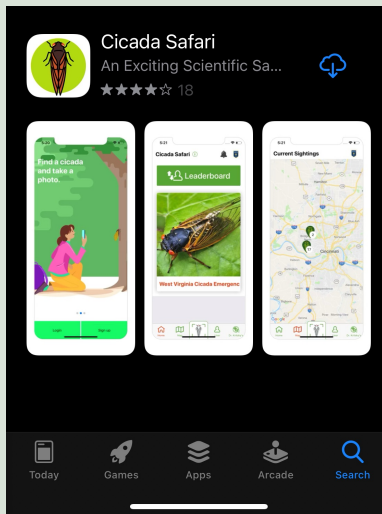


April 2021

Conservation Spotlight

Spring has sprung! Hopefully, the dreary days of winter are behind us, but we live in Ohio, so who knows what could happen. Spring is an exciting time in the world of conservation. April is Earth Month, Ohio Native Plant Month, the kick-off to Stewardship Week, and we may start to see the arrival of the long-awaited Brood X cicadas. Keep an eye on our **Facebook** page as we have lots of exciting things to share with you.



The Red Eyes Are Coming

2021 has certainly had its challenges, and depending on your perspective, this may or may not add to those challenges, because... the cicadas are coming! The Brood X cicadas are a once every 17-year event that some people look forward to and others dread. Those that dread it, there's good news. The cicadas are very short-lived and will only be around for about 6-8 weeks.

To continue reading about the Brood X cicadas that will be joining us in late April/Early May, **click here.**

Soil Fertility Testing

It is spring again and our thoughts move toward working in the yard. It is time to get out and start planting the vegetable garden, tend to the flower beds, and work on the lawn. So how do you know what these areas need? If you have not had a soil fertility test, you may not know

what the soil conditions are, and you could be spending money on things you may or may not need. **Click here** to read more about soil fertility testing.

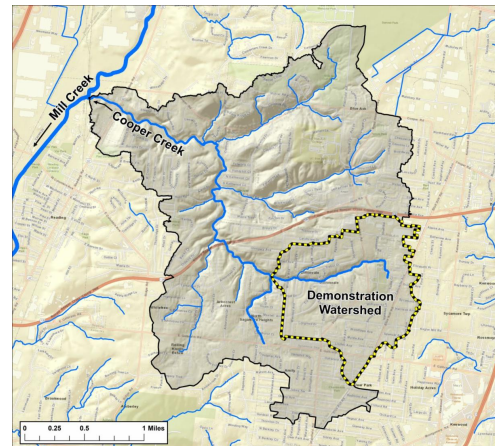


Poster and Essay Contest

The theme for this year's poster and essay contest is Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities. Poster and essay entries are being accepted until May 6th. Winning writers, artists, and supporting teachers will receive a \$25 Target gift card. For additional information and contest rules, visit our **website**.

The Cooper Creek Collaborative's Demonstration Watershed

The Cooper Creek Collaborative (CCC) is a partnership of multiple organizations and community members who have come together to restore the Cooper Creek watershed. We are working to rebuild a healthy natural stream system to be enjoyed by the community and local wildlife. Under the leadership of the District, CCC is focusing its efforts on mitigating the impacts of "urban hydrologic alteration" (UHA) on the creek within a 1 square mile Demonstration Watershed. To read more about the progress of the CCC, **click here**.



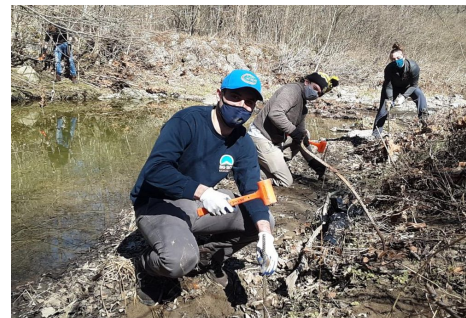
Rain Barrel Art Project Auction

Barrels for the Rain Barrel Art Project are now on display at the Cincinnati Zoo. Over the past two months, local artists (1st graders up to professional artists) have painted 40 rain barrels that will be auctioned off. Funds raised from the auction benefit environmental education in the tri-state area. The barrels will be on display from April 1st - April 30th. The auction will take place on eBay, starting April 20th and will conclude on April 30th. For additional information and to view all the barrels visit, **www.savelocalwaters.org/auction**.



