



## H2Ohio Cost Share Program Available

There is a new program coming to Licking County producers! This program will offer incentives for developing and implementing voluntary and comprehensive nutrient management plans. The goal is to prevent and slow Nitrogen and Phosphorus nutrient losses in the state's waters.

This signup will be a first come, first served until the acre limit is reached. The deadline to sign up is May 31, 2024. If interested, call Tayler Coy, Ag Technician, at 740-670-5329 or email [TaylerCoy@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:TaylerCoy@LickingSWCD.com).



## Meeting Dates!

Producers will be able to casually drop in to ask questions at the H2Ohio Information Meetings:

- May 14th - Ragamuffins in Alexandria from 7am –10:30 am.
- May 15th - The Cottage Restaurant in Newark from 7–11 am.



## Backyard Conservation Day!

The 4th Annual Backyard Conservation Day is Saturday, May 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m at the Ag Service Center, 771 East Main Street, Newark.

This family-friendly event is open to all! Join Licking Soil & Water for a day of hands-on activities at Backyard Conservation Day! Explore Soil & Water Land Lab, which features rain gardens, wetlands, and woodlots. Get creative making native seed bombs, and don't miss the chance to purchase tree seedlings, rain barrels, wildflower seeds, and more!

Chat with natural resource professionals and join the mini Rain Barrel Workshop to learn how to build your own and conserve water effectively. Plus, it's with Master Gardener Volunteers of Licking County

OSUE Plant Sale and Licking County Pollinator Pathway native tree pickup! Grab a bite to eat at the food truck! See you this weekend!

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## Native Plant Sale!

Join Licking Soil & Water in helping restore Ohio's native vegetation by purchasing a native plant kit. Each kit contains 16 native plant plugs.

The order deadline is May 13, 2024. The cost of each kit is \$50. Kits can be picked up May 23 from 12 pm to 4 pm and May 24 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Three kit types are available, each with various 4 plant species. To place an order, please visit [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com) or call 740-670-5330 for more information.



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## Stream Team Training

In coordination with Dawes Arboretum, Licking County Soil and Water will host a Team Training session on May 29th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The training will be located off Licking Trails Road near White Chapel Road.

The Stream Team is a Citizen Science Water Quality program focused on the health of our county's streams and rivers. After completing our training, volunteers will be equipped with the knowledge to identify common orders of macroinvertebrates, assess the stream's and surrounding habitat's health, and test for some common chemical parameters, including dissolved oxygen, nitrate, and phosphate. Through these metrics, volunteers will understand the holistic health of a waterway and determine the potential sources of impairments.



Participants must provide their footwear, preferably tall boots or waders. After training, interested participants will be equipped with a stem team kit and assigned a location. Sign up [here!](#)

For questions, please get in touch with Kyle Seitz at [KyleSeitz@lickingswcd.com](mailto:KyleSeitz@lickingswcd.com) or 740.670.5330.



Sign up!





## Camp Canopy Scholarship

Licking Soil & Water is offering a scholarship for one Licking County high schooler to attend Camp Canopy!

Camp Canopy is a unique summer camp in Carrollton, Ohio, for students interested in forestry, wildlife, conservation, ecology, and other natural resource fields. It is a week-long, co-ed residential camp open to high school students entering their freshman year to graduating seniors.

The Ohio Forestry Association supports the camp, offering educational sessions with traditional camp activities and adventures. All educational sessions are taught by instructors from Ohio's top natural resource organizations and industry experts from the state's top educational institutions. Together, the OFA and Camp Canopy provide a curriculum that gives a comprehensive overview of the forestry and wildlife disciplines through lessons that incorporate both adventure and education.

The Scholarship application is due May 13th and can be found on the [Education Page](#) of our website.

If you have questions about Camp Canopy or the scholarship process, please get in touch with Deirdre Wise at [DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com) or 740-670-5333.

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## American Wetlands Month

May is American Wetlands Month!

Nearly one-fifth of Ohio used to be wetlands, but now, over 90% of Ohio's wetlands have been drained. Wetlands are an essential part of our ecosystems and naturally filter out pollutants in our



water. Some of the most important functions wetlands provide are flood control and habitat areas where 40% of the known wildlife species live worldwide!

There's a large wetland restoration project in Licking County!

Bloody Run Swamp is located on Swamp Road just north of Interstate 70. In 2019, the Stream & Wetlands Foundation acquired an 82-acre parcel near the center of the historic swamp.

Before European settlement, the Bloody Run Swamp wetland was the second largest after the Great Swamp. Indigenous Americans frequented the area for hunting and travel, utilizing buffalo paths and Old Hebron Road. The National Road (U.S. Route 40) construction in 1825 greatly impacted the region, facilitating human expansion. By 1840, the Bloody Run Swamp remained the only regional wetland in its primitive state amidst widespread landscape modification. [Read more...](#)

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## 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.

In celebration of Soil and Water's 75th Anniversary, the Board established a Community Mini-Grant program in 2019. Each year, the program offers up to \$1000 to Licking County non-profits, demonstrating the need and ability

to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects.

Last year, eight applications were received from Licking County non-profits, local entities, and schools for local conservation projects. Just over \$5000 was distributed to all eight organizations! The Mini-Grant program is open to non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, local government entities, municipalities, community groups, and civic associations within Licking County. The deadline to apply for the 2023 Conservation Mini-Grant is September 27, 2024.

To learn more about Soil and Water's Mini-Grant program, please visit our website's Conservation Mini-Grant page. To apply for a Conservation Mini-Grant, please visit our website's Conservation Mini-Grant Online Application page. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Britney Stuller at [BritneyStuller@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:BritneyStuller@LickingSWCD.com) or 740-670-5330.

