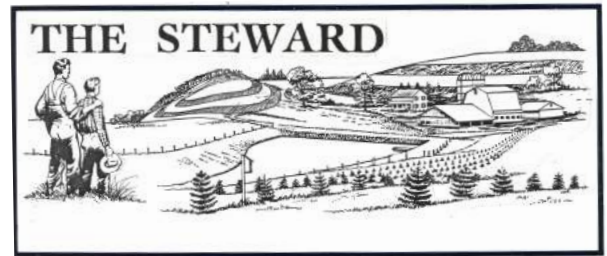


Spring 2020

Ashland



Soil & Water Conservation District

Ashland Soil & Water Named District of the Year

District Technician & Watershed Coordinator Erica White, Program Administrator Jane Houin, Board Chair Justin Ringler, and Administrative Assistant Maxine Swaisgood have been instrumental in growing Ashland SWCD's programs and outreach.



WHAT'S COMING UP

- Ashland SWCD Office Closed:** May 25: Memorial Day 
- Board Meetings (at SWCD office at 9 a.m.):** April 8, May 13, June 10
- Fish Sale Pick Up:** April 14 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- TREE-mendous Volunteer Day:** April 18
- Tree Sale Pickup:** April 19 from 2-5 p.m. & April 20 from 8-6 p.m.
- Mohican Wildlife Weekend:** April 25
- Area 2 Envirothon:** April 30
- Rain Garden Workshop:** May 14 at 6:30 at Honey Haven Farm Greenhouse

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for information on rescheduled events!

We are excited to share that earlier this spring, Ashland SWCD was named the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' (OFSWCD) 2020 Soil & Water District of the Year.

OFSWCD President Bob Short cited our district's commitment to working with agricultural retailers and Farm Bureau to develop and implement new, innovative conservation programs as just one of the reasons the federation's directors selected Ashland as this year's award recipient.

"We are excited and honored to have our commitment to implementation hands-on conservation recognized at this level," said Jane Houin, district program administrator for Ashland SWCD. "Our staff and board have dedicated themselves to growing our program in ways that will put conservation practices on the ground that will protect and preserve the amazing natural resources of Ashland County." *Continued inside on page 2*

Join us at the Hazel Willis Woods April 25 for Mohican Wildlife Weekend!

District of the Year - continued from page 1

Just two years ago in 2018, Ashland SWCD was one of the 10 lowest funded soil and water conservation districts in the state. Since that time, the district has worked hard to increase local funding by sharing with local officials the value the district provides the county. For example, for every local dollar invested in Ashland SWCD in 2019, an additional \$1.97 was brought back to Ashland County as a result of state match funds, grants, and conservation cost-share programs administered by the district.

Meet the Staff:

Erica White

District Technician & Jerome Fork Watershed Coordinator



Hometown:
Norwalk, Ohio

Education:
Ohio State ATI

**Started at
Ashland
SWCD:**
August 2018

Favorite thing about working for Ashland SWCD: Erica enjoys working together outside with farmers and landowners to find profitable solutions for concerns and administering programs that will continue to make a difference in the community.

Hobbies: In her spare time, Erica is the CEO of pampering for her personal zoo (aka "the barn") of animals (horses, goats, dogs, chickens and cats!) and enjoys spoiling her dogs with treats through her new phone app during the day. She also enjoys riding horses, hiking, and spending time with her family and dogs (aka her children.)

Favorite Quote:

"Live like someone left the gate open."

Short also cited our innovative programs and willingness to grow our programs through grant funding as strengthen of the district's program. For example, in 2019, the Ohio Department of Agriculture awarded Ashland SWCD a watershed coordinator grant to focus conservation programs in the Jerome Fork watershed; the grant will bring in nearly \$120,000 in personnel support to Ashland County over the grant's three year period.

