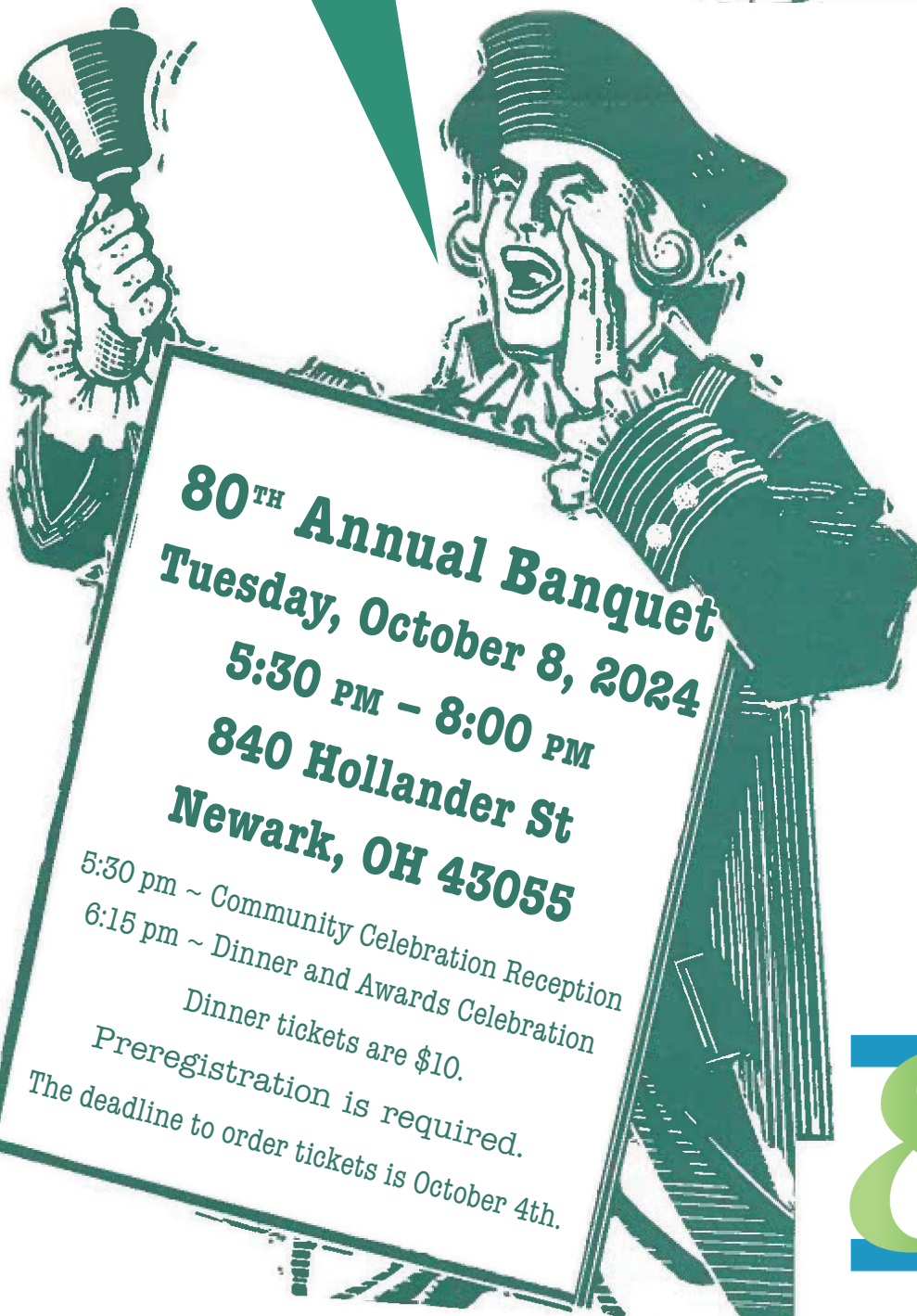
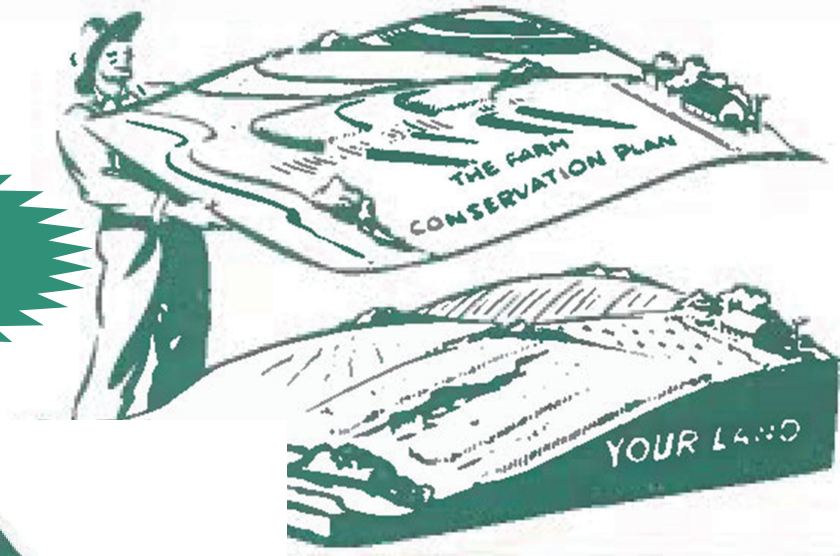




