

## Who we are

The Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio. Operations are funded from annual appropriations of the Paulding County Board of Commissioners, which are then matched nearly dollar for dollar by the State of Ohio.

Our office provides services in promoting conserving our resources in the areas of technical assistance/cost share programs, educational outreach, ditch maintenance, and care for the Paulding County Black Swamp Nature Center.

Great things are happening everyday as we look to preserve and protect the natural resources of Paulding County and serve its citizens, one person at a time!

## Have questions about the services offered by Paulding SWCD?

Contact the Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District

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Paulding, OH 45879

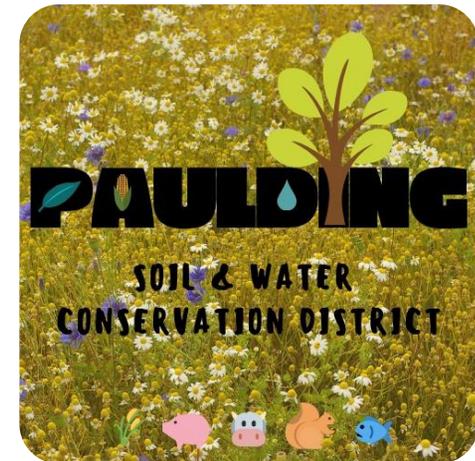
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# Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District



## 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW & SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

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*The Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank the Paulding County Commissioners Tony Zartman, Mark Holtsberry, and Roy Klopfenstein for their continued support that allow us to provide critical services to protect the land and water resources of Paulding County.*



## CONSERVATION EDUCATION

In 2019, our office gave 300 presentations to school or adult groups for a total reach of 5,300 people. In addition to classroom visits to Paulding



County schools, we also had field trips to the Black Swamp Nature Center. We had students and Boy Scouts come take part in nature center scavenger hunts/tours.

2019 was also the first year for our participation in the Antwerp Elementary Prairie Day with Grades 1-5.



In 2019, we partnered with The Nature Conservancy for a series of Lunch & Learn Meetings that featured a pontoon cruise on the Auglaize River and an informational manure regulations meeting attended by producers and landowners in Paulding County and beyond.

Our big education event of the year is our annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day where we invite nearly 300 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Paulding County's public, private, and homeschool groups to the Black Swamp Nature Center and the Paulding County Fairgrounds. Students rotate between a series of 8 stations where they learn farm safety, geology, agronomy, pollinators, water quality, market production, wildlife, and forestry. Each student, teacher, and volunteer receive a commemorative t-shirt and drawstring bag along with lunch thanks to the generosity of our local business sponsors!



As part of Arbor Day celebrations, the Paulding SWCD gives each 1<sup>st</sup> grader in Paulding County their own Colorado Blue Spruce seedling. This year, we gave away 185 seedlings to local students in all our county schools!!



Weekly newspaper articles for 2019 published in four local newspapers had a total reach of 60,000 people each week! Check out our articles in the *Crescent-News*, *Times Bulletin*, *West Bend News*, and *Paulding Progress*!

# DITCH MAINTENANCE

The Ditch Maintenance division maintains approximately 277 miles of ditches throughout Paulding County. They perform annual inspections of ditches as well as daily maintenance to include such duties as vegetation management, erosion control, and dipout and reconstruction. Currently, there is a total of 105 ditches and 6 tiles on maintenance. Two new ditches were added this year, John Russell and Melody Acres with an additional project slated for 2020 called John Wollam Ditch.



The Ditch Maintenance division also maintains the records pertaining to ditch maintenance as well as fund management and budgeting. They also assist with SWCD programs such as rental equipment maintenance, education field days, and maintenance of the Black Swamp Nature Center.

In 2019, the Ditch Maintenance Division accomplished the following:

## **Ditch Cleaning (dipout, heavy sediment removal, sandbars):**

Totaling – 3.6 miles

## **Quarried Rock and Clean Hard Fill used for erosion protection and bank stabilization:**

Total - 285 ton

## **Control Structure Repairs including rock chutes, ditch back stabilization, berm drains:**

Total - 18 sites

## **Spraying: (Bottom, brush & weeds, stump treat, basal application completed)**

53 – ditch coverage, usage of approx. 6,050 gallons mix sprayed

# Paulding SWCD at a Glance

Since 1949, the Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District has been working to offer assistance to residents that help to preserve and protect the natural resources of Paulding County. Funding is provided by the Paulding County Commissioners, which is then matched by the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Soil & Water Conservation. Funds provided help us to continue our services to the residents of Paulding County.



Promoting conservation of our lands and waters is the purpose and foundation of the Paulding SWCD. Our office works with landowners, operators, and public officials who are looking for us to help them manage and protect land and water resources on both public and private lands in Paulding County. The Paulding SWCD is one of nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the United States who are working to address the needs of their citizens.

The Paulding SWCD is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who are Paulding County landowners that are elected at our Annual Meeting in September. They serve in a voluntary capacity and help lead local conservation decisions to best manage the resources of our county.

Throughout this booklet, you will find a highlight of projects and program:



that highlight the technical, education, ditch maintenance, and nutrient management services provided by the Paulding SWCD. Together, we strive to provide the information and tools the residents of Paulding County can utilize to be good stewards of the land. With this in mind, we can work together to promote conservation of the land and water to improve the quality of life for the people of Paulding County.

# TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical Assistance is at the core of the mission for the Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District. We are here to help residents of Paulding County with a variety of resource concerns. Some conservation practices



and services that we offer include Conservation Planning, Nutrient Management Planning, GIS Watershed/Soil Mapping, Grassed Waterway Design, Livestock Waste Storage Design, Erosion Control Structures.

In 2019, our Technicians helped Paulding County residents in many ways:

- Completion of 2 group ditch projects. Melody Acres in Paulding Twp. and John Russell Ditch in Jackson Twp., with another project on the books for 2020 construction
- Enrollment of over 8,000 acres in the Small Grains Cost-Share Program
- Enrollment of over 150 acres of filter strips in the Working Lands Buffer program
- Over \$1.5 million worth of grant & cost share funding committed to Paulding County for installation/management of Best Management Practices that will benefit landowners in the county
- Development of Nine-Element Plans by Civil & Environmental Consultants to become eligible for additional cost share funding for conservation practices in the Flatrock, Eagle Creek, Sixmile, and Wildcat Creek watersheds
- Over 175 acres of subsurface fertilizer application through our Nutrient Application program thanks to a US EPA Grant



# BLACK SWAMP NAURE CENTER

The Black Swamp Nature Center contains 51 acres consisting of 24 acres woodland, 14 acres of wetlands, and 6 acres of old meadow. A boat launch allows easy access to Flat Rock Creek, while trails wonder around the top banks of three ponds along Flat Rock Creek and past the old Sugar Beet dam. The Paulding County Fairgrounds border the Nature Center on the northeast side, with two access trails allowing easy entrance. The old meadow and wetland areas provide an excellent



habitat for many species of birds and plant life.



Starting in 2019, Paulding SWCD and Paulding High School formed a partnership to hold a Service Learning Day at the Nature Center. Over 350 students in grades 9-12 come out to the Nature Center and help make a BIG difference in their community!

Here are some projects completed by the students:

- spread mulch on trails
- cut new trail for access to Old Meadow Trail
- cut back cedars and invasive vines, trim trails
- prune around building
- plant bulbs
- attach tree ID tags
- install disc golf course
- remove flaking paint from front sign
- relocate approx. 30 LARGE landscape rocks from brush area to building
- pull teasel weeds and roots
- mount 4 "no gun" signs
- mount 2 bat boxes
- stain large dock and benches, building

