



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

A Guide For Geauga County Landowners

Geauga County WMSC Regulations

One of the main responsibilities of Geauga SWCD is to implement the Geauga County Water Management and Sediment Control (WMSC) Regulations. Geauga County was the first county in Ohio to create these regulations for the sake of protecting our water resources by ensuring that the proper stormwater and erosion and sediment control measures are in place.

Erosion and sediment controls are called Best Management Practices (BMPs) 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. This helps in preserving a natural flow of water to any natural receiving bodies near sites.

Geauga SWCD Permits

The WMSC regulations require a permit for any construction related activity when;

- Disturbance exceeds 1 acre or more
- Disturbance is less than one (1) acre but part of a larger common plan of development
- Disturbances exceeds three-hundred (300) square feet within the townships of Auburn, Bainbridge, Claridon, Hambden, Munson, Newbury, Russell, Thompson, and Troy.

Whether a plan is required or not, all Geauga County residents are responsible for knowing and complying with the regulations and protecting our water resources.

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 natural balance between development and nature; therefore, preserving the integrity of Geauga County's natural resources.

This is a broad overview of the Geauga County WMSC regulations. The regulations are available on the Geauga SWCD website at www.geaugaswcd.com.

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. 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. Each SWCD serves its county based on the needs present within that county.

Geauga SWCD works closely with various other agencies to protect our soil and water through regulatory action as well as provide landowners with technical assistance in relation to their land. We also provide various education opportunities for kids and adults through different programs throughout the year.



What Geauga SWCD Provides

Technical Assistance

- Soils Information
- Wetland information
- Drainage basin reviews
- Erosion concerns
- Aerial photographs (current and historical)
- Flood plain maps
- Natural resource reviews of property
- Buildability of lots
- Residential and agricultural drainage solutions
- Best Management Practices (BMP's) assistance
- Plan reviews for residential and commercial projects
- Pond sediment surveys
- Pond siting, construction, and management
- NPDES Phase II Assistance
- Stream evaluations
- Silviculture assistance
- Conservation and agricultural easements
- Stormwater basin monitoring

Geauga SWCD is happy to send a technician to your property upon request to assist with any natural resource concerns.

Please note, this list is not all extensive and Geauga SWCD offers assistance on any topic we can. If we are unable to assist, we can help to connect you with another local, state, or federal agency.

Conservation Education

School Programs

Geauga SWCD provides both classroom presentations and outdoor education opportunities to students ranging from age 3 through high school and beyond. Some presentation topics include watersheds, water pollution, soil properties, and other conservation and natural resource topics.

Adult Education and Outreach

Conservation education is just as important to adults as it is for children. Geauga SWCD provides adults with education through teacher workshops, pond clinics, and a variety of natural resource and agriculture workshop opportunities.

Geauga SWCD also holds public presentations for residents and decision makers on important natural resource topics.

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.

Geauga SWCD holds our annual Tree Sale every April, where anyone is able to purchase an array of native trees for their own yards. We also hold a biannual Fish Sale in April and September for when you need to restock your pond - submit an order form and we will load your car up with your fish!

Geauga SWCD also sends educational and informational newsletters via email on a monthly basis to keep residents informed on our programs, events, and important natural resource topics.



Geauga SWCD Mission:

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