

# Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District

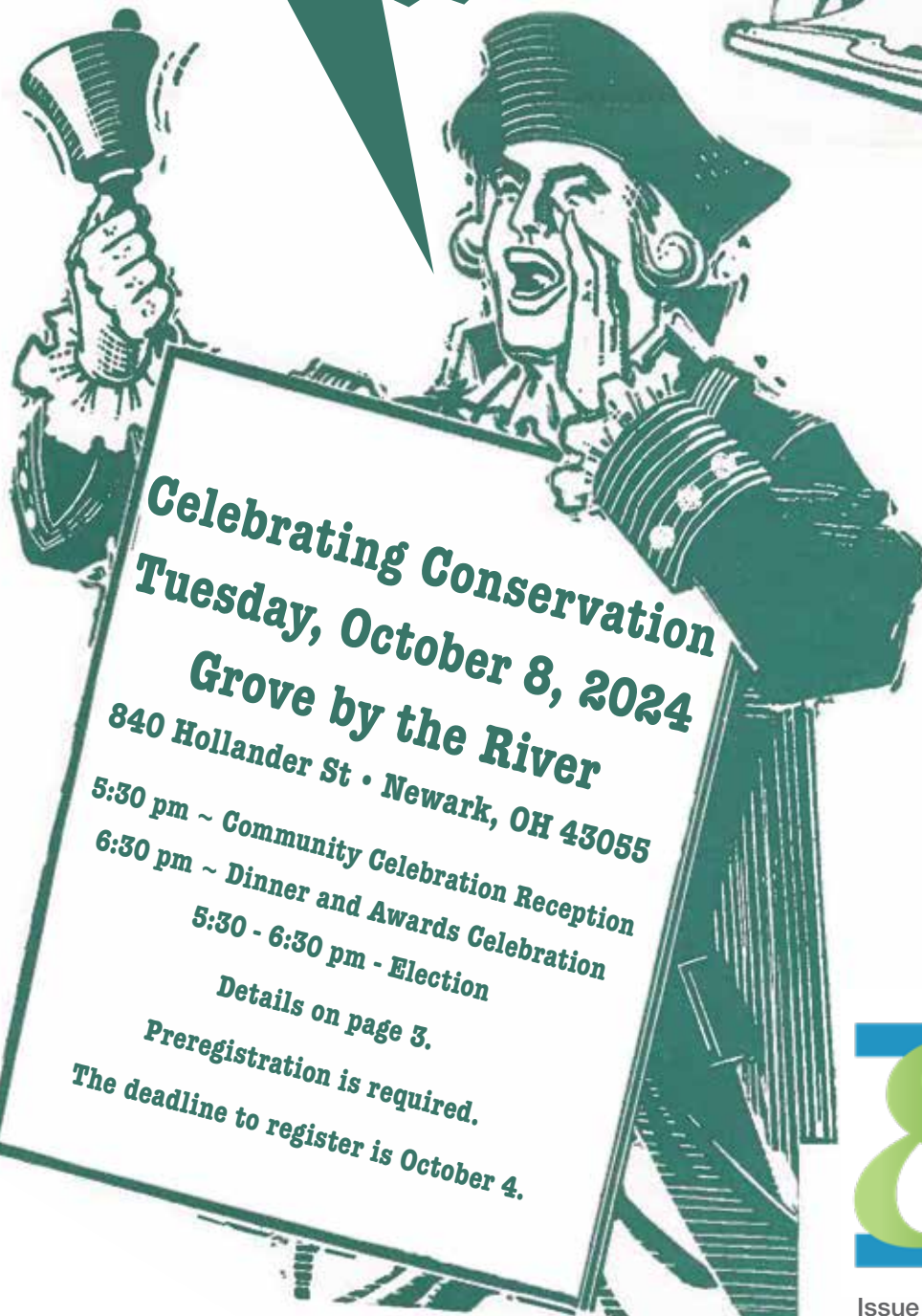
FALL 1972



Throwback

NEWSLETTER

80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION



**Celebrating Conservation**  
**Tuesday, October 8, 2024**  
**Grove by the River**

840 Hollander St • Newark, OH 43055

5:30 pm ~ Community Celebration Reception

6:30 pm ~ Dinner and Awards Celebration

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Election

Details on page 3.

Preregistration is required.

The deadline to register is October 4.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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*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

### SOIL & WATER TEAM

Taylor Coy  
Nick Garavuso  
Kristy Hawthorne  
Briana Hodgson  
Abbie Hogue  
Joe Jarvis  
Harley Kirkingburg  
Linda Nicodemus  
Kyle Seitz  
Britney Stuller  
Deirdre Wise

### AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Jenna Baer  
Jaret Boettcher

### BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Byce  
Seth Dobbelaer  
Bill Goodman  
Ron Thompson  
Rodney Tornes

### ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Baker  
Jeff Bates  
Mamie Hollenback

### USDA NRCS STAFF

Joe Koehler  
Mike Puckett  
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 4:30 PM at the Soil & Water office. The public is welcome to attend.

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

## 80TH CELEBRATION

### 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.

On October 2, 1947, the new board of Supervisors worked with Hugh Hammond Bennet, the Father of Soil Conservation, and Louis Bromfield, renown author, to host the “Opening of the Second Frontier.” This landmark event in Brownsville introduced new and progressive best practices in farming to 50,000 in attendance. Watch Hugh Hammond Bennett: The Story of America’s Private Lands Conservation Movement on our website to learn more about the legend who developed the program.

#### 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. 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.



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.

#### 2000–2020

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 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.

