

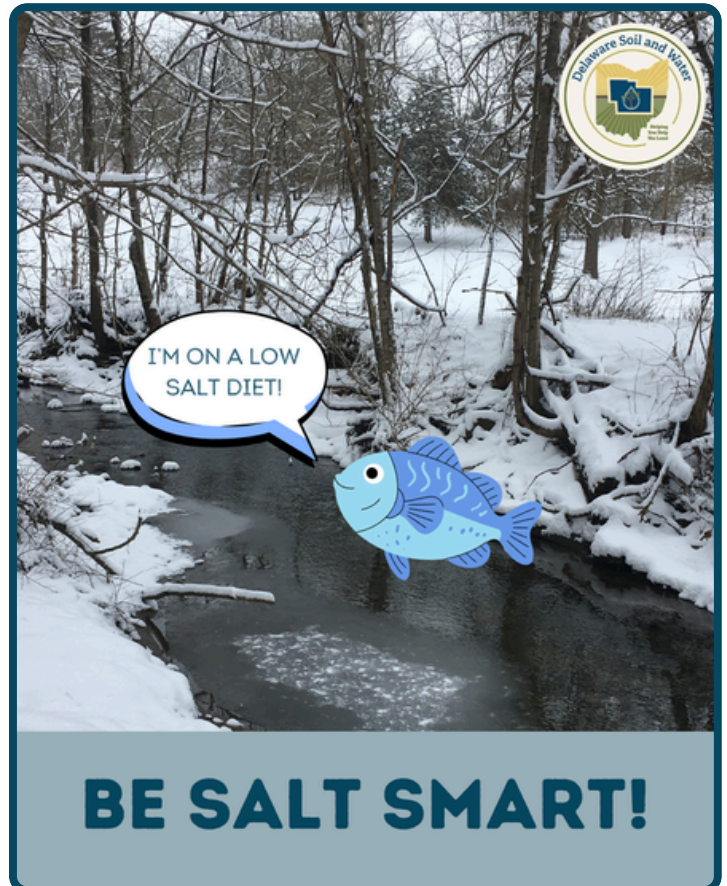
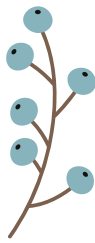
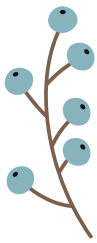
Focus Newsletter

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Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

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



Upcoming Events

January 19 - Office closed for MLK Day

January 20 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 4:00p.m.

January 26 - 30 - Winter Salt Awareness Week

February 6 - Pre-Applications due for Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)

February 16 - Office closed for Presidents' Day

February 17 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

March 17 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

March 27 - Ohio Rivers Symposium

April 14 - 17 - Bare Root Tree Sale Pick-Up

April 21 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER ERIC PENKAL

We are excited to welcome our newly elected board member, Eric Penkal. Eric has been a friend of the district for many years, formerly providing us with legal counsel. He has dedicated his career to public service and community leadership, which will make him an excellent addition to our board!

[Read more in our blog post here.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN SKINNER

Our team is also excited to welcome back Brian Skinner to his second term on our board. Brian has been an engaged and supportive board member in his first three years, so we have no doubt that he will continue to move the district forward with his dedicated service. Brian and his family have proudly supported the district, and farmed in Delaware County, for generations.



A FOND FAREWELL TO SUE CUNNINGHAM

We would be remiss not to thank Sue Cunningham for her service of 24 years as board supervisor, with the last eight years as board chair. Sue's steady leadership has been a great asset to our district. She has led us through many changes, and has helped our district adapt to every challenge we come across. She leaves a legacy of conservation that future generations will certainly strive towards.

Thank you, Sue! You will be missed!



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 14-17, 2026 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.](#)



BE SALT SMART

WANT TO HELP REDUCE SALT POLLUTION?

Shovel, Scatter, Sweep.

- **Shovel:** Clear snow from sidewalks and parking lots before it turns to ice. The more snow you remove, the less salt you'll have to use – and the more effective it will be!
- **Scatter:** If you use salt, scatter it so there's space (about 3 inches) between the grains. A 12 oz coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway, 10 sidewalk squares, or two parking spaces.
- **Sweep:** Once the salt has done its job, sweep up the excess so you can reuse it for future storms and prevent it from washing away.

You do not have to feel “the crunch” for salt to do its job.

- Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water so snow and ice can be more easily removed. Putting more salt on a surface does not make snow and ice melt faster or eliminate the need for plowing or shoveling.

Beware of package labels.

- There is no regulation around road salt packaging. Deicers labeled “ecofriendly” or “pet safe” might still contain chloride. Read the product label closely. If there is sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, or potassium chloride, it still contains salt!

