



**Spring Edition
2010**

Conservation Spotlight

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
22 Triangle Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-3411

Phone: 513-772-7645

Editor: Holly Utrata-Halcomb

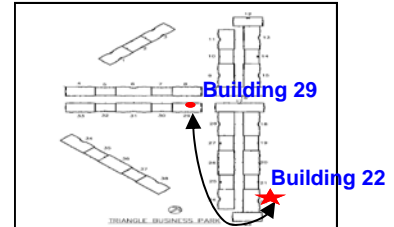
Fax: 513-772-7656

Layout: Susan Juriga

Website: www.hcswcd.org

WE HAVE MOVED!

The District office is now located at 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246. We are located in the same office park, just a different building. Our phone number, fax number and email addresses all remain the same.



Triangle Office Park
Source: Duke Realty

Local SWCD Participates in State Meeting

Dennis Benson, Supervisor for the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) joined conservation leaders from Ohio's 88 SWCDs, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Ohio State University Extension, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and various conservation partners in Columbus during the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation District's 67th Annual Meeting. This year's meeting of nearly 400 leaders focused around the theme "Conservation: Leading into the Future."

During the two-day event, participants were involved in a live taping of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's "Town Hall Ohio," which focused on conservation issues and challenges facing Ohio, leadership training activities and workshops focused on a diverse array of conservation topics, a swearing in ceremony conducted by Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer of the Ohio Supreme Court, and a delegate session in the Ohio House of Representatives Chamber. Mr. Benson was sworn in to his second term as Supervisor at the District office on January 12, 2010.



Delegate session in the Ohio House of Representatives Chamber.



Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Admin. is congratulated for her 20 years of service by Dennis Benson, Supervisor.

"Conservation programs and practices have a tremendously positive impact on our state's and nation's economy, our food resources, energy, education and environment," stated Supervisor Benson. "Working together with various partners, key Ohio businesses and dedicated conservation leaders has enabled us to make a positive impact to our quality of living today – and for the future," concluded Benson.

Another highlight of this year's event was a community service initiative supported by the meeting participants, who made food and monetary donations to benefit the Mid Ohio Foodbank. As a result of this campaign, 421 pounds of food and \$520 were donated to the foodbank, providing 421 meals to individuals in need, as well as \$4,160 in purchasing power to buy additional resources to benefit food pantries located throughout Ohio.

For more information on the programs offered by the Hamilton Co. Soil and Water Conservation District or the OFSWCD Annual Meeting, please visit www.hcswcd.org or www.ofswcd.org.

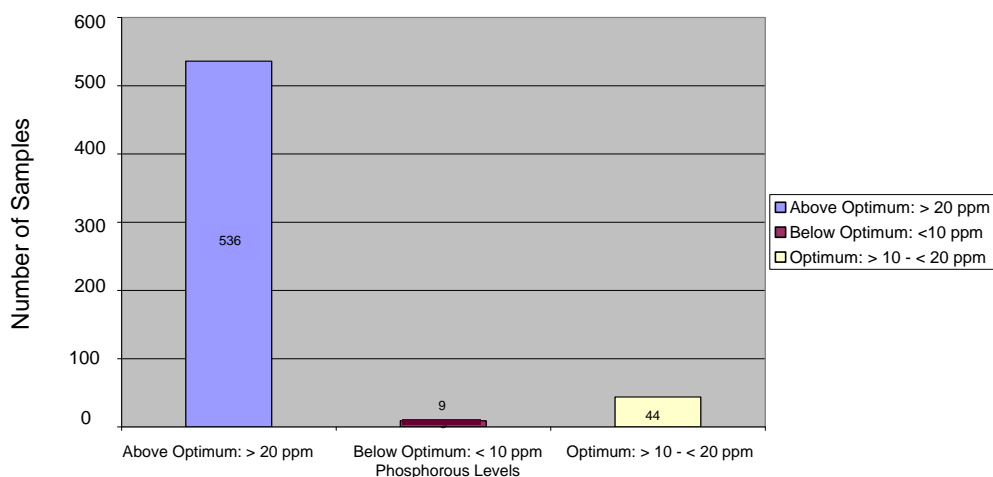
Soil Fertility Testing Kits Now Available at a Special Price

This year, from February 1 – June 15, 2010, you may purchase a soil test kit from the District office for only \$10.00 each (a \$2.00 discount) for Hamilton County residents. After June 15, 2010, the cost will increase to \$12.00 per kit.

