

Focus Newsletter

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Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 8006
 1610 State Route 521
 Delaware, Ohio 43015
 740-368-1921



BE SALT SMART

SHOVEL

Shovel and clear all snow before spreading salt. More salt does not mean more melting. Shovel more, salt less.

AFTER

Salt doesn't just disappear after a snowstorm. If you see excess salt after, sweep it up! Melting snow picks up pollutants and carries them into our storm drains.

TIME

The best time to lay salt is before snowfall even begins. Never apply salt when rain is in the forecast, as it can wash down storm drains and into waterways.

MEASURE

One 12 oz. mug full of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares. Consider using a salt spreader to use just the right amount. One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water.

REALISTIC

Road salt only works above 15°F. For colder temps, use a small amount of sand for traction. If used properly, salt is safe to use. Just don't over salt.



Upcoming Events

January 29 - Tree Sale opens

February 7 - Pre-Applications due for Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)

February 13 - Rain Garden Workshop in Shawnee Hills, 6:30p.m.

February 17 - Office closed for Presidents' Day

February 18 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

February 25 - Project Learning Tree Workshop

March 19 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

April 15 - 18 - Bare Root Tree Sale Pick-Up

April 15 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

ANNUAL TREE SALE

BARE-ROOT TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Tree Sale is now open for orders! Tree quantities are limited, so orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Order early to ensure you get your desired species. Since we do not offer online sales, our office will contact you if your selection is not available at the time we receive your order.

Tree Pick-Up

Orders can be picked up at our office April 15-18, 2025 from 8:00am-4:30 pm. Arrangements can be made for after-hours pick-up if needed. Our tree selection is ordered from a Native Tree Nursery in Pennsylvania and shipped. Bare root seedlings are relatively small and orders are filled in Delaware SWCD tote bags; a large vehicle is not necessary for pick-up unless your order is above average size.

What are Bare Root Trees?

Bare root trees and shrubs are plants that have not yet been potted. Instead, they are dormant trees with no soil around their roots. Each seedlings' bare roots are dipped in a preservative gel and placed in a plastic bag. Seedlings should be planted immediately into your yard or into a permanent container while still dormant for best chance of survival.

Ready to Order?

[Download the Order Form by clicking here.](#)



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP
February 13, 2025
6:30pm - 8:00pm
 Shawnee Hills
 Municipal Building
 9484 Dublin Rd
 Powell, OH 43065

[Register Here](#)

RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP IN SHAWNEE HILLS

In partnership with Shawnee Hills, Shawnee Hills Blooms, and Franklin SWCD, we will be hosting a rain garden workshop on February 13, 2025. This workshop is part of the Shawnee Hills Blooms Education series. Learn about the benefits of rain gardens, and the basic principles of installing your own.

The workshop will take place at the Shawnee Hills Municipal Building, 9484 Dublin Rd, Powell, OH 43065.

[Click Here](#) to register.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE FACILITATOR WORKSHOP

Calling all educators! Interested in incorporating more wildlife education into your curriculum? Join us to become a Project Learning Tree Educator OR Facilitator on February 25, 2025. Formal and informal educators, including homeschool teachers, school teachers, and naturalists are encouraged to attend. There is a \$40 fee to attend, financial assistance may be available upon request.

The workshop will take place at the Byxbe Campus, 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015.

Go to <https://bit.ly/PLTWorkshopSeries2025> to register.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE - OHIO
EDUCATOR/FACILITATOR HYBRID WORKSHOP SERIES
REGISTER TODAY!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
 HOSTED BY:
 NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES
 Conserve. Connect. Inspire.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
 HOSTED BY:
 NATURE CENTER AT HOCKING COLLEGE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
 HOSTED BY:
 Summit Metro Parks

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
 HOSTED BY:
 Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

Scan the QR code or go to:
<https://bit.ly/PLTWorkshopSeries2025>
 Email heather.sheets@dnr.ohio.gov if you have any questions!