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# ANNUAL BANQUET

## OCTOBER 8, 2024

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



5:30 - 6:30 pm

**- Reception**

- Enjoy complimentary appetizers and cash bar.

**- Board of Supervisors Election**

- Every Licking County landowner & resident can vote.

6:30 – 8:00 pm

**-Dinner and Awards**

- FFA Soil Judging Awards
- Educator of the Year Award
- Cooperator of the Year Award

Candidate bios and voting information available at [www.lickingswcd.com](http://www.lickingswcd.com)

**2024 Soil & Water Conservation District  
Annual Banquet Registration**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names of Additional Attendees (for nametags:)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner tickets \_\_\_\_ X \$10 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional donation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to LCSWCD  
 Mail form to: 771 E. Main St., Suite 100,  
 Newark, OH 43055

Or register online at [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://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.

## 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

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

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### Looking Forward to Another 80 Years

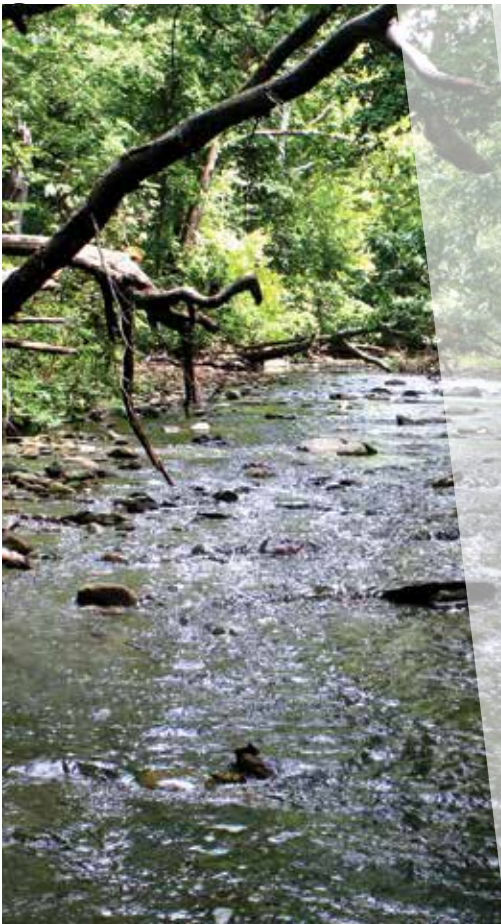
Wise use of land and water today is an investment in future generations. Soil & Water is proactively benchmarking the natural resources in the county as we experience unprecedented growth and land use changes.

Currently we are managing a total of 9 grants for \$3.8 million dollars to collect data, complete studies and use new technology to model the watershed. The team has grown to a total of 12 staff members to ensure we offer the popular programs such as the spring tree sale, River Round Up, agriculture cost share programs and managing the OEPA stormwater permit, along with all the other great things we offer.

As we celebrate our 80th birthday, we remain committed to adding value to our community while staying true to our mission.

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



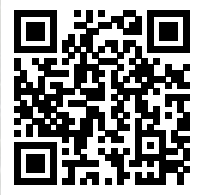
## OHIO STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK

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.



Scan the QR code to learn more & get involved!

[ohiostormwaterweek.org](http://ohiostormwaterweek.org)

## LEAVE THE LEAVES

**F**all 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; Do not use plastic bags they collect unwanted moisture.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation Office, Drop bin outside the front of building.

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



## 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 eat food use the following link to complete the survey:

<https://forms.gle/U3q35HmaCVcYMeH17> or the Consumer QR code.

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

Questions may be directed to Bailey McCoy, the Executive Director of the Canal Market District, [director@canalmarketdistrict.org](mailto:director@canalmarketdistrict.org).



Consumer



Producer

### OHIO EPA OFFERING A CREDIBLE DATA LEVEL 1 TRAINING NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 8 AM - 4:30 PM

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](https://LickingSWCD.com) or scan the QR Code!



# 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:**  
**Trash to Landfill: 12,000 Lbs**  
**Tires: 124**  
**Scrap Metal: 1,420 lbs**

Interested in becoming a sponsor for 2025? Check out the River Round Up page at [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com) or reach out to Kristy Hawthorne at 740.670.5330 or [KristyHawthorne@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:KristyHawthorne@LickingSWCD.com).



**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](http://LickingSWCD.com) to sign up or contact 740-670-5330.

Scan to sign up!



**FISH SALE**

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

Fish Species: Fathead Minnow, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Shellcracker, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Japanese Koi, White Amur and Yellow Perch.

Orders are due by October 1, 2024. Order online or call 740-670-5330.

Fish pick up: Tuesday, October 8, 2024, from 9:30 am – 10:30 am at the Licking



Soil & Water office, 771 E Main Street Newark, Ohio 43050.

Not sure which fish to get? Contact Tayler Coy at 740-670-5330 or [TaylerCoy@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:TaylerCoy@LickingSWCD.com).

**“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**

**I**nitial application deadline is Friday, January 24, 2025. For additional information and the application

contact Briana Hodgson, 740-670-5330, [brianahodgson@LickingSWCD.com](mailto: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 14	Closed Columbus Day
October 22	Seed Collection at HFNRA
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

**DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**P**arts of Licking County are now in Extreme Drought (D3). Farmers and producers can access resources through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). Factsheets on drought assistance programs are available in the FSA office. For more details or help, contact the Licking County FSA at (740) 670-5340.

\*Events require RSVP. Please visit our website at [LickingSWCD.com](http://LickingSWCD.com), or call our office at 740-670-5330.