Chloride pollution is not just a winter problem.

- Research finds that road salt can continue to pollute streams in the summer, and that aquatic life may be even more sensitive to salt in warmer weather.

Winter Salt Awareness Week is January 26 - 30, 2026!

Learn More and get involved at www.SaltWatch.org.



WINTER SALT AWARENESS WEEK

Winter Salt Week 2026



MONDAY
JAN 26
1:30 ET

Freshwater Salinization
Causes, Consequences, and Trends
Dr. Megan Rippey and Dr. Stan Grant, Virginia Tech

TUESDAY
JAN 27
1:30 ET

Salt Wise Stories
Phill Sexton, WIT Advisors
Aron Rodman, Extra Mile Snowplowing LLC

WEDNESDAY
JAN 27
1:30 ET

Smart Salting Contracts
Martin Tirado, Snow and Ice Management Assn
Jim Turcan, Cornerstone Partners Hort. Serv. Co.

THURSDAY
JAN 29
1:30 ET

Engineering Solutions
Connie Fortin, Bolton & Menk
Wilf Nixon, Professional Snowfighters Association

FRIDAY
JAN 30

Virtual Conversation Table Options: **Advocating for Change (12-1pm ET)** hosted by Abby Hileman and Mary Rooney; **Salt Monitoring 101 (1-2pm ET)** hosted by Lauren Eaton and Paige Vichiola

Learn more and register online
www.wintersaltweek.org



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 6, 2026 at 4:30pm. Materials can be submitted in person at 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015, or via postal mail to: PO Box 8006, Delaware, OH 43015, Attention Erin Fisher.

[Find Application Here](#)

soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us



UPCOMING EVENTS

OHIO RIVERS SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE:

Flowing Through Time OHIO'S RIVERS



Bridge over Raccoon Creek



Cattle by the Little Miami River



Olentangy Scenic River

1934 1960 2023

2026 Ohio Rivers SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

Villa Milano Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio

Registration opens January 8, 2026
ohiodnr.gov/scenicrivers



Department of Natural Resources

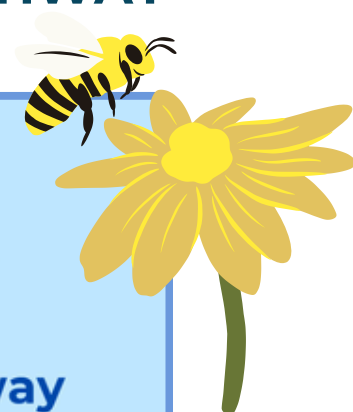
This day-long event is for natural resources and water planning professionals as well as river enthusiasts and conservationists. Inspired by America's 250th celebration, several presentations will focus on natural and cultural history. Topics include history of Ohio's rivers, watershed management, and fascinating aquatic species.

Learn more and register at wmao.org/2026RiverSym

soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us

UPCOMING EVENTS

NORTH CENTRAL OHIO POLLINATOR PATHWAY THIRD ANNUAL SUMMIT



**(Re)Learning the Earth:
Joining the Pollinator Pathway**

**North Central Ohio Pollinator Pathway
Third Annual Summit**

**Saturday, January 31, 2026
1:00-4:15pm**

**Ohio Wesleyan University, Benes Room
Delaware, OH**

Join us for presentations, pop up talks,
and breakout sessions!

Keynote Speaker
Dianne Kadonaga, Founder at Sunny Glen Garden

Special Guest
Jana Hogan, Executive Director, National Pollinator Pathway

Featured Guests
Traci Cardinal, President, Dark Sky Ohio
Dave Heithaus, Director, Knox County Parks
Michael Keeler, Owner, Ohio Native Concepts
Susan King, Licking County Pollinator Pathway
Alison Meyer, Art teacher and native plant designer
Patty Shipley, Owner, Leaves for Wildlife Native Plant Nursery

Plus
Delaware City Schools
Naturalists from Preservations Parks

Please use the QR code to register.
\$10.00 Admission

**North Central Ohio
Pollinator Pathway**

2025 IN REVIEW

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



8 Community Events Attended



River Bucket Challenge

TREE SALE



*1,090 Seedlings donated
4,424 Seedlings sold*

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE



*33,000 Parcels with an assessment
2,000 Work orders completed
900 Ravine and annual inspections
650 Drainage Maintenance Projects*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



*Over 100 Technical Assistance
appointments provided*

FARMLAND PRESERVATION



1,889 acres protected



*4 Mini Grants for
Schools Awarded
9 Resource Kits Loaned*

PARTNER AGREEMENTS



*5 Working Agreements with
Partner Municipalities*