



July 2020

Conservation Spotlight

We hope everyone had a great 4th of July weekend. As we continue to navigate through the current pandemic we wanted to remind you that we are still here for you. We are still committed to providing you with the assistance you may need.

While our staff are currently back in the office, the office is still closed to visitors. Staff are taking meeting requests and are able to meet via Zoom or phone call.

We wish you all a great rest of the summer. Stay safe, stay healthy and we hope to see you soon.



Caring For Our Watersheds winners



This year because of COVID-19, we were unable to host an in-person final competition, but we still want to recognize our Top 10 winners. Check out our [website](#) to see all our winners or read the May *CityBeat* for a more detailed

description of each project. We can't wait to implement these projects soon!

Soil & Water District Seeking Candidates for the Board of Supervisors.

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking candidates for its Board of Supervisors. Two supervisors will be elected in October 2020. They will begin a three-year term in January 2021.

Board Supervisors guide the district, its staff, and cooperating agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs in the county that address management and conservation of soil, water, and related resources. Board members should have a sincere interest in conservation and must have the enthusiasm, dedication, and time to serve as an elected official. This is a volunteer position, but supervisors can be reimbursed for mileage & expenses (registration, lodging, meals, etc.) related to events involving soil & water professionals.

What a potential supervisor needs to know:

- Candidate must be over 18 years old and a resident of Hamilton County
- This is a volunteer position and a 3-year term
- Regular Board Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM and normally run 2 to 2 1/2 hours.
- Attendance at occasional outside meetings, events or training is required
- If you are interested in running to become a Supervisor, please contact Kara Schirmer at karaschirmer@hamilton-co.org or (513) 772-7645

Manure Management Plans

For being one of the larger Urban counties in the State of Ohio, Hamilton County has many equine operations, both large and small. Any size operation has one major obstacle to overcome, what to do with the manure? What goes in must come out. On average, one horse generates about 50 pounds of waste per day. That's a lot of poo!

Does your equine facility have a manure management plan in place?

Click here to learn more about managing manure on your property.



Soil Fertility Testing

It's not too late to have your soil tested! We partner with Penn State Extension to



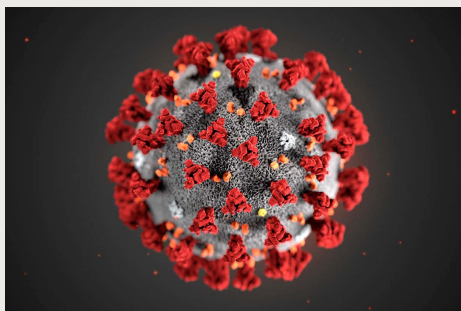
provide soil testing services to Hamilton County Residents. For the convenience and safety of our residents, we are temporarily mailing a maximum of two (2) soil test kits to any individual, that is a resident of Hamilton County, at no additional cost. A fee of \$9 per test kit is paid directly to Penn State for a standard soil test. For more information about this program and to request your kits please visit our [website](#).

Native Tree and Shrub Sale

The 2020, Native Tree & Shrub sale hosted by Hamilton County Soil and Water District in partnership with the Great Parks of Hamilton County has been cancelled. Please check back in 2021 for this great opportunity to purchase native trees & shrubs.



New COVID-19 page of resources



We've started collecting all of our resources in one place on the education web page. We now have all of our videos and links to several activities that we have created [here](#). If you want specific topics, videos, etc, let us know.

Cincinnati High Tunnel Initiative

The United States Department of **Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** is in its inaugural year offering a new opportunity to those interested in growing urban and rural produce in the Greater Cincinnati area. The Cincinnati High Tunnel Initiative allows growers to apply for financial and technical assistance for high tunnel systems, commonly referred to as hoop houses. [Click here](#) to learn



more about this opportunity.

Recycled Art Contest



Hamilton County Recycling & Solid Waste District wants to see your creativity. The district is hosting a recycled art contest. They are asking participants to create a sculpture, poster, jewelry, clothing, or other artwork out of repurposed materials. Students in grades k-12th are eligible to enter. This year's theme will be "Fun in the Sun."

Entries are due by July 10 and winners will be announced July 24. Winning work will be featured on their Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter and artists will be awarded a printed certificate and \$25 gift card to Indigo Hippo

For more information about the Recycled Art Contest **click here**.

Pond Maintenance & Algae Control Workshop

Pond Maintenance and Algae Control Workshop

Informational Webinar
August 8th, 9am-12pm

Field & Lab Work
August 22nd, 2020
Two time slots available
9-10:30 am & 11 am -12:30 pm

UC Field Station
11053 Oxford Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45030

\$10 Registration Fee
Each registrant is allowed to bring one guest.

For more information and to register visit
www.hcswcd.org/pond-clinic

Bring your own pond sample to look at during the lab session.



