



Celebrate
**Earth Science Week
2002**
October 13th-19th



News Release

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Celebrating Earth Science Week and National Water Monitoring Day at Highbanks Metro Park

Get down to earth by kicking off Earth Science Week and gear up for National Water Monitoring Day at Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center and Big Meadows picnic area, Sunday, October 13, from 1 to 4 p.m.

“Water is All Around Us” is the 2002 theme of Earth Science Week, October 13-19, and National Water Monitoring Day, observed on October 18, represents the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act with the theme “2002 The Year of Clean Water.”

At the Olentangy River near the Big Meadows picnic area, the USGS exhibit will feature an acoustic doppler current profiler (ADCP), a device mounted on a boat and highlighted on the Discovery Channel’s *Disaster Detectives*, in which the ADCP was used to quickly measure floodwaters caused by Hurricane Floyd. In addition, the USGS will demonstrate how to measure streamflow with a current meter, water levels in a monitoring well, and stream and ground water quality.

Highbanks Metro Park personnel will be leading geology hikes and collecting aquatic organisms in the Olentangy. From a pit dug especially for the event, Franklin and Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff will take visitors through the soil profile and explain how soil horizons develop. The prized rock and mineral kits, an Earth Science Day favorite, will be available at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey exhibit while supplies last. Numerous representatives from other state and federal agencies and organizations will have exhibits, distribute educational earth-science materials, and lead fun activities for kids and adults.

Two educator workshops sponsored by Delaware and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offered at Highbanks Metro Parks during Earth Science

Week. In the "Dig In" class, you can climb into a soil pit, discover a soil tunnel, and learn conservation techniques on Saturday, October 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dive into Project WET on National Water Monitoring Day, Friday, October 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to learn fun ways to incorporate the science of water into your teaching curriculum. For more information or to register for the class, contact Suzan Jervey at jervey@metroparks.net or Highbanks Metro Park at 614-846-9962.

Participation in the Sunday, October 13th event counts toward Metro Park's Budding and Junior Naturalists badge. Brownie Girl Scouts can earn an Earth and Sky award, and Webelos Boy Scouts can earn a Geologist award.

For more information about Earth Science Week, visit www.earthsciweek.org on the Web; and for related information about National Water Monitoring Day visit www.yearofcleanwater.org.

The USGS serves the nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

*** USGS ***

This news release can be viewed online at <http://oh.water.usgs.gov/> . Electronic copies of the text and photos available by request.



Photo 1: USGS hydrologic technician Al Dillenburg describes how a wading rod and meter is used to measure streamflow at Highbanks Metro Park for the Earth Science Day celebration.



Photo 2: Adults and kids learning how to measure stream and groundwater quality from USGS hydrologist Bill Yost on Earth Science Day at Highbanks Metro Park.