October 2024

NEWSLETTER

80TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



IN THIS ISSUE

- 80 Years of Conservation
- Annual Banquet
- Board of Supervisors Election
- How to Cast your Vote
- Stormwater Awareness Week
- Leave the Leaves
- Milkweed Pod Collection
- Local Food Council Survey
- River Round Up
- Important Dates

80TH Annual Banquet
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
840 Hollander St
Newark, OH 43055

5:30 pm ~ Community Celebration Reception
6:15 pm ~ Dinner and Awards Celebration

Dinner tickets are \$10.

Preregistration is required.

The deadline to order tickets is October 4th.





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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Joe Jarvis
Harley Kirkingburg
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ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Baker
Jeff Bates
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USDA NRCS STAFF

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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.

80TH CELEBRATION

Eighty years of news and eighty years of change! Notice the newsletter's new look? Feeling nostalgic? This 80th anniversary edition celebrates and honors all the conservation efforts from 1944 to 2024! The style change reflects Soil & Water newsletters from the 60s and 70s. Enjoy the throwback and join us at the 80th banquet for anniversary goodies and a trip down memory lane.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SOIL & WATER HISTORY

1930–1940s: Founding and Early Years

In 1943, 75 Licking County landowners petitioned the state to form a local conservation district, which was approved due to strong community support. The Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was established as a political subdivision of Ohio, with its first Board of Supervisors including E.T. Denman, J.F. Morrison, Clayton Oyler, George Smith, and H. Lee Williams.

1950–1960s: Growth and Development

By the 1950s, Licking County's population had doubled to 120,000, prompting the Board to hire staff to meet growing conservation needs. They assisted landowners with contour strips, farm ponds, and wildlife plantings. By 1966, all Ohio counties had conservation districts. However, coordination improved in 1969 when Ohio Senate Bill 160 integrated them under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, forming the Division of Soil and Water Districts. This period saw a rise in conservation education, with popular field days covering farm plans and conservation tours.

The 1970s introduced no-till farming, reducing labor and fuel costs. With rising pollution and the formation of the EPA in 1970, the focus shifted from just soil to include water quality. The Clean Water Act of 1972 prompted Licking SWCD to address non-point source pollution and broaden its outreach.



1970–1990s: Legislative Impact and Expansion

Significant legislative changes marked the 1970s. While the Clean Water Act initially targeted industrial and municipal pollution, Licking SWCD prepared for non-point source issues from agriculture and construction. Ohio Senate Bill 305 in 1971 assigned conservation districts responsibilities for managing agricultural and urban pollution. The Agricultural Nonpoint Pollution Abatement Program aimed to reduce agricultural erosion, chemical runoff, and waste, while the Urban Sediment Pollution Abatement Program addressed pollution control versus construction industry concerns.

In 1975, Licking SWCD worked on a comprehensive Soil Survey of Licking County, published in 1985. The 1985 Farm Bill introduced several conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The 1987 Clean Water Act amendments mandated stormwater management and created the 319 fund for non-point source pollution control, allowing Licking SWCD to offer free soil tests and educational programs.

By the end of the 1990s, Licking SWCD's staff had expanded from two to six members, led by District Program Administrator Jim Kiracofe.

