



SUMMIT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Summer 2024 Newsletter



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New Staff Announcement

Kendra Heiser is the new Furnace Run Watershed Coordinator where she collaborates with local watershed organizations, communities and stakeholders to implement innovative stormwater and watershed management.

Kendra comes to SSWCD with 6 years of experience in the environmental field where she has previously worked with wildlife presence/absence surveys, aquatic resource surveys, effluent toxicity lab testing, stream habitat assessments, and MS-4 stormwater permit inspections and sampling. Kendra graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Eckerd College in 2017 and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Wildlife Conservation Biology from Colorado State University.

Kendra's favorite Best Management Practice (BMP) is the use of riparian buffers because they provide several benefits including bank stabilization, filtering nutrients, sediment and pollutants, while also providing wildlife habitat and space beautification.

Kendra's favorite pastime is being outside! She also enjoys reading books, learning, and talking about how to create change. Her favorite wildlife are amphibians and reptiles because she believes that the less charismatic creatures of the planet deserve more attention!



Join us in welcoming Kendra to the team!

New Staff Announcement

Erin Dugan is the new Tuscarawas Watershed Coordinator where she works with communities and stakeholders to implement stormwater and watershed management within the Tuscarawas Watershed.

Erin comes to SSWCD after graduating from The University of Akron in 2024 after receiving her bachelor's degree in environmental science where her studies focused on water quality and management practices, drone and GIS applications, and physical geology.

Before joining SSWCD she worked as a Watershed Coordinator & Educator intern where she assisted Watershed Coordinators in managing water quality monitoring, public and community engagement efforts, and implementing educational events. Erin's favorite thing to do is be in nature! She loves hiking, learning about the natural world, and spending time with loved ones.

Erin's favorite Best Management Practice are bioretention basins because they are a great way to beautify a space while providing wildlife habitats and a way to treat and contain runoff!



Join us in welcoming Erin to the team!

New Library Partnership Programs

Summit SWCD is partnering with branches of the Akron-Summit County Public Library to bring new conservation programming to your communities!

The Know on Native Plants

Springfield-Lakemore Branch:

Monday, June 10, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Portage Lakes Branch:

Tuesday, June 18, 6 - 7 p.m.

Native plants have co-evolved with the pollinators that have used them for millions of years. Join Summit SWCD Outreach Coordinator, Natalie Schroder, for an in-depth look at the top ten native plants to add to your yard, what pollinators utilize them, and the insects that need them for survival in this one-hour PowerPoint presentation! Attendees will leave the presentation with take home plant ID information and native seed packets!

Introduction to Rain Barrels

Nordonia Hills Branch:

Tuesday, June 25, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join representatives from Summit Soil and Water Conservation District to learn about what rain barrels are, the benefits they provide, and how to set up your own.

To register for programs and for more information, call individual library branches:

Portage Lakes Branch: 330-644-7050

Springfield-Lakemore Branch: 330-643-4770

Nordonia Hills Branch: 330-467-8595

Where Does the Water Go?

Portage Lakes Branch:

Monday, July 15, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Springfield-Lakemore Branch:

Tuesday, July 23, 5 - 6 p.m.

Waterdrops embark on a thrilling life cycle from the instant they descend from the clouds. Throughout their journey, they interact with various landscapes, plants, and animals. Join us on this magical journey and discover the life cycle of a waterdrop!

Attendees young and old can also participate in a fun “build-a-bug” activity!

Watershed Stewardship 101

Portage Lakes Branch:

Monday, August 12, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Springfield-Lakemore Branch:

Tuesday, August 20, 6 - 7 p.m.

Learn how to become a watershed steward and explore innovative methods to protect and preserve our precious water resources.

By actively engaging in activities such as water conservation, pollution prevention, and native plant restoration, you can make a positive impact on the health of our watersheds. Join the movement today and be a part of the solution!

Attendees will leave with a watershed protection booklet and native seed packets!

See You at the Fair!



