



Conservation Notes

Spring 2025

“Local leadership for soil and water conservation”

Newsletter from the

Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District



Storm Drain Stenciling Program

It’s getting to be that time of year again! With spring rains on the way, what better way to promote the awareness of where all of our stormwater runoff goes than to participate in the Storm Drain Stenciling Program.

Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District has a Storm Drain Stenciling Program for local community members to help spread awareness and learn about “Where does our stormwater go?”

In past years, volunteers have placed a frog decal with a “No Dumping-Drains to Creek” message at storm drains that are directly connected to our streams. You may have spotted a few in your neighborhood. The purpose is to remind all of us that stormwater pollution begins here. Stormwater entering these drains flows directly to nearby rivers, streams, and lakes; not to wastewater treatment plants. Everything running off your roof, yard, and driveway goes directly to the creek.

Depending on where you live in Medina County, that creek will either flow into Lake Erie or the Ohio River. The majority of subdivisions in the county have been marked at least once with our decal in the past decade. Over that period of time, a lot of the frog decals have seen wear and tear and may need to be replaced.

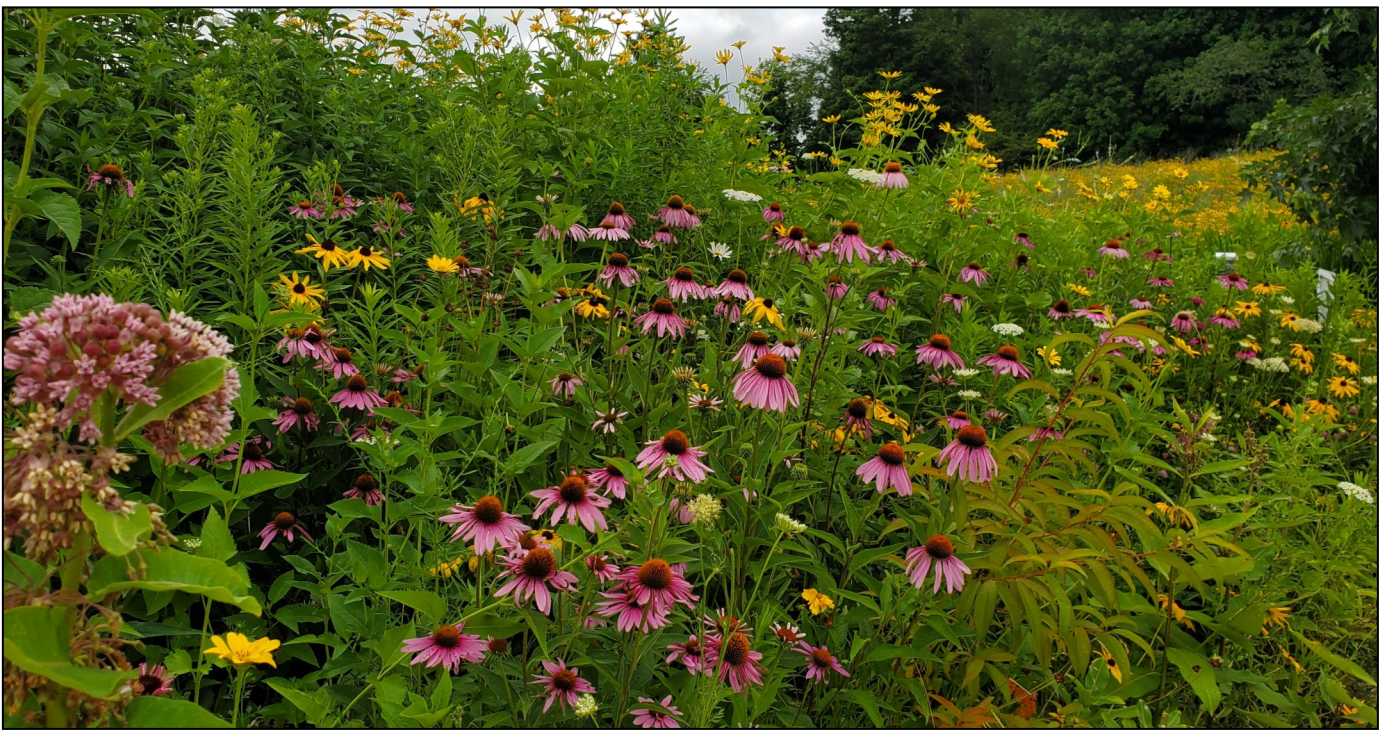
If you are interested in volunteering your time to reestablish our frog decal population in your area, contact our office. We will be setting up a schedule for this spring when the weather is more conducive for placing the decals. Our office will be providing the volunteers with decals, adhesives, gloves, and maps with the number of storm drains in your area to be marked.