21st Century: Modern Initiatives and Partnerships

In 2001, Licking SWCD addressed severe streambank erosion along the North Fork Licking River, completing the St. Louisville project by 2005 with substantial community and grant

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80TH ANNUAL BANQUET OCTOBER 8, 2024

**GROVE BY THE RIVER,
840 HOLLANDER STREET, NEWARK, OH**



Join us for a dinner and presentation celebrating
the community's conservation efforts!

5:30 - 6:30 pm

- Reception

- Enjoy complimentary appetizers and cash bar.

- Board of Supervisors Election

- Every Licking County landowner can vote.

6:30 – 8:00 pm

-Dinner and Awards

- Registration required.
- Buffet Dinner tickets are \$10.

Candidate bios and voting information
available at www.lickingswcd.com

**CELEBRATE OUR 80TH
ANNIVERSARY AND
GROOVE THROUGH THE
DECADES!**



Register online at
www.LickingSWCD.com

GET OUT AND VOTE!

2024 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District has a five-member Board of Supervisors elected by landowners and residents of Licking County. As unpaid Public Officials, the Board members are responsible for conducting business within the scope of the laws and administrative rules that govern LCSWCD. Board members also help guide the Soil & Water mission with professionalism, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2025.

MEET THE CANDIDATES:

Each candidate provided their thoughts on why the Soil & Water mission was meaningful and explained what they saw as the biggest natural resource challenges facing Licking County.

Seth Dobbelaer:

Current member of the Licking County Soil & Water Board and has served two years as the Board Chair. Board of Directors Apple marketing Program representing Southwestern Ohio. Former a vendor advisory committee member for the Canal Market District. Seth serves on the Advisory Board at Buckeye Valley YMCA and is a Development Council member at Licking Memorial Health Systems.


1. Cover crop accessibility - increase local cost share opportunities for growers
2. Commercial development - ensure that development is done in a sustainable way that keeps the conservation of our land and natural resources front of mind.

Ron Thompson:

Current member of the Licking County Soil & Water Board and for the past six years. He served as the Chairman for three years. Ron has a conservation plan for his farm, has participated in the MWCD Cover Crop Program, and his farm is enrolled in the H2Ohio program. He is an Elder, Trustee Chairman, past board chair, and past Sunday School Teacher at Central Christian Church in Newark. A lifelong member of the OSU Alumni Association, a member of the Army ROTC and Stadium Dorm Alumni. A 50 year member of the Hartford Fair Board and past president. A member and past president of the Licking County Agrarians. As well, as a member of the Association of Career and Technical Educators.

1. To continue a very well run plan for commercial and urban development in our county. During the last 6 years the board has completely upgraded the district personnel to meet the growing needs, particularly in western Licking County. As a board member I worked

to help make that happen and we have a lot more to do.

2. Continue to implement H2Ohio in the county. The district has started the process, but it is just the beginning for the county. This is a vital program for the agriculture producers in Licking County.
3. Continue an excellently run program to monitor the effects on the land, environment, drainage, water and wildlife with the development in the county, particularly the western portion. Ron Thompson as a board member will work with the Soil & Water board, the county commissioners and other agencies to provide the resources to safeguard the environment. 


80TH CELEBRATION

—continued from page 2

support. The Farmland Preservation program, launched in the early 2000s, resulted in over 30 easements covering more than 3,100 acres. In 2013, Licking SWCD partnered with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to offer cost-share programs for cover crops.

The SWCD also joined the county's Technical Review Committee to protect land and water during development and began managing a collaborative stormwater permit to reduce urban pollution. Local leadership has been vital, with supervisors participating in broader conservation efforts. Notable projects include the Natural Resources Area at the Hartford Fair and the River Round Up cleanup event.

Looking Forward to Another 80 Years

As we celebrate our 80th birthday, we remain committed to adding value to our community while staying true to our mission. Wise use of land and water today is an investment in future generations. Thank you for your support over these 80 years, and here's to another 80! 

