



HAMILTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADVANCING SOIL AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

Conservation Spotlight

July 2022



Hamilton County Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Open House

September 26, 2022
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

1325 E. Kemper Road, Suite 115, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246



Come join us for our annual meeting and open house, award ceremony, and Board of Supervisors election. This fun family event has something for everyone, even a visit from animals from the Newport Aquarium. Registration is recommended but not required. If you are able to register in advance, please do so on our [website](#).

Welcome Haley and Ben

The District would like to extend a warm welcome to Haley Golsch (Earthwork Technician I) and Ben Bierley (Seasonal Intern). Both Haley and Ben joined the team in May. If you see either of them out and about give them a warm welcome.



Native Tree and Shrub Sale

The District is hosting its annual Native Tree and Shrub Sale. Trees and native plants can intercept and hold large amounts of water while reducing soil erosion by slowing down the speed of stormwater runoff. The Native Tree and Shrub Sale concludes on August 29th with plant pickup on September 10th from 10 am-2 pm. For additional information and to place an order visit our **website**.

Native Tree & Shrub Sale

Add some native beauty to your yard!

Hamilton County Conservation District is excited to offer native trees & shrubs at our annual Native Tree & Shrub Sale. Native plants are adapted to our local climate and provide rich habitat for local wildlife. Plants will be in 3-gallon containers and will be 1-5 ft. tall.

Cost: \$23 plus tax

Order: July 18th - August 29th

Pickup: Saturday, September 10th from 10am - 2pm at Sycmore Township Administration Building and the Hamilton County Maintenance Facility on Burlington Road.

Native trees and shrubs can be ordered online. For details, visit hcswcd.org/tree-sale or scan the QR code below.



Dangerous Plant: Poison Hemlock

Poison Hemlock is an invasive species that commonly grows in southwest Ohio. They are not dangerous to look at or touch and don't cause a rash or blisters like the familiar poison ivy. However, if the sap becomes aerosolized or is ingested, it can cause respiratory failure and even death in mammals. It is important to be aware that poison hemlock plants grow in our area and to understand proper plant identification to safely enjoy outdoor activities. For more information about the identification and management of Poison Hemlock visit our [website](#).



Caring For Our Watersheds Winners

This year we were excited to once again be able to host the Caring For Our Watersheds final competition in-person! The top ten teams from high schools across the state presented their plans to better the quality of the area watersheds at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden on Saturday, April 30th.

Sonya Yurovski of Loveland High School won the 2022 Caring For Our Watersheds Ohio finals, with her idea to recycle contact lenses and packaging. She learned that over 20% of contact lens users in the United States flush their contact lenses on a regular basis, leading to almost 3 billion lenses being flushed yearly. These small plastic pieces are too small to be filtered out in the wastewater treatment systems and eventually end up in our waterways. Sonya recruited local optometrists to install a TerraCycle box to recycle the used lenses and blister packaging they often come in. She also worked with the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati to update their do not flush list to include contact lenses. Sonya even went a step further and contacted several lens manufacturers to try to get them to change their packaging as well. While this may be more of a challenge, Sonya is determined to continue this education and to recycle as many contact lenses and packing as she can. Sonya was awarded a cash prize of \$1,000 along with a matching grant to her school. All ten teams received a cash prize and a matching grant to the schools they represent.

Check out our [website](#) to see all our winners.



Got Pond Scum? The Good, The Bad, and the Managed: Pond Scum & Maintenance Workshop

We're offering a workshop just for you! During this workshop, you will learn about how to manage your pond. You will also have the opportunity to observe your own water sample under a microscope with a professional to identify potential algae problems, and more! To learn more about the workshop and to register visit our [website](#).

Seasonal Stormwater Series and Sustainability & Conservation Vlogs

This year the District has launched two video series; a Conservation & Sustainability Vlog and a Seasonal Stormwater Series. The Conservation & Sustainability Vlogs are geared to teach tips and tricks to help with conservation in Hamilton County and to highlight conservation efforts within the District. The Seasonal Stormwater Series highlights seasonal precautions that can be taken to reduce the number of pollutants that enter our stormwater.

Be sure to check out all of our videos [here](#).



Conservation & Sustainability Vlog



Seasonal Stormwater Series

Volunteer Opportunity: Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River

What: The Clean Sweep is an annual volunteer event focused on removing trash and restoring the health of the Great Miami River. Each year, many partners and hundreds of volunteers come together to clean up the Great Miami River at sites from the Ohio River to Indian Lake north of Dayton. We are hosting a cleanup site in Colerain Township and are looking for volunteers!

Volunteers receive a t-shirt, and lunch provided by Southwestern Ohio Water Company.

When: Saturday, September 17th, 9-12.

Where: Heritage Park, 11405 E Miami River Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45252

Registration & information: www.cleansweepofthegreatmiamiriver.org



Greater Cincinnati Master Rain Gardener Course - Registration Open!

What: The Master Rain Gardener (MRG) Course is a 5-day course that takes place over 6 weeks. During the course, students are guided through the rain garden design and installation process by experienced regional professionals. By the end of the class, students will have created their own ready-to-install rain garden design!

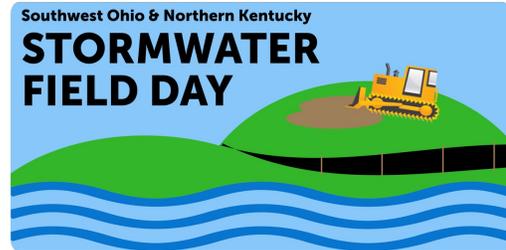
When: Fridays, 9-10 am. August 5, 12, 19, 26, September 9.

Where: 1045 Eaton Drive, Fort Wright, KY 41017

Registration & information: The course location will rotate around the region each time it is offered. Visit the **website** for future locations.



Southwest Ohio & Northern Kentucky Stormwater Field Day



The Southwest Ohio & Northern Kentucky Stormwater Field Day is back at BB Riverboats for 2022. Join the Regional Storm Water Collaborative on September 22nd to learn how developers and contractors can meet sediment erosion control and stormwater BMP requirements that protect local waterways. This day-long workshop will begin on land with demonstrations of BMPs led by experts eager to answer questions and share their knowledge. Attendees will then board a riverboat for lunch and speaker sessions about industry regulations and trends. **Click here** for additional information and to register for the Stormwater Field Day.

Upcoming Events

August 1st - Weller Park Touch-A-Truck
August 5th - Paddlefest Outdoors for all Expo
August 10th - Northwest Health and Safety Fair
August 27th - Green Township Kids Fun Day
August 28th - Amberley Village Ice Cream Social
September 17th - Clean Sweep of the GMR
September 26th - District Open House
October 1st & 2nd - Gorman Sunflower Festival



District Staff

John Nelson, Executive Director
Melinda Hartley, Business Service Officer
Chey Alberto, Urban Conservationist
James Gleason, Earthwork Technician II
Haley Golsch, Earthwork Technician I
Aaron Habig, Conservation Program Specialist
Gwen Z Roth, Education Specialist
Sara Fehring, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
Adam Lehmann, Stream Specialist

NRCS

John Williams, District Conservationist
Michaela Werling, Soil Conservationist

Sarah Meadows, Public Involvement Coordinator

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Conservation Spotlight
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www.hcswcd.org

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