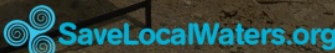
WEBINAR - DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE AND APPROVABLE STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SW3P)

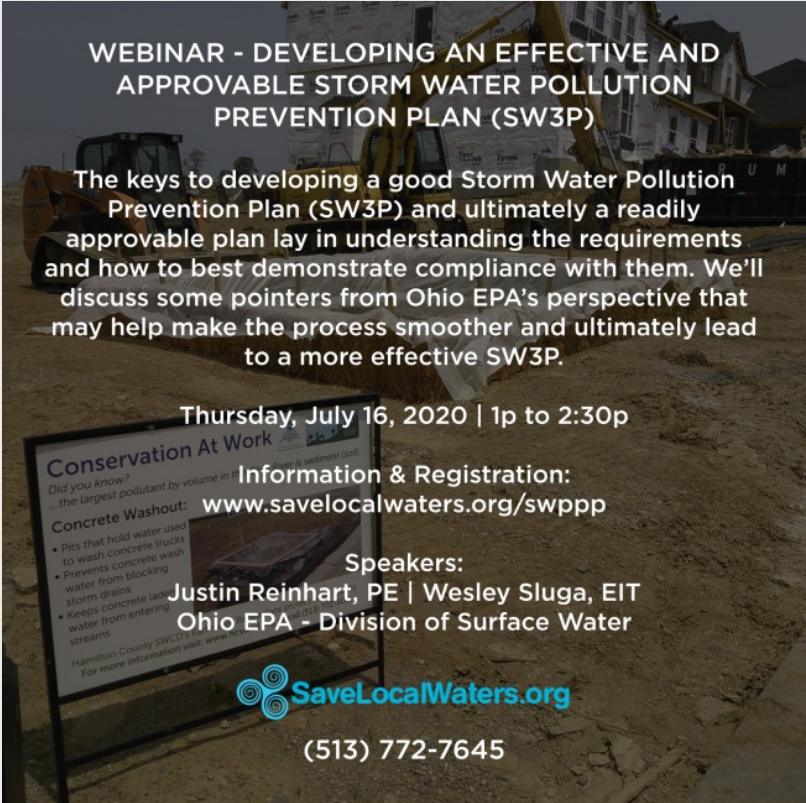
The keys to developing a good Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SW3P) and ultimately a readily approvable plan lay in understanding the requirements and how to best demonstrate compliance with them. We'll discuss some pointers from Ohio EPA's perspective that may help make the process smoother and ultimately lead to a more effective SW3P.

Thursday, July 16, 2020 | 1p to 2:30p

Information & Registration:
www.savelocalwaters.org/swppp

Speakers:
Justin Reinhart, PE | Wesley Sluga, EIT
Ohio EPA - Division of Surface Water

 SaveLocalWaters.org
(513) 772-7645



2020 Poster Contest Winners

This year we had lot of great entries for our poster and essay contest. We have some local kids that are truly passionate about pollinators. We would like to congratulate James Merrick, Anna Cristo, Elsie Thomas and Namya Shah for taking first place in their grade category. **Click here** to find out more about our annual poster and essay contest.



Deer Park High School Rain Garden Installation



HCSWCD staff members, along with the Mill Creek Alliance, Metropolitan Sewer District and OKI Regional Council of Governments installed a rain garden, in partnership with Green Umbrella and funded by Duke Energy Foundation, at Deer Park High School. **Click here** to learn more about this rain garden.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Disposal Protect Yourself & our Water Ways

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has become an integral part of keeping us safe during a global pandemic and a growing source of litter around the world. We are all using more gloves, masks, and wipes than ever before and most of these products are made of plastics, polymers and non-biodegradable material. When plastic products become litter, they end up in storm drains, many of which lead directly to local creeks, rivers, and eventually to the oceans. These items slowly break apart into smaller and smaller bits of plastic known as microplastics. These microplastics can wreak havoc on local fish and wildlife species.

What can you do:

- Properly dispose of all PPE. This means throw them in the garbage. It is best to put them in a tightly closed bag to avoid creating more litter and harming sanitary workers.
- Do not put PPE in a recycling bin. PPE is not recyclable or reusable (some masks can be reused).
- Do not litter. If there is not a garbage can nearby, take a bag to put your PPE in until you can dispose of properly.
- If you pick up littered PPE, be careful - assume it is contaminated. Use grabbers if possible and disinfect with a wipe/spray when finished.

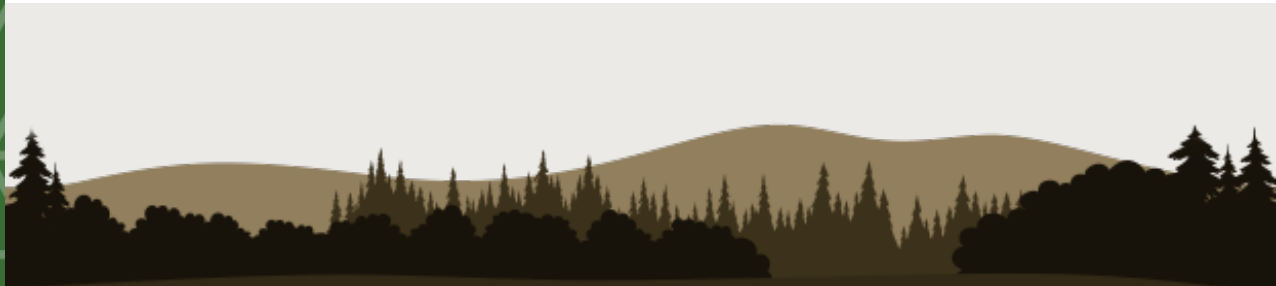
Storm drains are not garbage cans.
Report pollution (513)946-7000



Photo Courtesy of Keep America Beautiful

Upcoming Events

- All scheduled events in July have been cancelled.



Conservation Spotlight
(513) 772-SOIL (7645)
www.hcswcd.org

Connect with us