Live Stakes for Streams

Believe it or not, the top pollutant in Hamilton County streams is sediment. One way to reduce the sediment load in our streams is to prevent erosion, which can sometimes be easier said than done. So why not take a lesson from nature? Roots from vegetation naturally hold soil in place, but digging into an eroding streambank to plant trees could cause more problems. Enter the 'live stake'! **Click here** to learn more about our live staking program.



Cincinnati Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked to increase urban agriculture opportunities through the High Tunnel System Initiative, a program that provides financial and technical assistance to urban producers to grow food year-round. In Cincinnati, the agency partnered with local organizations including the city's Office of Environment and Sustainability, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, and others to create the Cincinnati Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative. The first high tunnel in Cincinnati was installed in Avondale on December 16, 2020. To learn more about the Cincinnati Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative and the Avondale high tunnel, **click here**.

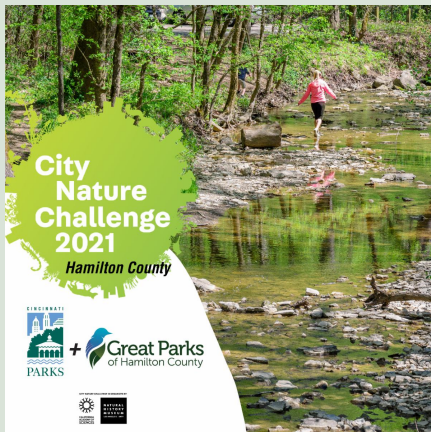
Stewardship Week April 25 - May 2, 2021

The District is partnering with the National Association of Conservation Districts

(NACD), to celebrate Stewardship Week from April 25 – May 2, 2021. This year's theme is “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities.”

Forests and trees play an important role in our lives. They provide us with food, material, clean air and soil, and recreational opportunities. Visit the **NACD website** to learn more about what you can do to help keep our forests and communities healthy.

Check out the short video we made to promote Stewardship Week.



City Nature Challenge 2021

Explore Hamilton County and contribute to the City Nature Challenge 2021 BioBlitz from April 30 to May 3. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Simply download the app, sign up to iNaturalist and get practicing for the big event. Hundreds of cities around the world will be calling on their citizen scientists to bioblitz their community's biodiversity. Any wild animal, plant, or fungus is game.

This BioBlitz, also known as Citizen Science, encourages the public to help discover, identify, and catalog plants and animals in the region. Locally, the City Nature Challenge is an exciting opportunity for all to learn more about biodiversity in our community. For more info, visit **iNaturalist**.

Camp Canopy

Camp Canopy, formerly known as Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp, is now accepting registration for students from incoming freshmen to departing seniors (up to age 19). Camp Canopy will take place June 13-18th in Carrollton, Ohio. For more information, check out their **website**.



By: Sue Juriga

Everyone loves streams,
and Adam works to keep them from being dreams.

His working hours can be long.
Hoping to keep our streams flowing strong.

He collaborates with many individuals and organizations
to develop stream restorations.

They test hydrology, micro, or macro biology.
Do you have a dictionary for etymology?

They have also developed a retrofit
to keep our streams flowing as a benefit.

Searching for grants have been his desire,
but with this, his accounting skills need to be acquired.

If you should hear Adam say, "I don't care."
Do not despair.

He really is not trying to create strife.
All he wants is to sustain all life.

With his passion and love for our streams,
it is giving us hope for streams not to be dreams.

New location opens to drop off hard to recycle items

The Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub is a brand-new nonprofit organization providing a "one-stop" drop-off location for items that can be recycled or reused but that can't go into the traditional single-stream recycling bins. Think electronics, lightbulbs, batteries, eyeglasses, art supplies, Styrofoam, plastics (including clamshells), and many more items. Check out their [website](#) for more information.



**Cincinnati
Recycling &
Reuse Hub**

2021 Hamilton County Backyard Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale

We are excited to offer area residents discounted Compost Bins & Rain Barrels for the Spring 2021 sale. The store will be open through May 3rd to take your order, which **MUST** be picked up on May 15th in the parking lot of the Madisonville Fifth

Third Bank (9:00a - 1:00p). Pick up will be a limited contact “drive-through” event. See more details and directions **here**. Happy composting!

Upcoming Events

- April 15th, **Concrete Washout Webinar**
 - Registration is required
- April 20th-30th, **Rain Barrel Art Project Auction**

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James Gleason, Earthwork Technician
Olivia Maltry, Earthwork Technician
Aaron Habig, Conservation Program Specialist
Gwen Z Roth, Education Specialist
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Sarah Meadows, Public Involvement Coordinator

NRCS

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Conservationist

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Conservation Spotlight
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