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Delaware
Soil and Water
Conservation District



BE SALT SMART

As we all know, rock salt is commonly used on Ohio roads, sidewalks, and driveways to maintain safe driving and walking conditions. As that salt dissolves, it washes into storm drains and then to our local streams, rivers, and ponds. Just one teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water. While safety always comes first, it's important to keep stream fish and other stream wildlife safe and healthy as well.

You can be part of the salt pollution solution by remembering to shovel first, measure and use only what you need, spread evenly, sweep up excess, and be sure to avoid using salt before it rains.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION



Now Accepting Pre-Applications for Farmland Preservation Program

The Delaware County Board of Commissioners serves as the Certified Local Sponsor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program in Delaware County. On behalf of the Commissioners, the Delaware Soil

and Water Conservation District coordinates the application process and annual monitoring of easements.

Once all pending easements are finalized, over 2,036 acres in Delaware County will be under preservation through ODA easement programs. The farmland preservation program began in 2002 and has preserved more than 729 farms, totaling over 108,000 acres in 62 counties, as of December 2024. These voluntary, legal agreements among the landowner, the local community, and the state ensure that farmland remains in agricultural use forever. Under an agricultural easement, the land itself stays under private ownership, but the easement prohibits any future non-agricultural development by landowners.

If you are interested in applying for the program, please take a look at [ODA's website](#) for additional information and minimum guidelines for eligibility.

Complete applications must be received in the Delaware SWCD office by the end of the business day, Friday February 7, 2025 at 4:30pm. Materials can be submitted in person at 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015, or via postal mail to: PO Box 8005, Delaware, OH 43015, Attention Erin Fisher.

[Find Application Here](#)

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS



Chris Johnson

Chris started at the district in July as our Engineering Technician. He assists with everything from surveying and design, to Drainage Review Permits for residential and commercial buildings. For nearly a decade, Chris worked in Manufacturing before receiving his associate's degree in engineering. He went on to work for TRC as a Distribution Designer doing survey work for AEP. He also worked as a Mechanical Designer for Schafer Driveline 3D modeling, designing axles for off-highway vehicles.

Chris is a proud Veteran of the Ohio Air National Guard, serving from 2011 to 2017. He enjoys spending his free time with his wife and kids. He has a passion for the outdoors and spends much of his time hunting, fishing, hiking, side-by-side riding, and camping.



Josh Troyer

Josh just joined us in August as the District's GIS & Technology Systems Coordinator. Josh hopes to leverage his fifteen years of natural resources conservation experience to help manage the District's GIS and engineering workload. He looks forward to using his commercial drone pilot's license for land management and agricultural applications.

In 2008, Josh earned a B.S. in Earth Science from Western Oregon University, and began his conservation career as a biologist in the Pacific Northwest. Josh returned to Ohio in 2015 and has held subsequent positions with The Nature Conservancy, Preservation Parks, and local government.

When he's not working, Josh enjoys spending time outdoors, camping, fishing, and exploring with his family.



Our mission is to bring people, government agencies, and private interests together to manage the natural resources and environmental challenges of Delaware County and the state of Ohio.

1,846 acres protected

through ODA Farmland Preservation easement program



Drainage Maintenance Program



- 32,786 Parcels with an assessment
- 2,085 Work Orders Completed
- 852 Ravine and Annual Inspections
- 646 Drainage Maintenance Projects with a total infrastructure value of over \$158 million
- 25 Drainage Petition Projects in process

5 Working Agreements with MS4 Permittees

158,000 Combined Population
(Approximately 67% of the County Population)



Bareroot Tree Seedlings

2,476 Seedlings donated
4,424 Seedlings sold



Outreach & Education

- Attended 8 Community Events
- 2,369 Social Media Followers
- 667 Email Subscribers
- 12 School Resource Kit Loans & Donations
- Awarded Mini Grant to 8 schools



- Drainage Review Permits began for 1 + acre parcels
- Permit application process was digitized



- 360 Initial Drainage Protection Reviews with over 44 sites requiring follow-up inspections
- 103 Technical assistance appointments, including site visits relating to drainage, erosion control, ponds and more

