am-1pm Try Fishing 11am-3:30pm Make and Take Craft 11am-4pm BB Gun Range ★ 11am-2pm Skill-a-thon Competition 3pm FFA Challenge

= Sponsored by



HELPING MONARCH MIGRATION

Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District has partnered with Pollinator Pathways and Partners of Fish and Wildlife to create a Meadow for Monarchs field at our office. The goal is to create small

pollinator fields for monarch butterflies and other pollinators to use during their travel.

Check out Lickingpollinatorpathway.org/meadows for more information about the program.



IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 3-9	Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area Programs
Aug. 12	Soil & Water Board Meeting
Sep. 6	River Roundup*
Sep. 9	Soil & Water Board Meeting
Sep. 16-18	Farm Science Review*
Sep. 28	River Roundup 30th Anniversary Celebration
Oct. 14	Annual Banquet and Board Meeting*

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

LINKED IN

Check out Licking County Soil & Water's new LinkedIn profile.
[LinkedIn.com/company/licking-county-soil-water/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/licking-county-soil-water/)