Do you want to help the cause but are unable to volunteer?

Simple– Don’t dump anything down the storm drain you wouldn’t swim in or drink! You can also clean debris and litter off storm drains in your neighborhood, yard or street.

If you’ve got any sort of questions about stormwater management or are interested in volunteering, call our office at 330-722-9322 to receive more information about the program and help set up a date and assign neighborhoods.





5 Reasons to Consider Native Plants This Season

Kellie Docherty, Conservation Educator

1 - They Support Water Quality

Above the surface, native plants are resilient and beautiful, but there is more than meets the eye. Below the soil, many of our native plants have deep, complex root systems that work hard not to just support the plant but keep our water clean. The hair like roots of native plants can grow as deep as 15 feet, working to capture stormwater. Once “captured” these roots help filter out pollutants like heavy metals, excess nutrients, and bacteria, making them the perfect plant companion.

2 – It doesn’t matter if you have shade, standing water, or clay; there’s a plant for you!

Our native plant community is quite expansive, meaning no matter the habitat or soil type you have, there is a plant for you. Have a pesky wet spot that will never dry in the shade? Try lizard’s tail (*Saururus cernuus*) or marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*). How about an impossible clay soil? White wild indigo (*Baptisia alba*) or early sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) should do the trick! No matter the issue, there is surely an Ohio native plant out there to help solve it.

3 - You Don’t Need a Green Thumb

When you garden with plants native to the state of Ohio, or even better, Northeast Ohio, you’ll find that these plants are meant to grow in this region and thrive even with heavy rain, drought, or cold winters. When you garden with plants that have grown in this region for thousands of years, they don’t need to be babied or cared over like some of our non-native decorative plants need to be. Once established, native plants will take care of themselves, making the task of gardening easier for beginners or even require less work.

4 - It’s the Best Choice for Supporting Wildlife

If you garden for the birds and the bees, native plants are the best option out there. These plants have evolved alongside our local wildlife long before humans started gardening. When in the larval stage, many of our pollinator species rely solely on a specific host plant for survival. The most notable being the monarch butterfly and milkweed. When looking to support birds, consider fruit bearing native trees and shrubs which have a higher nutritional value compared their non-native/invasive counterparts. Planting a diverse selection of plants native to northeast Ohio is a guaranteed way to support local wildlife.

5 – You Have Resources Available for You to Learn

If you consider yourself a beginner or an expert gardener, learning which native plants are right for you can be overwhelming. Lucky for you there are a lot of local experts who are passionate about helping out community members like yourself, including the Medina SWCD office! If you’re interested in learning more about native plants, consider attending a presentation or setting up a site visit. For more information on how we can help you on your native plant journey, call 330-722-9322, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram to stay up to date on upcoming presentations and workshops!

2025 Spring Fish Sale

Please make checks payable and mail to:

Medina County SWCD
6090 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256

***Payment must be included with order.
No online, phone or credit card
orders accepted.***

Orders are due by: Friday, May 2nd
Pick up will be: Thursday, May 8th
from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at our office

***There will be a \$35.00 service fee on all
returned checks.***

For pick up day; you are required to bring a 5 gallon bucket lined with an unscented trash bag filled 1/3 full with your pond water, with no lid.

****Not bringing required supplies will
result in an extra charge of
\$5.00 per container.***

One 5 gallon container per 100 small fish ordered
One 5 gallon container per 4-5 Amur or Koi ordered
One 5 gallon container per 1,000 minnows ordered

No reminders will be sent.

