

Focus Newsletter

Tons of fun this summer with MS4/NPDES Communities

The staff at Delaware SWCD has been busy this spring and summer at some local events spreading the conservation message in our MS4/NPDES Communities.

The NPDES permit program prevents water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waters of the United States. The primary intent of the stormwater program is to eliminate illicit discharges from the waters of the United States. Several municipalities in Delaware County are required by the US EPA to prepare and implement a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) to fulfill the requirements of the Clean Water Act. These municipalities include the villages of Galena, and Shawnee Hills; and the cities of Powell, Sunbury and Delaware.

Some events that you may have seen us were Powell Touch-A-Truck, Shawnee Hills Safety Day, and Powell Festival, and we have more fun events to come!



Del-Aware Water Rebate Program - This might be your Last Chance!

Unlike those in the western and northwestern United States, we turn on the faucet and water comes out. We don't usually concern ourselves with how much we use, even when our summer turns hot and dry. Have you ever thought about how you impact our local water quality and quantity?

To encourage awareness of water conservation and stormwater management, Del-Co Water and Delaware SWCD have partnered on the Del-Aware Water Rebate Program. This program began in 2020 and will be open for participation June 1, 2022 until October 1, 2022 or until funds are exceeded. This program was originally slated for 2 years, but is back once more by popular demand!

Participants may earn up to one \$50 reimbursement of the purchase of a rain barrel, a hose faucet timer, sprinkler system controller, or soil moisture sensor.

To participate you must be a Del-Co Water customer residing in Delaware County. You must pass the online quiz or attend an in-person workshop hosted by Delaware SWCD. There is a limit of one item per household in 2022. Do-it-yourself projects are not reimbursable. The item purchase date must be in 2022. The rebate is subject to the availability of funds.



Detailed information about the Del-Aware Water Rebate Program, can be found [HERE!](https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/)

Employee Highlight

Julie Watson-Ables joined Delaware SWCD as a resource conservationist in October 2021. Resource conservationists provide technical assistance to landowners in Delaware County regarding drainage and conservation issues, as well as supporting the drainage petition and building permit review processes.



Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

557 Sunbury Rd
Delaware, Ohio 43015
740-368-1921



Delaware County Fair is right around the corner...and we're ready!

The Delaware County Fair is set for September 17th - 24th, 2022 and Delaware SWCD is going to be there! We will be hosting events Saturday - Wednesday with the help of some community supporters surrounding the theme "An Outdoor Living take on Conservation." We will be set up in the Conservation Park near the Sheep and Swine barn.

Staff members have been working hard to make sure the Conservation Park area is cleaned up and ready for you to enjoy some great events and activities.

Be sure to check our social media pages for a schedule of events coming soon or just stop by when you're at the fair, we would love to see you!



Storm Drain Labeling Initiative

Storm drains and road ditches are not trash cans. Our staff at Delaware SWCD has removed a large stash of beer cans, firewood, flip flops, dog manure, plastic bags, and a whole lot more from local storm drains. The Delaware SWCD hosts a storm drain labeling program designed to help develop sensitivity to and stewardship for our soil and water resources. Storm drain labeling may be done by any individual or small group (family, school, social, civic). After training, volunteers may use materials provided by the SWCD to apply labels to storm drains, and/or hang information encouraging watershed stewardship on doorknobs. Currently, the Delaware SWCD is labeling storm drains in the cities of Powell and Sunbury.

Remember, "only rain down the drain" - whether it is a storm drain or a road ditch. To participate in our Storm Drain Labeling program, check out our website [HERE](https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/storm-drain-labeling/)

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DACC is headed to the Ohio Envirothon!



Thirty-six teams competed at this year's Area 5 Envirothon which was held at Tar Hollow State Park in Hocking County. A team from the Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) placed third and earned a place at the Ohio Envirothon which was held at Lake Erie College, June 5-7, 2022, with two other DACC teams placing fifth and thirteenth. The members of the three teams are pictured above along with teacher and team coach, Dona Rhea. At the Ohio Envirothon, the high ranking DACC team placed 15th.

The Envirothon is a hands-on, academic, outdoor team event for high school students to test their knowledge of aquatic ecology, current environmental issues, forestry, soils, and wildlife.

Teams across Ohio compete locally in one of five Area Envirothons with the top four teams from each area advancing to the state competition which is held annually in June. The winners of the Ohio Envirothon will travel to the 2022 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon at Miami University in July to match wits with teams from across the United States and Canada.

Congratulations to DACC!

5 Outdoor Safety Tips for Summer



Protect your ears, eyes & skin

Ear plugs for the lawn mower, safety glasses for the chainsaw or sunscreen while weeding the garden will go a long way!

Know your plants

Watch out for plants that could be harmful to you (Poison Ivy) or harmful to your pets (Daffodil Bulbs)



Practice responsible chemical use (fertilizer, pesticides, etc.)

Use only the needed amounts, keep them out of reach of children and pets, consider natural alternatives like composting

Prevent insect bites & be aware of harmful animals

Tick, spider, mosquito and snake bites can all be prevented if you take precautions. Appropriate clothing, repellent and removing standing water can all help keep you safe



Drink water

Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and help your body keep cool in the summer heat. Carry a reusable water bottle as a reminder to drink water and be a friend to the environment



In the Press

- [Del-Aware Water Rebate Program to kick off](#)
- [Keep waste from going to waste](#)
- [Keeping storm drains, road ditches clear](#)
- [Consider natural resources when buying home](#)
- [Tree planting requires some homework](#)
- [Take time to celebrate pollinators](#)
- [Picking up after dogs helps the environment](#)

Upcoming Events

July 24-30 - [NCF-Envirothon](#), Miami University

August 16 - [Scioto Watershed Whole Farm Conservation Event](#), 9am-12pm at All Occasions Catering in Waldo, OH

August 20 - [Benefit in the Barn](#); Glenndale Farms at 5:00pm, Hosted by the Delaware & Union County Farm Bureaus

September 1 - [DCBDD Block Party](#); Liberty Township Park, 3:30-6:30pm
Come see Delaware SWCD

September 17-24 - Delaware County Fair
Come see Delaware SWCD and all of the fun events at the Natural Resources Park

October 4 - Delaware SWCD Fish Sale

October 23 - City of Powell's Candy by the Carload
Come see Delaware SWCD

October 23 - City of Sunbury's Fall Festival
Come see Delaware SWCD

Delaware
Soil and Water
Conservation District