Sources include: Ohio Department of Agriculture Licking County Records and Archives


HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE

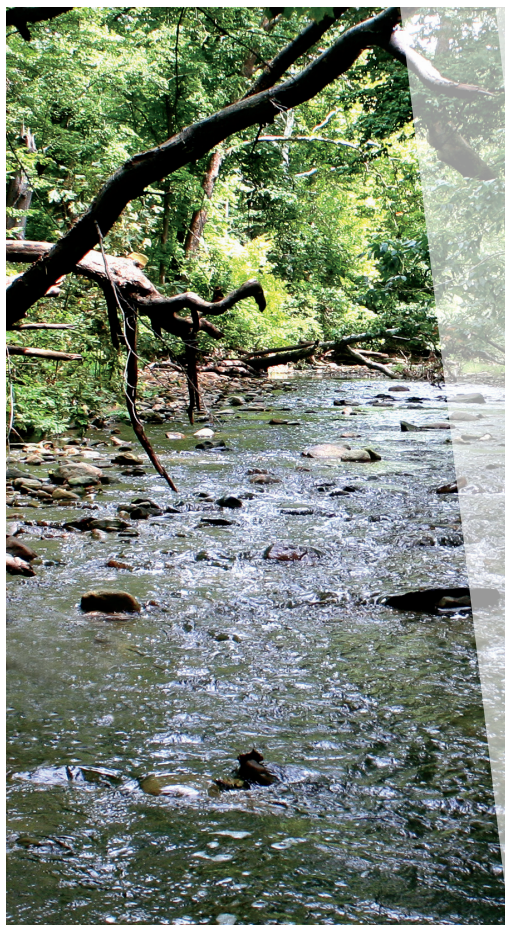
Individuals who own or occupy land within the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisors.

Cast a ballot:

1. At the Soil & Water office from October 1, 2024 until October 31, 2024 during normal business hours; or
2. Annual Banquet Voting:
Grove by the River
October 8th, 2024 5:30pm–6:30pm

3. Voting absentee
From October 2, 2022 until October 25, 2022, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot by:
Mail: 771 East Main Street, Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055,
Calling 740-670-5330, or
Email Britneystuller@LickingSWCD.com.

Absentee ballots must be received in the SWCD office by October 25, 2024. 



OHIO STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK

October 1st - 7th

Clean Streams Start With You!

What we do at home and work affects water quality. You can help keep water clean by:

- ♦ Planting native plants and trees.
- ♦ Properly disposing of chemicals and hazardous waste.
- ♦ Keeping storm drains clear of debris like leaves & litter.
- ♦ Always picking up and throwing away pet waste.
- ♦ Volunteering at or organizing a stream or roadside cleanup.



**Clean Streams
Start HERE**



Scan the QR code to learn more
& get involved!

ohiostormwaterweek.org

LEAVE THE LEAVES

Fall leaf cleanup consists of raking leaves into piles, bagging leaves, and sending the bags to a landfill. Some communities have leaf collection which consists of raking the leaves to the curb and the Street crew collects and either dispose of them in a compost or the landfill.

The U.S. EPA states that leaves and other yard debris account for more than 13 percent of the nation's solid wastes. That equates to nearly 33 million tons of waste a year. And contrary to popular belief, even though leaves are organic matter, there isn't enough oxygen in a landfill for leaves to decompose. This results in a release of methane- a major greenhouse gas.

Most people don't know that raking or blowing fallen leaves into the street or storm drains is considered littering and is illegal (littering includes leaves, yard waste, dirt, etc.). When leaves get in street drains, they accumulate on the surface of the body of water that the

drain dumps. This degrades the overall health of waterways by increasing nutrient loads and increasing turbidity.

Leaving the leaves on the ground allows them to biodegrade naturally and return nutrients to the soil. All of the leaves will eventually be decomposed by worms and bacteria, and turn into a nutrient-rich humus, which will feed trees and other plants in your yard. Your leaves will decompose faster if you mulch or shred the big leaves into smaller pieces. Mulching the leaves will enhance how the leaves give nutrients back to the soil.

If you decide to leave your leaves, the amount of yard work you will have to do this fall will drastically decrease. Leaves can be raked into small piles around trees, or into garden beds- where they can still undergo their natural processes, but make your lawn look tidier.

Here are some more fall stormwater tips to help keep local watercourses clean and healthy.



- Sweep up grass clippings from driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Don't forget to sweep along the curb.
- Remove leaves from your gutters, ditches, driveways, sidewalks, streets, and storm drains.
- Clean up that pet waste. Pet waste contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and harmful bacteria.
- Do a fall tune-up on your car, lawnmower and other power equipment, looking for and fixing leaks.

Hopefully this Autumn you will decide to let the leaves fall and use them to make your lawn and gardens healthier. Contact the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District for more information or follow us on Facebook.

