



[April 2020](#)

## April Showers Bring May Flowers, Unless...



### All of your soil is eroded away!

As many of you know, Southwest Ohio has seen an increase of heavy rainfalls in short time frames. These rainfalls can cause serious damage and erosion issues, especially for active construction sites.

To ensure all sediment and erosion controls are still properly functioning, it is required that they are inspected after a rainfall event of 1/2 inch or greater in a 24-hour period (Section 314D of the Hamilton County Earthwork Regulations).

**Click here** to see recent rainfall totals in Hamilton County.

## New Executive Director Named for the Soil & Water Conservation District

On March 10th, **John Nelson** was named the new Executive Director. John replaced Holly Utrata-Halcomb who retired after serving at the helm for 29 years.

John has been employed with the District for over 7 years and started in the organization as a Public Relations Specialist.



Comment from John: This is a new era in the life of our District. I am so humbled and honored that the board has selected me to lead this amazing team of

professionals to conserve our natural resources here in Hamilton County. We, as a district, hope to be trailblazers in conservation not only in the state but nationally by embracing innovation and technology in our conservation program delivery.

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## District Update Concerning COVID-19

Hamilton County Storm Water District Partner Agencies are Continuing to Operate.

Please click the links below to see updated hours and protocols for each department:

[Soil & Water Conservation District](#)  
[Planning & Development](#)  
[Public Health](#)

**Disclaimer:** Check with all entities in charge of regulations for compliance during the Coronavirus Emergency. Read this **article** for more information.

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## Hamilton County Public Health

Public Health is updating their website on stats and information for Hamilton County regarding Covid-19. [Click here to view the information](#)

### Homemade Masks

Can you sew or know someone who can? Hamilton County Public Health is accepting homemade masks. [Click here to learn more](#)

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## Changes in the OEPA 2018 Construction General Permit

The US Environmental Protection Agency has designated Hamilton County and its unincorporated areas as urbanized areas subject to compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program requirements. This program addresses discharges to MS4 collection/conveyance systems and waterways under the 1972 Clean Water Act goal of improving water quality in local lakes, streams and rivers.

On April 23, 2018, the Ohio EPA issued the fifth generation of the CGP. Below are some notable changes:

## Plan Submittal/Requirement Changes

- Electronic submittal of applications and SWP3, NOI, & NOT
- SWP3 approval by the local MS4 prior to submittal of the notice of intent to the Ohio EPA.
- Language changes to sediment basin and sediment barriers
  - In place of silt fence, a **12-inch** sediment barrier can be installed—such as a **12-inch** straw wattle (8 inches was acceptable in the past)
- Sediment settling ponds are required for all areas of collected storm water runoff as well as concentrated runoff.

## Post-Construction Changes

- Long-term operation and maintenance plan to be included in the SWP3.
- Pre-treatment is required for post-construction practices.
- Capture of the water quality volume (WQv) with an acceptable post-construction practice is now required for all sites disturbing over 1 acre.

[Click here](#) to view the full PDF version of the 2018 CGP.

# Sediment Barriers

## Silt Fence



**Silt fence** works by ponding sediment laden water with a geotextile fabric and allowing sediment to settle out.

**Super silt fence** has a wire back attached to it for reinforcement that is often used for areas with higher flows of water.

Silt fence is **used** in areas where runoff occurs as sheet flow.

Visit **this website** for more information on silt fence specifications detailed in the **Rainwater and Land Development Manual**.



### Installation:

The stakes for the fence are installed into the ground at least 16" deep. The geotextile fabric is trenched into the ground at least 6" deep and is back-filled with soil. **Silt fence is only functional when properly trenched into the ground.**

### Maintenance:

The picture above shows accumulated sediment in front of the silt fence. The sediment needs mucked out from the silt fence routinely to avoid sediment from over-topping the fence and knocking it over.

# Tree Clearing & the Indiana Bat



**The last day to clear trees was March 31st.** The Indiana Bat is listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species List. To help protect the bat's habitat, tree clearing is only permitted from November 15th- March 31st.



Before clearing, be sure to check your local jurisdiction's regulations as well.

**Click here** to learn more about the Indiana Bat and how agencies are working to protect them.

## YouTube Channel

Did you know that the district has its very own YouTube Channel. You can find educational content, as well DIYs and how to videos.

Over the next couple weeks the education department will be creating additional resources that can be used during this time of 'virtual learning'. Check out all our YouTube **here** subscribe.



Want to learn more? : Click on the links below to receive **Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District** and **Public Health's** General Newsletters and Announcements

**Soil & Water Conservation Spotlight**

**Public Health Announcements**

Upcoming Events with the **Soil & Water Conservation**

# District

- All scheduled events in April have been cancelled.
- May 16 - LMR Live Staking event 10 am – 2 pm @ Camp Friedlander.



HAMILTON COUNTY  
Planning +  
Development

[www.hamiltoncountyohio.go](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.go)

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138 East Court Street, Room 801 -  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Phone: (513) 946-4550



HAMILTON COUNTY  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

[www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org)

250 William Howard Taft, 2nd  
Floor  
Cincinnati, OH 45219  
Phone: (513) 946-7800

## Hamilton County



**Soil and Water  
Conservation District**

[www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org)

1325 East Kemper Rd., Suite 115  
Cincinnati, OH 45246  
Phone: (513) 772-7645