



Sampling begins March 11, 2023

Sampling Training

To remain as an EPA Credible Data program, we are required to hold annual training for all sampling and lab volunteers.

Sampling Volunteer Training

Saturday, February 25, 2023

from 9 am until lunch time

At the Butler County Engineers Office

1921 Fairgrove Ave, Hamilton, OH 45011

We will start the day with breakfast, then transition into our annual training. After the training, we will hear from a speaker about this year's animal highlighted on the tshirt. Ashlee, from the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District, plans to provide a short update on our water quality findings, then we will wrap-up with Chris Rowlands, the tshirt artist and musician.

2023 Lab Volunteers

Sign Up for Volunteering in Lab

Lab work begins at 10 am and runs until we finish. Most testing stations are finished by about 1-1:30 pm, unless you are helping with phosphates which takes longer. We use doodle for the lab signup to make sure we don't have people needlessly traveling to lab. [Online sign up](#)

Lab Volunteer Training

You will be trained in a method when you attend lab. No separate training date is required.

Training Videos

Thanks to Zak, one of our awesome 2020 grad students, there are videos about the different tests we run in lab. These videos, along with many others, are available on [our water quality playlist](#).

Sampling in 2023

If you plan to continue sampling in 2023, please let Lynn know ASAP

Suggestions for 2023

In past years, we have had kayak floats, picnics, and classes. If you have any ideas for any events/happenings in 2023, [please contact Lynn](#).

Master Rain Gardener Training

March 3, 10, 17, 24 and April 7, 2023

9 am - 1 pm

At Butler Soil and Water Conservation District

1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011



- The MRG program is a 5 day course that takes place on Friday's from 9 am until 1 pm. There is a week off between weeks 4 and 5 to provide time to work on rain garden plans.
- During the course, students are guided through the rain garden design and installation process by experienced regional professionals.
- Homework is assigned after each class. By the final day, students will have created their own custom ready-to-go rain garden plan, complete with location, size, and planting design.

To receive the Master Rain Gardener Certification, students are required to:

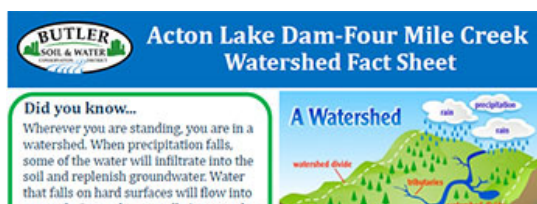
- Complete all 5 days of the MRG course.
- Build their Rain Garden or,
- If building a rain garden is not an option, students may volunteer to maintain/rehab an existing rain garden for 1 year as a substitute (instructors will help pair students with an appropriate rain garden).

Once a student has completed these things, they will be awarded their Master Rain Gardener Certification, a MRG t-shirt, and Rain Garden yard sign!

Registration:

Opens on Jan 11 You can find out more and register at. www.cincyraingardener.org/mrg-program-information.html

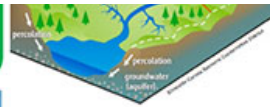
If you are interested, but cannot attend the Spring classes, the program will be repeated in Lebanon in the Fall.



Acton Lake Dam - Four Mile Creek Watershed

Ashlee, the Water Resources Specialist with

precipitation runs down the surrounding land into streams, rivers, and lakes, carrying pollutants with it. Watersheds vary in size from a few square miles to thousands of square miles.