The district was also awarded an Ohio Farm Bureau (OFB) Water Quality Initiative grant by in cooperation with Ashland Farm Bureau to implement crop modeling programs that will reduce nutrient runoff from Ashland County farmland with a focus on reducing nitrogen runoff. Nitrogen runoff from Ashland County farm fields makes its way to the Gulf of Mexico where it contributes to the Gulf's hypoxic dead zone. Thanks to funding from OFB and support from Sunrise Cooperative, these models will be offered to Ashland County producers at a 100 percent cost share rate in 2020.

And most recently, the district was awarded a \$44,000 grant to bring urban agriculture conservation practices to the county from the National Association of Conservation Districts - one of just 21 districts from across the country to be selected for funding. This funding will allow the district to increase educational collaboration with the county's Head Start programs including installing and utilizing raised bed gardens as teaching tools. Additionally, the grant will provide new stormwater management awareness programs throughout the county, including programs on installing and utilizing both rain barrels and rain gardens. (More on this program on page 3!)

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results," Houin said. "Without the support of our SWCD Board of Supervisors and the willingness of our staff, we would not have been able to try new, different approaches to conservation, without which we would not be experiencing the tremendous growth in our county that we see today."

Houin also credits increased local support from the Ashland County Commissioners for the district's growth along with support from our state legislators. This support has allowed the district to dramatically increase cost-share dollars brought back to the county for livestock exclusion fencing, cover crop implementation, and more.



Equipment Rental

ASHLAND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Available equipment:

2018 John Deere No-Till Drills

- \$12/acre January 1-June 30; \$10/acre July 1 - December 31
- Available in 10 or 15 foot widths (\$100 min charge for 10-ft; \$200 min charge for 15-ft)
- Delivery available for additional \$50

APV Seeder & Side-by-Side UTV

- \$75/day; Includes use of box trailer
- Perfect for slug bait application or frost seeding; comes with light bar for even application

Straw Chopper/Mulcher

- \$50/day; includes trailer for transport

Terra Plane

- \$30 for single-day use (pick up & return same business day); \$50/day if kept overnight.
- Excellent to level and grade drives

Tree Planter

- 5¢/tree to plant trees purchased through Ashland SWCD's tree sale; 10¢/tree for other trees.
- \$10 min charge for 1st day and \$20 each additional day, weather permitting

For more information or to schedule equipment rental, contact Maxine Swaisgood at 419-281-7645



Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District

Do-it-yourself Soil Test Packages



Soil Test Type	Package Descriptions	Price
Ag Packages		
S1: Basic Soil Test Package	Soil pH, Buffer pH, Organic Matter, Available Phosphorus, Exchangeable Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Cation Exchange Capacity, Percent Base Saturation of Cation Elements with recommendations.	\$8.00
S2: Basic Plus Soil Test Package	Basic Soil Test plus choice of any three of the following micronutrients: Boron, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Sulfur and Zinc with recommendations.	\$12.00
S3: Complete Soil Test Package	Basic Soil Test plus Boron, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Sulfur and Zinc with recommendations.	\$16.00
Turf Packages		
T1: Basic Turf and Ornamental Soil Test Package	Includes Soil pH, Buffer pH (when needed), Organic Matter, Available Phosphorus, Exchangeable Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), Percent Base Saturation of Cation Elements. Recommendations for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and lime by plant species on a special turf and ornamental soil analysis report with graphic display of results.	\$12.00
T2: Basic Turf and Ornamental Soil Test Package with Micronutrients	Includes Basic Turf & Ornamental Soil Test Package plus Iron, Manganese, Zinc, and Copper. Recommendations for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, lime, iron, manganese, zinc and copper by plant species on a special turf and ornamental soil analysis report with graphic display of results.	\$20.00
T3: Complete Turf and Ornamental Soil Test Package	Includes Basic Turf & Ornamental Soil Test Package with Micronutrients plus Nitrate Nitrogen, Sodium, Sulfur, Boron and Soluble Salts. Recommendations for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, lime, iron, manganese, zinc and copper, sulfur and boron by plant species on a special turf and ornamental soil analysis report with graphic display of results	\$40.00
Shipping *If more than 10 samples shipping charge is \$1.00 per sample		\$2.00 *per sample

Contact Erica White at 419-289-4828 for more information.

www.ashlandswcd.com

Urban Ag & Education Programs Planned for 2020

Beautiful, Hard Working Rain Gardens

Rain gardens prevent flooding, increase home value and create habitat for birds and butterflies.