ANNUAL MILKWEED POD COLLECTION FROM OCTOBER 1ST – OCTOBER 31ST, 2024

Last year Ohio collected 3,425 gallons of pods! Since December, Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) has donated enough milkweed to cover 55.8 acres of Monarch supportive habitat! Once again Licking Soil & Water is participating in the milkweed seed pod collection coordinated by OPHI. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern monarch

butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard in Ohio to change this, and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts even better by following these simple tips!

It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, gray, or brown. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THIS! Keep an eye on the pods while they ripen and then pick them once they look like the picture shown.

— If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.

— Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.

— Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation Office, Monday–Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at 771 East Main Street, Suite 100, Newark, OH 43055.

Contact Licking County Soil & Water at 740-670-5330 with questions. 



**JOIN THE OHIO EPA FOR A
CREDIBLE DATA LEVEL 1 TRAINING
NOVEMBER 8TH from 8AM - 4:30PM
AT THE SOIL & WATER OFFICE.**

Level 1 QDC training was designed with educators in mind and may be appropriate for park districts, health departments, or anyone with an interest in Ohio water quality. The purpose of Level 1 is to promote public awareness and education about surface waters of the state. The Office of Environmental Education uses the Healthy Water Healthy People (HWHP) curriculum during the instruction of the Level 1 QDC training. Level 1 covers chemical, habitat, and macroinvertebrate monitoring during a day-long training. Participants must participate in both the classroom and in-stream training of the workshop to be certified by Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water.

Sign up at LickingSWCD.com or scan the QR Code!



LC LOCAL FOOD SURVEY

CONSUMERS

The Licking County Local Food Council needs and would like YOUR help and input!

The Licking County Local Food Council is conducting a community survey in relation to local food access, education, and production in Licking County. Use the link or scan the QR code below to participate. Responses will be collected from July 1–December 31, 2024. Participants will be entered into a monthly drawing for prizes. Prizes and winners will be posted on Facebook at the Canal Market District page!

If you are a CONSUMER, please



use the following link or QR code to complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/U3q35HmaCVcYMcH17>

FARMERS and/or FOOD PRODUCERS

The Licking County Local Food Council needs and would like YOUR help and input!

If you are a FARMER and/or FOOD PRODUCER, please use the following link or QR code to complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/BDjPa3AtoXgpcbPZ9>

Questions may be directed to Bailey McCoy, the Executive Director of the Canal Market District, director@canalmarketdistrict.org.



RIVER ROUND UP 2024 WRAP UP

The Licking County River Round Up is an annual, county-wide river cleanup event in September on the Saturday after Labor Day. This year took place on September 7! This community event brought out over 300 volunteers who pulled tires, shopping carts and mountains of trash from the Licking River and its tributaries.

2024 We Collected: XXX Tons

Trash to Landfill: XXXX Tons

Tires: ####

Scrap Metal:####

Interested in becoming a sponsor for 2025? Check out the River Round Up page at www.LickingSWCD.com or reach out to Kristy Hawthorne at 740.670.5330 or KristyHawthorne@LickingSWCD.com.





771 East Main Street
Suite 100
Newark, Ohio 43055-6971

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“From the busiest corner
in the modern city...
To the windblown country fields,
Human livelihood
Is a product of the Land.”

Morris Fonda

2025 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PRE-APPLICATION DEADLINE SET

Initial application deadline is Friday, January 24, 2025. For additional information and the application contact Briana Hodgson, 740-670-5330, brianahodgson@LickingSWCD.com.

The Licking Soil & Water Farmland Preservation Program:

- Has been preserving farmland since 2009,

- Holds 29 Agriculture Easements totaling 4,158 acres, and
- Has brought in over \$5 million in Clean Ohio funds to Licking County. 🌱

IMPORTANT DATES

October 1	Milkweed Seed Pod Collection Begins
October 1–7	Stormwater Awareness Week
October 8	Soil & Water Annual Banquet*
October 31	Milkweed Seed Pod Collection Ends
November 8	QDC Level 1 Training with Ohio EPA
November 12	Soil & Water Board Meeting
November 28	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
December 10	Soil & Water Board Meeting
December 25	Christmas Day Office Closed

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

LOVE THE NEWSLETTER BUT HATE THE PAPER?

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!