Fertilizer run-off is one of the major causes of water quality impairment in our County's streams. The District is working in partnership with Michigan State University to offer soil fertility testing to our landowners. Last year, the District sold 1,032 kits. The testing results instruct the landowner on exactly how much fertilizer to apply for optimum plant growth. This information saves money and in most cases reduces the amount of fertilizer applied.

A majority of the results revealed that a great percentage of our soils have a high pH and high **Phosphorus content**. We are in the process of mapping these results on our soils GIS layer to determine if the soil type is the reason the levels are so high. As more results come in, we will update you on this study.

Phosphorous Levels (ppm) in Soil Test Kit Samples
Showing Optimum Ranges for Turf



Classes Offered on Soil Fertility

These classes will provide you with the basics on how to have your best garden and lawn ever! Information on macro and micronutrients will be shared along with instructions on how to test your soil fertility and adjust the levels for maximum growth. Soil fertility test kits will be available for purchase at the workshop at a reduced rate.

[Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati](#) - 2715 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45206

Tuesday: March 23, 2010 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm **Cost: \$10.00**

Instructor: Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator of Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Please call 513-221-0981 to register for classes or register online at http://www.civiggardencenter.org/garden_files/classes.htm

[Woodland Mound Park](#) - 8250 Old Kellogg Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45255

Wednesday: April 14, 2010 - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm or Saturday, April 17, 2010, 10:00 am 12:00pm **Cost: \$10.00**

Instructor: Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator of Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Pre-registration is required with payment by mailing name, address and daytime phone number with the number of participants. Please indicate which program you wish to attend with the date and time.
Make checks payable to Hamilton County SWCD and send to:

Hamilton County SWCD,
22 Triangle Park Dr.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246.

For additional registration information, please call 772-7645.



Ag News

John Williams, District Conservationist-NRCS

Seasonal High Tunnels for Specialty Crop Production

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has established a pilot program that introduces the development of Seasonal High Tunnels or "Hoop Houses" that is used for growing vegetable or fruit crops. This 3 year pilot program is being administered in 38 states, including Ohio. The reason for introducing High Tunnels is that evidence has suggested that the conservation benefits associated with these structures, through scientific research is limited. Potential natural resource benefits from using tunnel structures include: (1) improved plant quality, (2) improved soil quality and (3) improved water quality through methods such as reduced nutrient and pesticide transport. This structure may be eligible for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). If interested please contact John Williams, District Conservationist at 513-887-3720 for more details.



Stream and Storm Water Management News

Stream Specialist Brian Bohl

Come Join the Friends of the Great Miami

Saturday, May 1st – 6th Annual Clean Sweep of the Great Miami: Enjoy a scenic walk along the Great Miami River while helping to clean up the river banks. Contact Brian Bohl for details of the event and to volunteer. If interested in helping with restoration efforts, please contact Brian by phone at (513) 772-7645 ext. 15 or by e-mail at brian.bohl@hamilton-co.org. The cleanup areas will be posted on our website in March at www.hcswcd.org



Earthwork News.....

Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist, Chey Alberto, Nate Sturm, Urban Technicians and Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer

Individual Lot Controls

The new Ohio EPA General Construction Permit requires that NPDES permit coverage must extend to the individual lots. Hamilton County in turn revised its Earthwork Regulations to comply with this requirement. Under the current Earthwork Regulations adopted by the Hamilton County Commissioners in June 2009, individual lot erosion and sediment control plans are required if:

- 1) An individual lot that is part of a larger common plan of development and is not draining to a centralized sediment control.
- 2) The individual lot itself is disturbing more than 1 acre of ground.
- 3) The centralized sediment control such as a sediment basin previously draining the lot has been removed.

Individual lot construction meeting the conditions above are required to include erosion and sediment controls on the plans submitted to the Hamilton County Building Department. The plan must comply with the installation, maintenance and inspection requirements of the General Construction Permit and the current Earthwork Regulations. Additionally, lots within developments that have been foreclosed or are under foreclosure shall also meet these requirements.



Individual lot home construction disturbing less than 1 acre of ground and not a part of the larger common plan of development are not required to submit erosion and sediment controls plans. However, these lots are required to install and maintain the erosion and sediment controls to minimize the discharge of sediment.

The District is issuing Individual Lot Permits and will be conducting inspections on these sites. Failure to install and maintain the required erosion and sediment controls may result in the District requesting the Building Commissioner to withhold inspections or issue a Stop Work Order on the Building Permit. All disturbed areas shall be stabilized before the District approves the temporary or final Certificate of Occupancy.

The District is currently working with the Greater Cincinnati Home Builders Association to educate builders on these requirements. The District is available to provide training to your company. Contact Marcelo Alberto or Nathan Sturm at (513) 772-7645 to schedule your training.

Board of Supervisors

Nate Holscher, Chairman
Sam McKinley, Vice-Chairman
Denny Benson, Secretary
Steve Johns, Treasurer
Craig Abercrombie, Program Chairman

District Staff

Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator
Susan Juriga, Adm. Assistant
Dan Taphorn, Urban Conservationist
Chey Alberto, Urban Technician
Nate Sturm, Urban Technician
Robert Sheets, Geotechnical Engineer
Gwen Z. Roth, Education Specialist
Cheryl Reinke Peck, Office Assistant
Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist
Annette Meagher, Public Relations Specialist

NRCS

John Williams, D.C.-NRCS

Mission Statement: A public organization committed to assisting the citizens of Hamilton County through education, technical assistance and leadership to be stewards of our soil and water resources.

All District programs are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Dates to Remember

March 23 or April 14 or 17: Best Garden and Lawn Ever! Please see page 2.
April 17: Earth Day at Sawyer Point
April 17 - April 25: Cincinnati Flower Show
April 24 - 25: Cincinnati Flower Show, Small Wonders Weekend
April 29: Earth Jam at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
May 1 - 6: Annual Clean Sweep of the Great Miami. Please see page 3.
June 5: Bugfest at the Cincinnati Museum Center
June 24 - 25: Paddlefest

Pond Clinics - Sponsored by Hamilton County & Butler SWCD

April 14: Izaak Walton League - 450 Beissinger Rd, Hamilton, OH 6 - 9pm
June 9: Sharon Woods Educ. Ctr - 11450 Lebanon Rd, Sharonville, OH 6 - 9pm
Additional topics include: Stormwater basin basics and water gardens.

The Ohio Woodland Stewards are offering the below classes. For details and a full listing of events go to <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/site>

March 27: Ohio River Valley Woodland/Wildlife Workshop, Cincinnati - Diamond Oaks Career Center and Dent, OH
May 1: Ponds with a Purpose, Cox Arboretum (Dayton area)
June 8 - 10: Plant Diagnostic Academy, Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati, OH

Do not forget the Poster and Essay Contest. The theme is "Conservation Habits - Healthy Habitats"

Both posters and essays are due by **Friday, March 12, 2010**, in the Hamilton County SWCD office at 22 Triangle Park Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246, Attn: Gwen Roth.

Conserve Paper - If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, contact the District office at 513-772-7645 or e-mail holly.utrata-halcomb@hamilton-co.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3556
Cincinnati, OH