A RAIN GARDEN is a beautiful landscape feature in your yard that captures and filters runoff from your roof, driveway or other hard surface.

x 600

The average home rain garden naturally filters 30,000 gallons of water per year, enough to fill a bathtub 600 times!

Calculation based on a typical 10' x 12' residential rain garden capturing average rainfall for the Puget Sound region from 1,200 square feet and a bathtub volume of 50 gallons.

12,000 RAIN GARDENS
In Puget Sound

For more information go to: www.12000raingardens.org

Look for these new programs:

- Rain Beat on Main Street
- Raised bed gardens for Ashland Head Starts
- Hands-on agriscience classroom experiences
- Rain garden workshops
- Rain barrel workshops
- Pollinator habitat

This spring, the National Association of Conservation Districts announced that the Ashland SWCD office would be one of just 21 conservation district from across the country to be awarded an Urban Agriculture Initiative grant to boost local capacity to provide services in the county.

“This grant brings vital resources to our county that will allow us to install hands-on conservation practices and programs in Ashland County’s more urban areas—areas we have not had the funding or resources to tackle in the past,” said Jane Houin,

Ashland SWCD program administrator. “We are especially excited about the opportunities this grant will provide to work with our county’s Head Start centers to provide hands-on urban agriculture education in the form of raised bed gardens at their centers as well as the opportunity to install and showcase several conservation projects in Ashland and other villages in the county.”

The grant has allowed our office to expand programming by hiring Becca Vales, an urban and education specialist who is charged with implementing the programs outlined in the grant proposal. Planned projects include installing urban gardens at the county’s Head Start centers as well as installing and showcasing practices to effectively manage stormwater and improve pollinator habitat—all while creating hands-on educational opportunities for students.

“Conservation districts continue to expand their urban outreach, growing their technical capacity at the same time as they grow their reach, forging relationships with nontraditional partners and customers that they might not have directly assisted before,” said NACD President Tim Palmer. “We’re proud to offer support to bolster their work to improve our nation’s natural resources.”



Ashland SWCD Board Members

Justin Ringler, Chair
David Elson, Vice Chair
Karen Welch, Fiscal Officer
Valerie Hall, Member



Ashland Soil & Water Conservation District

1763 State Route 60

Ashland OH 44805

419-281-7645

Web: ashlandswcd.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/AshlandSWCD](https://www.facebook.com/AshlandSWCD)

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Mark Your Calendars for Rain Beat on Main Street

Ashland SWCD will be partnering with both Ashland and Loudonville to bring the first-ever Rain Beat on Main Street event to Ashland County. This year's event will take place **July 30-August 11 in Loudonville on the square and August 13-25 in Ashland at Corner Park.** Local artists and community groups will transform urn-style rain barrels into one-of-a-kind art to be displayed in the community. Barrels will be sponsored by local businesses.

The public will be invited to not only visit and enjoy the beauty of the rain barrels, but also to vote for their favorite in a People's Choice contest on Facebook. There will also be a judged art competition component with cash prizes.

The event will culminate with an online auction of the rain barrels. Proceeds will go toward raising funds for water education signage to be used throughout the county encouraging wise use and protection of our water resources.

For more information on becoming a sponsor or decorating a rain barrel, contact Becca Vales, Ashland SWCD urban and education specialist for more information.



Ashland County's Rain Beat on Main Street event will be modeled on Hamilton Soil & Water Conservation District's Rain on Main event in downtown Carmel, Ind. shown here.