Acton Lake Dam-Four Mile Creek Watershed Facts

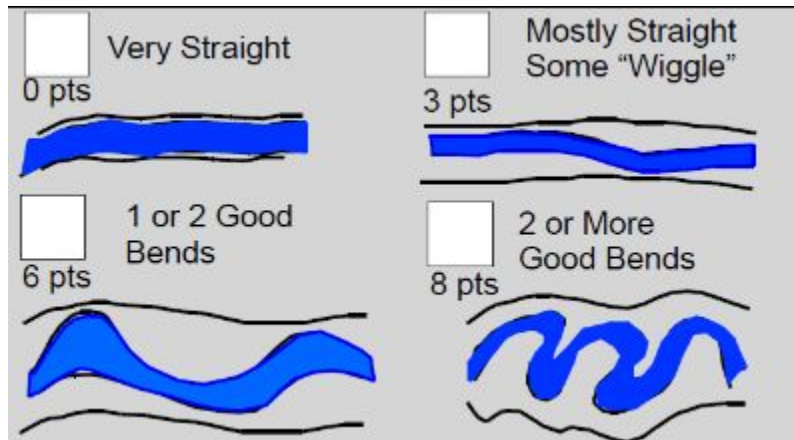


- ⇒ Acton Lake Dam-Four Mile Creek is a 42 square mile watershed spanning both Butler and Preble Counties
- ⇒ Acton Lake and Four Mile Creek are the main waterbodies in this watershed
- ⇒ Acton Lake is a 590-acre recreational reservoir in Hueston Woods State Park
- ⇒ Acton Lake was created by the damming of Four Mile Creek in 1956

You are in the Acton Lake Dam-Four Mile Creek watershed if you find yourself at...

- Hueston Woods State Park
- Miami University-Oxford
- Acton Lake Dam
- Peffer Park
- City of Oxford
- Black Covered Bridge

Butler SWCD, has been working on a project for the Acton Lake Dam - Four Mile Creek Watershed. She has created a multi-page [fact sheet for this watershed.](#)



For Your Calendar

We have the habitat, fish, and stream biology classes scheduled

Thursday, June 22 - Learn how to be a Stream Ecology Volunteer at Dudley Woods, Liberty Twp

Thursday, June 29 - Learn how to be a Stream Habitat Volunteer and find out about local fish species. We will also cover fish ID and will hold an electrofishing demonstration. Location TBD

Find out more, or register by [emailing Lynn.](#)



Packaging Wild Flower Seeds

Thursday, Jan 12 from 6 - 8 pm

At Butler SWCD, 1802 Princeton Rd, Hamilton

Need an excuse to get out of the house? Want to join us to package wildflower seeds? We provide these seeds, free of charge, at events throughout the county to encourage the planting of native wildflowers.

[Please RSVP to Lynn](#) to make sure we have enough materials available.

Other upcoming volunteer events are listed at www.butlerswcd.org/volunteer



Backyard Wildlife Workshop Series

We will cover topics such as changing gardens due to climate, protecting your backyard stream, and more. We are still finalizing speakers, but wanted to provide the dates for your calendar.

- February 22
- May 24
- Aug 23
- Nov 15

All sessions will run from 7 - 9 pm and will be held at the Butler SWCD/OSU office building at 1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011.

The workshops are brought to you by Butler SWCD, OSU Extension, and Hamilton Conservation Corps.



Butler SWCD Scholarship

I know that several of our volunteers are students, and several more are parents of students, so..... The Butler SWCD offers a non-renewable \$500 college scholarship to students enrolling in classes which focus on the conservation of natural resources.

Deadline February 28

Eligibility:

- Applicants must have parents or guardians who reside in Butler County.
- Open to students of Sophomore status, who are pursuing a bachelor or associate degree at an accredited university or college.
- Applicants must have a decided major in natural resources. education, agriculture, land management, or a related field.

Please visit www.butlerswcd.org/grants for eligibility requirements and guidelines.

Remember to check other conservation organizations such as [Three Valley Conservation Trust](http://www.threevalleyconservationtrust.org).

Water News

Biden administration drafts new rules to protect streams and wetlands

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/dec/30/water-new-regulations-biden-administration-streams-wetlands>

Governor DeWine Announces \$25 Million for Gorge Dam Removal Project

<https://governor.ohio.gov/media/news-and-media/Governor-DeWine-Announces-25-Million-for-Gorge-Dam-Removal-Project-12022022>

NASA satellite to survey worldwide water from space

<https://thehill.com/policy/equilibrium-sustainability/3775647-nasa-satellite-to-survey-worldwide-water-from-space/>

Human hair recycled to clean waterways in Belgium

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/12/29/circular-economy-human-hair-recycled-to-clean-waterways-in-belgium>

Pollution cleanup method destroys toxic “forever chemicals”

<https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2022/12/12/pollution-cleanup-method-destroys-toxic-forever-chemicals>

Microplastics deposited on the seafloor triple in 20 years

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/12/221222101005.htm>

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Stay in touch and share your pics and comments on the Facebook site that Tera set up. <https://www.facebook.com/ExploreLocalStreams/>

Explore Local Streams



www.butlercountystreamteam.org



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