2025 Spring Fish Order Form

Name (please print) _____
Address _____
City _____ **State** OH **Zip** _____
Daytime Phone (required) _____
Email _____

For Office use only:
 Date: _____
 Cash:
 Check: _____
 Receipt: _____

Size	Species	Quantity	Cost	Total
2"-3"	Largemouth Bass		\$1.40 each	
2"-4"	Bluegill		\$1.10 each	
4"-5"	Channel Catfish		\$1.00 each	
2"-4"	Hybrid Bluegill		\$1.10 each	
2"-4"	Redear Shellcracker		\$1.10 each	
2-3"	Perch		\$1.10 each	
1"-3"	Fathead Minnows		\$9.00 per 100	
8-10"	White Amur		\$16.00 each	
5-7"	Koi		\$13.00 each	
1 Gallon	Natures Pond Conditioner		\$95.00 each	
5 Gallon	Natures Pond Conditioner		\$380.00 each	
40 pounds	Fish Food (40% protein)		\$50.00 each	
Subtotal				
Multiply subtotal by .0675 for sales tax				
Total enclosed				

Required for pick up day- 5 gallon bucket lined with an unscented trash bag filled 1/3 full with your pond water.



Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District Spring Native Plant Sale

6090 Wedgewood Rd, Medina, OH — 330.722.9322



Order form Due: May 9th

Pick up: May 16th (9am-5:30pm) & May 17th (8am-10am)



Home Landscaping Kit: Plants that are good for manicured garden beds

Name	Height	Bloom	Sun Light
Smooth Penstemon <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	3 - 4ft	June - July	Full - Partial
Hoary Vervain <i>Verbena stricta</i>	2 - 4ft	June - Sept	Full - Partial
Blue False Indigo <i>Baptisia australis</i>	3 - 4ft	May - July	Full - Partial
Slender-leaved Mt Mint <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	2 - 4ft	July - Sept	Full - Partial



Woodland Kit: Plants recommended for woodland gardens or shaded areas

Name	Height	Bloom	Sun Light
Hollow Joe Pye <i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	4 - 6ft	July - Sept	Full - Shade
Blue-stemmed Goldenrod <i>Solidago caesia</i>	2 - 3ft	Aug - Oct	Partial - Shade
Hairy Wood Mint <i>Blephilia hirsuta</i>	2 - 3ft	June - Sept	Partial - Shade
Ohio Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	3 - 4ft	May - July	Full - Partial



Too Wet to Mow Kit: Plants for wet areas or rain gardens

Name	Height	Bloom	Sun Light
Swamp Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3 - 5ft	June - Aug	Full - Partial
Great Blue Lobelia <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	2 - 3ft	July - October	Full - Partial
Boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	4 - 5ft	Aug - Oct	Full - Partial
Finged Loosestrife <i>Lysimachia ciliata</i>	1 - 3ft	June - Aug	Full - Shade

Pick up: May 16th (9am-5:30pm) or May 17th (8am-10am)

Where: Medina County SWCD, 6090 Wedgewood Rd.

Kits: Each kit contains 8 plants (2 of each species) and costs \$25 (+tax).

For any questions, call the office at 330-722-9322.

Due to the unpredictable nature of growing plants, the nursery may switch out a species in a kit with a similar alternative.

2025 Spring Native Plant Sale Order Form

Order now until May 9th
Pick up: May 16th (9am-5:30pm) & May 17th (8am-10am)

Complete and mail payment to or visit:
 Medina SWCD at 6090 Wedgewood Road, Medina, Ohio 44256
****Cash or Check only****

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Township: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

****For office use only****

Cash

Check or MO# _____

Date: _____

Receipt # _____

Sign-up for Newsletter Email me about future sales

Home Landscaping: Smooth penstemon, Hoary vervain, Blue false indigo, Slender-leaved Mt mint

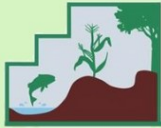
Woodland/Shade Garden: Hollow Joe pye, Blue-stemmed goldenrod, Hairy wood mint, Ohio spiderwort

Too Wet to Mow: Swamp milkweed, Great blue lobelia, Boneset, Fringed loosestrife

All kits include 8 plugs (2 of each species)

Native plant Kit	# of Kits	Cost
Home Landscaping Kit - \$25		
Woodland/Shade Garden Kit - \$25		
Too Wet to Mow Kit - \$25		
Subtotal		\$
Sales Tax	X 0.0675	\$
Order Total		\$

If you have any questions, please call the office at 330-722-9322.



