

Technical Assistance and Other Programs

The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District offers a variety of services to the residents of Geauga County :

- *Geographical information system assistance*
- *Soils information*
- *Aerial photographs*
- *Flood plain maps*
- *Property information*
- *Residential and agricultural drainage solutions*
- *Conservation education programs for schools*
- *Public presentations for residents and decision makers*
- *Best management practices assistance*
- *Plan reviews*
- *Workshops for residents, teachers, contractors, and government officials*
- *Pond sediment surveys*
- *Pond siting, construction, and management*
- *Tree seedling sale*
- *Fish sale*
- *Educational Newsletters*
- *NPDES Phase II assistance*
- *Stream evaluation*
- *Silviculture BMPs*
- *Conservation easements*

Call the Geauga SWCD office at 440-834-1122 or visit us on the web at www.geaugaswcd.com to see how we can be of assistance to you!

This brochure was created by the staff of the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District under the authority of the Board of Supervisors and with assistance from the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

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Geauga SWCD Mission:

"To conserve, protect, and enhance the resources of Geauga County by providing leadership, education, and assistance to all."



Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

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All services are provided without regard to race, religion, gender, age, physical or mental handicap, national origin or politics.



Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District



Who We Are and What We Do

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Geauga SWCD An Overview

Mission Statement:

“To conserve, protect, and enhance the soil and water resources of Geauga County by providing leadership, education, and assistance to all.”

The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a legal entity of the State of Ohio and is administered by a five-member, elected Board of Supervisors. These Board members make important decisions regarding conservation within the county and set the direction for the District staff.

The District works cooperatively with other county agencies, local officials, and conservation groups. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service works with the District by offering assistance to agricultural producers within the county. Each of the 88 Ohio counties has its own SWCD, and funding is obtained through the County Commissioners, the State of Ohio, grants, and donations.

The individual Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the state serve the varying needs of the county in which they are located. The Geauga SWCD serves the residents of Geauga County by providing many quality services. The District works with the local community to increase the awareness and appreciation of the county's valuable natural resources.

Geauga SWCD Urban Program

The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District implements the ***Geauga County Water Management and Sediment Control Regulations***. Geauga County was the first county in Ohio to create these regulations. They were adopted in 1979 by the Geauga County Commissioners. The purpose of the regulations is to protect the county's water resources by ensuring that the proper stormwater and erosion and sediment control measures are in place. Erosion and sediment control measures are called Best

Geauga SWCD Urban Program continued

Management Practices (BMP's) and, when installed and maintained correctly, help prevent soil from leaving a construction site. Stormwater control measures ensure that the volume of stormwater runoff remains the same as it did before development occurred.

The regulations currently state that all construction related activities disturbing greater than one acre of land, or disturbing less than one acre, but are part of a larger plan of development, need to submit a Water Management and Sediment Control Plan to the Geauga SWCD which must be approved by the District before soil disturbing activities occur. The following may also apply:

- *Township, village, or city zoning may require an erosion and sediment control plan if disturbing less than one acre. Check with your appropriate community for this information;*
- *All Geauga County residents are responsible for knowing and complying with the regulations whether or not a plan is required.*

The District staff works diligently to review plans and perform site inspections to ensure that these erosion and sediment control measures are in place. The Urban Program helps achieve a balance between development and nature; therefore, preserving the integrity of Geauga County's natural resources.

Please note that this is a broad overview of the **The Geauga County Water Management and Sediment Control Regulations. The regulations are available on the Geauga SWCD website at www.geaugaswcd.com.*

Temporary sediment traps are one of many BMPs used to help prevent sediment from leaving a construction site.



Geauga SWCD Conservation Education

Education and public outreach are a priority for the Geauga SWCD. The District provides leadership to increase awareness and appreciation for Geauga County's valuable natural resources.

School Programs

The Geauga SWCD provides both classroom presentations and outdoor education opportunities to students ranging from age 3 through high school and beyond. Presentation topics include watersheds, water pollution, soil properties, and a variety of other conservation and natural resource topics. Geauga SWCD is also able to assist schools in their outdoor education efforts by providing guidance and funding for land labs.

Stream Quality Monitoring

Stream quality monitoring is an excellent way for youth and adults to learn about macroinvertebrates and other organisms that live in streams and rivers, and to gauge the health of our waterways. It provides the means to study water quality in a hands-on way, and to learn how humans can help keep water resources clean.



Students collecting a stream sample and identifying macroinvertebrates along the Chagrin River.

Adult Education and Public Outreach

Conservation Education is important for adults as well as children. The Geauga SWCD provides adults with education through programs, teacher workshops, pond clinics, special presentations, and a variety of natural resource and agriculture workshop opportunities. The District also provides the *Stormwater, Phase II, and You* programs series. This series allows homeowners to discuss and learn about stormwater issues in their community.