Check out our informational booth at the 2024 Summit County Fair! The fair runs Tuesday, July 23 - Sunday, July 28, 2024. There will be educational materials and giveaways throughout the entire week.



Stream Stomp with Summit SWCD

Join Summit SWCD for our FREE public macroinvertebrate sampling days! You will have the opportunity to get your feet wet and your hands dirty, all while learning why and what we look for to determine the health of local waterways.



Each day will start at the noted location, and then move to a new location halfway through the event!

Monday, June 17 from Noon - 4 p.m.
Parking near Portage Knife
at 75 Skelton Rd, Akron, OH 44312

Friday, June 28 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Parking behind Szalays Farmstand
at 2055 Bolanz Rd. Peninsula, OH 44264

For more information and to register, email sbarrow@summitoh.net

Do Your Part!

Replace Invasive Plants with Natives for Clean Water and Healthy Pollinators!

Are you still on the lookout for plants that will add beauty and curb appeal to your garden, and replace exotic, non-native, or invasive plantings? Look no further! These native plant suggestions will not only add zest to your garden but can soak up hundreds of gallons of stormwater with their long roots, provide much needed habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and replace destructive invasive plants.

Many of the non-native plants commonly used in landscaping have escaped into the wild and have become invasive. Invasive plants outcompete native plants, reduce food and habitat for native wildlife and negatively impact the aesthetics of natural areas. Invasive species have evolved to outcompete native plants and will always end up suffocating them by taking over entire forest floors. It is estimated that invasive plants cause around \$123 billion dollars in damages and losses to the United States economy annually. *

When choosing native plants, find a reputable source, such as Summit Metro Parks Wild Back Yard website: www.summitmetroparks.org/wildbackyards.aspx. They have an even more extensive list of what to replace when planting a native species.

Below are recommendations for replacing invasive plants with sustainable native plants:

Groundcover

PLANT THIS:

Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)

Allegheny Pachysandra (*Pachysandra procumbens*)

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)

NOT THAT:

Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Japanese Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)



Native Groundcovers Pictured:

Left: Wild Strawberry

Right: Common Blue Violet

(photo credit:

Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves)

- Resource: Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

Do Your Part! Cont'd.

Wildflowers

PLANT THIS:

American Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majuscula*)
Prairie Blazingstar (*Liatris spicata*)
Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)
Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*)
Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)

NOT THAT:

European Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)
Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
Daffodil (*Narcissus spp.*)
Crocus (*Crocus spp.*)
Orange eye Butterflybush (*Buddleja davidii*)



Native Wildflowers Pictured:
Left: Yellow Trout Lily
Right: Butterfly Milkweed

PLANT THIS:

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Northern Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)

Trees and Shrubs

NOT THAT:

Burning Bush (*Euonymous alatus*)
Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
Common Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)
Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)



Native Trees Pictured:
Left: E. Redbud
Right: N. Spicebush

These are just a few suggestions for replacing invasive plants with natives. When planning to remove exotic or invasive plants, remember the reasons you chose them in the first place. Think about color, sun needs, bloom time, etc. and then look for native replacements that will have those characteristics. You can have the garden you desire with the bonus of preserving soil health, reducing stormwater runoff, and creating a biodiverse habitat for native wildlife!

To find out more about replacing invasives, go to: <https://plants.usda.gov/home>. When you plant native plants instead of non-natives, you are doing your part in making a positive impact on water quality and helping native pollinators and other wildlife to survive and thrive.



SUMMIT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Contact Us!

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Mission Statement:

Summit SWCD provides leadership and advocates for the stewardship of our natural resources and responsible land use through the provision of education, technical assistance, and partnerships in Summit County.

The Summit SWCD is an independent division of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and is funded by the State of Ohio, the Summit County Council, and the Summit County Communities for Clean Stormwater.

In order to provide equal employment opportunities to all individuals, employment decisions in the District will be based on merit, qualifications, and abilities. The Summit Soil and Water Conservation District does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristic to the extent protected by law.

Summit SWCD does not discriminate in services with regards to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic to the extent protected by law.