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## Get your Rain Barrel this spring!

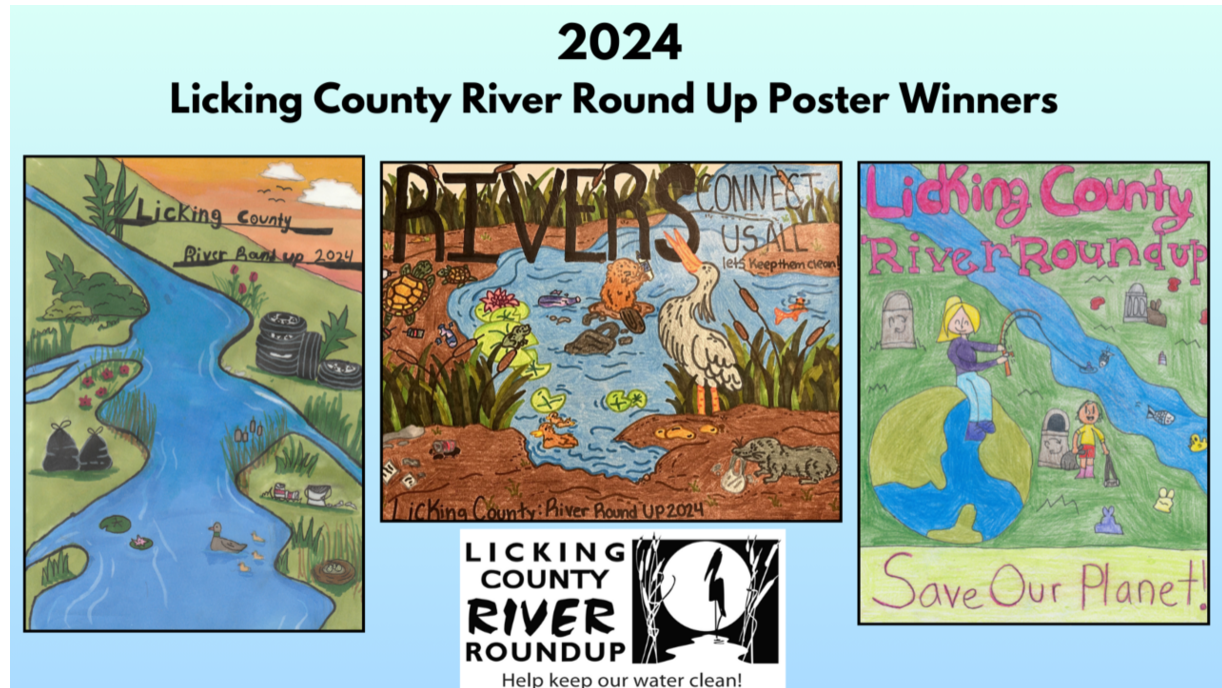
This spring, consider installing a rain barrel! A rain barrel is an above-ground cistern or container that attaches to a downspout, harvests rainwater from a roof, and stores it for later use. The stored water can be used to water gardens and lawns.

Rain barrels reduce runoff. When it rains, roof water travels down gutters and often runs off lawns faster than it can infiltrate the soil. In many cases, downspouts drain directly into the street. Utilizing a rain barrel will allow the water to be stored for later use rather than letting it run off the property and quickly enter rivers and streams.



Rain barrels conserve water. Rainfall patterns are quite variable and often inconsistent in different seasons. During below-normal rainfall periods, some communities have imposed water use restrictions (e.g., watering lawns and gardens, washing cars, etc.). A rain barrel, or a system of rain barrels, can provide the homeowner with a non-potable water source during dry spells and drought.

Licking Soil & Water sells rain barrels that are durable food-grade plastic, 55 gallons, and white. Click [here](#) to order yours.



## River Round Up Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to our 2024 River Round Up Poster Contest winners! The winners will receive \$100, and their schools will receive \$500 for science or art programming. The posters are used as advertising materials for the 2024 River Round Up!

Congrats to Jenna Hager (Middle School Homeschooler), Katie Culbertson (Johnstown-Monroe High School), & Eva Haylett (Licking Heights South Elementary)!



## River Round Up-Save the Date!

The annual community river clean-up event will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024. Sign-up will open in July.

Check out the various ways you can sponsor the event below!

Sponsorship Opportunities



# Rain Barrel Workshop

June 15th from 12pm-1pm

Join Licking Soil & Water and the Dawes Arboretum for a Rain Barrel Workshop! You'll learn how to build a rain barrel, get hands-on instruction, and walk away with a fully plumbed rain barrel. The regular price for this type of rain barrel is \$65, but the workshop cost is only \$50. Plus, you'll gain knowledge on the environmental benefits of rain barrels!



## Rain Barrel Workshop!

June 15, 2024

Noon - 1 pm

The Dawes Arboretum

Learn how to build  
your own rain barrel!

Workshop  
Cost: \$50

**Workshop includes:**  
-Rain barrel  
-Spigot  
-Connector for down  
spouting  
-Presentation and  
hands on building



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## Important Dates

May 11 Backyard Conservation Day

May 13 Native Plant Sale Orders Due

May 13 Camp Canopy Scholarship Application Due

May 14 Soil & Water Board Meeting

May 28 South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Meeting

May 23 & 24 Native Plant Sale Pick Up

May 27 Office Closed for Memorial Day

May 29 Stream Team Training\*

June 15 Rain Barrel Workshop at Dawes\*

\*Registration Required

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**Visit our calendar for all upcoming events!**

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