



# HAMILTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ADVANCING SOIL AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

## Conservation Spotlight

January 2023

Welcome Emily and Grace



The District would like to welcome Emily Hoskins (Earthwork Technician 1) and Grace Davis (Seasonal Intern). Emily and Grace both joined the District at the beginning of the year.

### Christmas Tree Composting

Christmas trees, greenery, and yard trimmings are being accepted on Saturday, January 7th and 15th from 12 pm to 3 pm at Oakdale Elementary School, Rumpke Landfill, and Bzak Landscaping. Materials dropped off at these sites will be composted or mulched. For additional information and restrictions, click [here](#).



### Join our Books & Boots Reading Club

If you've been scared off by the traditional concept of book clubs where you must read a

specific book and come share your thoughts, well then, this club is for you. The Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, Great Parks of Hamilton County, and the Hamilton County Conservation District have teamed up to start a Reading Club. Participants can read (or not read) a variety of books on a particular theme and then meet up to discuss the topic (not a specific book) and take a hike or tour a Great Parks location based on the theme for that session. You don't have to feel intimidated if you didn't finish or even read one of the recommended books, just join us to learn something new and enjoy some time in nature.



Theme discussion will be geared toward teens and adults. Younger children can participate in activities led by library staff.

Check out our **website** for book recommendations, directions, and a registration link. Please note, registration is not required but will help us with planning.

## Caring For Our Watersheds

High school students from all over Ohio have been hard at work developing ideas for how they would help their local watersheds. They're finalizing their proposals now to be turned in on January 20<sup>th</sup>. That's where you come in. Have you ever wanted to help the next generation learn about and protect our local environment? If so, volunteer with the Caring For Our Watersheds competition in Ohio. You can help preview proposals, give feedback and even mentor a team to help their idea become reality. If interested in helping, please contact Education Specialist, **Gwen Roth**.



## Rain Barrel Art Project

We want to thank all the artists who submitted an entry for the 2023 Rain Barrel Art Project. Picking 40 entries was a real challenge, as we had 92 submissions. All of them were unique and special in their own manner. We are excited to see the barrels transform into wonderful works of art, spreading the message about stormwater issues. For more information on the Rain Barrel Art Project and to see which artists were selected visit our **website**.



## NCF Fundraiser

The National Conservation Foundation

(NCF) has a goal to raise \$75,000. Funds raised will be used toward developing the next generation of conservation leaders through the NCF-Envirothon and the Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI). Hamilton County Conservation District is fortunate to have an NGLI graduate, Laura Boyd, on the Board of Supervisors.



[Donate Here](#)

## Community Garden Development Training



Are you interested in starting a community garden? Attending the Community Garden Development Training (CGDT) hosted by the Civic Garden Center is a great first step. Topics the training covers include civic engagement, organic vegetable gardening, garden design and construction techniques. The training begins Wednesday, January 11, and runs through early April. For more information, visit the **Civic Garden Center's website** or contact **Kymisha Montgomery** by **email** or at (513) 221-0981.

## Master Rain Gardener Course

Congratulations to our first Greater Cincinnati Master Rain Gardeners who completed their rain gardens in 2022! Are you looking for your next gardening project? Do you have a good rain garden location but are not sure where to start? The Master Rain Gardener course might be for you. 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. For pricing and the Spring and Fall schedule click **here**.



## Road Salt

Winter is here, and with it comes snow, ice and salt! According to the American Geosciences Institute, Ohio is the 2nd highest consumer of rock salt. The use of salt has more than doubled over the past four decades, leading to the discovery of salt-based issues ranging from ecological harm to infrastructure issues to health concerns for humans and pets. Here are a few easy things you can do this winter to reduce your use (and save some \$\$!).



1. Shovel sidewalks and driveways before the snow melts and turns to ice.
2. Don't overuse - a 12-oz. mug holds enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-ft. driveway.
3. Sweep, collect & properly store leftover salt for reuse once the ice has melted.

Visit our **website** to learn about how you can become a salt-smart citizen.



## Upcoming Events

January 16th - Office Closed  
February 20th - Office Closed

### 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

### NRCS

John Williams, District  
Conservationist  
Michaela Werling, Soil  
Conservationist  
Edwin Sanchez, Soil

Emily Hoskins, Earthwork Technician I  
Aaron Habig, Conservation Program Specialist  
Gwen Z Roth, Education Specialist  
Sara Fehring, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator  
Adam Lehmann, Stream Specialist  
Sarah Meadows, Public Involvement Coordinator

Conservationist

**Board of Supervisors**

Laura Boyd, Chairperson  
Jane Wittke, Vice-Chairperson  
Scott P. Huber, Treasurer  
Lisa Soper, Secretary  
Steven R. Korte, Program Chairperson



Conservation Spotlight  
(513) 772-SOIL (7645)  
[www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org)

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