



April 2020

Conservation Spotlight

So far, 2020 has been a big year for the District. The Board of Supervisors selected a new Executive Director, and this year marks the District's 75th Anniversary.

In 1945, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District was formed, along with the 87 additional Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the State of Ohio between 1940-1945. The need for Soil and Water Conservation Districts arose from the Dust Bowl Storms of 1934. The role of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts was to assist local landowners with assistance from the USDA.

Over the past 75 years, the district has grown to what it is today. We are excited to have the opportunity to look through our records, pictures and historical maps and have the chance to share them with you at our Annual Meeting. There will be additional information on our Annual Meeting & 75th Anniversary Celebration in the next Conservation Spotlight Newsletter.

A New Executive Director Has Been Named

On March 10th, John Nelson was named the new Executive Director. John replaced Holly Utrata-Halcomb who retired after serving at the helm for 29 years.

John has been employed with the District for over 7 years and started in the organization as a Public Relations Specialist.

Comment from John: This is a

new era in the life of our District. I am so humbled and honored that the board has selected me to lead this amazing team of professionals to conserve our natural resources here in Hamilton County. We, as a district, hope to be trailblazers in conservation not only in the state but nationally by embracing innovation and technology in our conservation program delivery.



District's Statement Concerning COVID-19



The District office is closed to the public until further notice.

In the light of the Governor's Stay at Home Order, the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District closed its office to the public on March 24, 2020, until further notice. The District has continued to operate and provide its full depth of services remotely via our website and phone. **Click here** to read additional information on our current protocol.

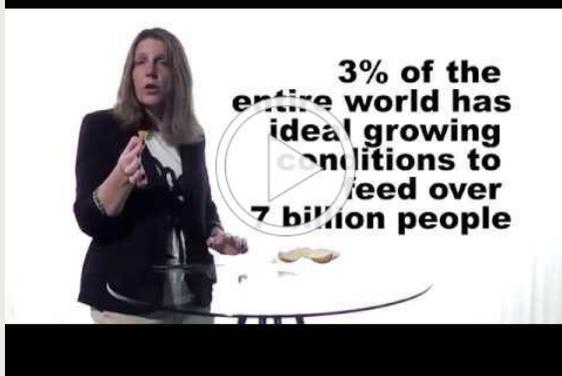
2020 Poster and Essay Contest

Now is the perfect time for your kids to get working on their poster or essay for our 2020 contest! It can easily be done from the comfort of their home. The theme this year is 'Where would we BEE without pollinators'. Entries are due by April 3rd. Digital entries will be accepted this year. Check out the details **here**.



YouTube Channel

Did you know that the district has its very own YouTube Channel. You can find educational content, as well DIYs and how to videos.



Over the next couple weeks the education department will be creating additional resources that can be used during this time of 'virtual learning'. Check out all our YouTube content [here](#) and subscribe.

Little Miami River Live Staking Event

On May 16th, from 10 am - 2 pm volunteers will be planting live stakes (hardwood cuttings) along the eroded banks of the Little Miami River. Canoes will launch from Camp Friedlander and will pull out at Jim Terrell Park. For more information and to register, click [here](#). Registration is required.



Volunteers Needed for the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Lab



Volunteers are needed to collect samples and run water analysis testing. The Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring program collects and test samples from 70+ sites in the Lower Great Miami River Watershed. Monitoring occurs on the Second Saturday of every month from March-November. For additional information on the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring Lab and how to become a volunteer, [click here](#). There will be no lab on April 11th.

2020 Waste Reduction Innovation Grant

Proposals are being accepted for The Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District's 2020 Waste Reduction Innovation Grant. This grant is designed to assist communities, schools, non-profit organizations, and private sector businesses to implement programs that significantly reduce waste in Hamilton County, Ohio.



Approved proposals will be funded on a first come, first served basis. **Click here** for additional grant information.

Live Stake Harvest Event

On February 22nd, forty eight volunteers gathered at Heritage Park to harvest live stakes. Live stakes are dormant woody cuttings that are installed along eroded stream banks to prevent erosion. **Click here** to learn more about live stakes.

Volunteers were able to harvest 2,800 live stakes that will be installed along the banks of the Mill Creek and Little Miami River.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Southwestern Ohio Water Company for donating refreshments for volunteers and Rhinegeist Brewery for providing cooler space to store the live stakes until we are able to install them.



Upcoming Events

- All scheduled events in April have been cancelled.
- May 16 - LMR Live Staking event 10 am – 2 pm @ Camp Friedlander.



Conservation Spotlight
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Connect with us