Medina County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Stream Stewards Certification

MAY 28– JUNE 25
9am–2pm Wednesdays



WHAT'S IT MEAN TO BECOME A STREAM STEWARD?



Acquire the ability to identify what is impacting waterways and what actions can be taken to protect them.



Gain the knowledge of how native plants benefit the landscape and how to combat invasive species.



Build relationships with partners in the field and find volunteer opportunities to improve the environment.



INCREASE YOUR SKILLS

Presentations & in-field workdays to increase knowledge about what impacts streams and how to protect them.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Community Service Projects:
Stream clean-up
Invasive plant pull



TAKE-HOMES

Rain barrel
Milkweed seeds
Salt mug and more!



DEMANDS OF THE PROGRAM

Physical demands: walking on uneven ground, on trails, and in streams. Be ready to be outside, rain or shine. Reach out with questions about accommodations.



COST FOR PROGRAM: \$65

Open to Medina County residents only.
Go home with a certification, rain barrel & more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION



www.medinaswcd.org



330-722-9322



6090 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, Ohio 44563

Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District Stream Steward Certification Program Registration

Thank you for your interest in the Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District Stream Steward Certification Program. Please answer all the questions below and turn in your registration with payment by either bringing it into the office or mailing it to Medina County SWCD at 6090 Wedgewood Rd, Medina OH, 44256 by **May 21st**.

Payment: The cost of the class is \$65. We accept cash or check.
Checks can be made out to Medina County SWCD.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Township/City: _____

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Number: _____

Relationship to emergency contact: _____

Do you have space for a rain barrel? (Circle one) Yes / No / Unsure

What do you hope to get from this program?

Where did you hear about this program? _____

Required classes:

In order to receive the certification, it is required to attend all the classes. Locations will be disclosed after registering for certification. All classes will be within Medina County.

Wed. May 28th, 9am-2pm: Introduction Class & Watershed Walk

Wed. June 4th, 9am-2pm: Stream Health & Stream cleanup

Wed. June 11th, 9am-2pm: Native & Invasive Streamside Plants & Invasive Plant Removal

Wed. June 18th, 9am-2pm: Green Infrastructure & Continuing Efforts

Wed. June 25th, 9am-2pm: Rain Date & Closing Class

For questions please contact Abby or Kellie at 330-722-9322

OFFICE USE ONLY

Cash

Check or MO# _____

Date: _____

Receipt # _____

Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District

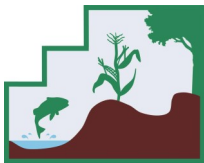
6090 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
330-722-9322
www.medinaswcd.org

If you would like to stop receiving paper copies of our newsletters please call (330) 722-9322.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Medina, Ohio Permit 62

Or Current Resident

Regular Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room at the office of the Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District located at 6090 Wedgewood Road in Medina



Board of Supervisors

Zach Albrecht
Tom Miller
Jacob Newcomer
Jeff Van Loon
Eric Zwick

Member of:

Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative
Earth Day Committee
Fall Foliage Committee
Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP)
Medina County Township Association
National Association of Conservation Districts
Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education
Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Rocky River Watershed Council

District Staff

Eric Hange—*District Manager*
Mary Aungst—*Administrative Assistant*
Abby Costilow—*Watershed Education Specialist*
Kellie Docherty—*Conservation Educator*
Jim Smith—*District Technician*

NRCS Staff

Jeremy Liechty—*NRCS District Conservationist*
Annie Wolodzko—*NRCS Resource Conservationist*

Contact Info:

6090 Wedgewood Road, Medina, OH 44256
Phone: 330-722-9322
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.medinaswcd.org

Farm Service Agency: 330-722-2628 option 2

NRCS: 740-516-1294

Find us online:

