



PAULDING COUNTY



**HOMEOWNER'S
GUIDE**

FIRST EDITION



**Paulding Soil & Water
Conservation District**

900 Fairground Dr. Suite B. Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-4771

Email: paulding@pauldingswcd.org

Website: www.pauldingswcd.org

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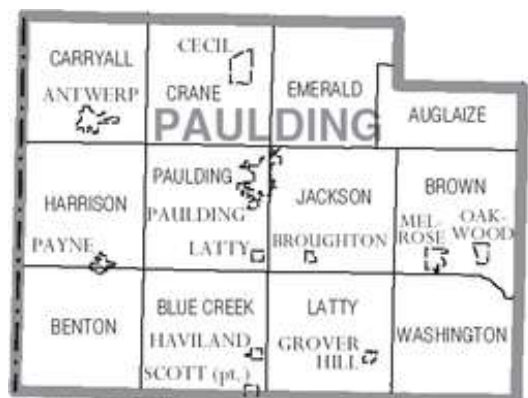
Introduction

Dear Reader,

Paulding County is truly a place where memories are made and just about everyone is known on a first name basis. We are a county that is primarily rural and has an economy dependent on agriculture whether it be cash crops, community gardens, or livestock operations. As people move from towns to the country, there seems to be a difference in opinion between the homeowner and the farmer who cares for the land. It takes both parties working together to inform each other of ways of living and also helping one another out when needed.

Becoming a homeowner is a big step to take in life and there is a lot that goes into building a home and preparing the site in the right manner or even knowing about your home before you make a purchase if a structure is already there. There is so much to know such as soils, sewage, water supply, erosion, floodplains, basement construction, and it is hard to know where to find the resources to build or maintain your home. This guide serves to ease that transition into homeownership and provide the local (city, county & township) resources that will answer all your questions as well as to know what to expect when it comes to living in the country.

Welcome to Paulding County: A Place where Memories are Made!



Paulding County Agency Guide

Paulding County Commissioners

Roy Klopfenstein, Mark Holtsberry, Tony Zartman

115 N Williams St. Paulding, OH 45879

Lower Level of the Courthouse

Phone: 419-399-8215

Email: pccommissioners@pauldingcountyoh.com

Paulding County Engineer (Travis McGarvey)

801 W. Wayne St. Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-2433

www.pauldingcountyengineer.com

Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District

900 Fairground Dr. Suite B. Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-4771

Email: paulding@pauldingswcd.org

Website: www.pauldingswcd.org

Ohio State University Extension Paulding Co.

503 Fairground Dr. Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-8225

Email: noggle.17@osu.edu

Paulding County Health Department

800 E. Perry St. Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-3921

Email: pchd@pcohhd.com

Paulding County Auditor (Claudia Fickel)

115 N Williams St. Paulding, OH 45879 (courthouse)

Phone: 419-399-8205

Email: claudiaf@pauldingcounty-oh.com

Paulding County WMEA Program

Becky Suvar, Director

Email: wmea@bright.net

Paulding County Economic Development

Jerry Zielke, Executive Director

101 East Perry Street Paulding, Ohio 45879

Phone: 419-399-8295 Email: pced63director@gmail.com

Paulding County Emergency Management Agency

Ed Bohn, Director

503 Fairground Dr. Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-3500

Email: ema@pauldingcounty-oh.com

Clerk of Courts (Ann E. Pease)

115 N Williams St, Room 104 Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-8210 (Legal div.) or 399-8211 (title)

Email: clerk@pauldingcountyoh.com

Recorder (Carol Temple)

Room 103 115 N Williams St. Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-8275

Email: recorder@pauldingcounty-oh.com

Treasurer (Lou Ann Wannemacher)

115 N Williams St (Ct. House) Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-8281

Email: lou_ann@pauldingcountyoh.com

Title Office (Nancy Burtch)

Lower Level of Courthouse

Email: title@pauldingcountyoh.com

Paulding County Township Directory

Auglaize Township (ZONED)

Address: 14850 Road 169, Oakwood

Office: 419-393-2628 or 419-393-4134

Email: auglaizetwp@yahoo.com

Trustees: Herald Yenser, Gene Weidenhamer, Bill Wiles

Zoning Inspector: Angie Pollock 419-393-2876

Meetings are 4th Monday 7pm @ Auglaize Fire Department

Benton Township (ZONED)

Address: 6100 Rd. 33, Payne

Trustees: Randy Noggle (263-2459),

Mark Crosby (419-770-2267)

Joe Thome (263-2673)

Zoning Inspector: Tom Sinn (419-399-4613)

Meetings: 2nd Monday of Jan, Feb, March, Nov., Dec. @ 7pm

2nd Monday of April-Oct @ 7pm at Township House

Blue Creek Township (ZONED)

Township House: Corner of Road 87 & 48

Phone: 419-622-6081

Trustees: Jammie Hughes (622-3310),

Calvin Sinn (771-0926)

Doug Laukhuf (622-4715)

Zoning Inspector: Robert Laukhuf (393-2876)

Meetings: last Tuesday of the month @7pm at the Township House

Brown Township

Township House: 200 S. First St. Oakwood

Email: brown_twp@yahoo.com

Trustees: Dan Halter (594-2037)

Dan Thomas (594-2408)

Marty Adams (594-3091)

Meetings: Last Thursday of the month @4:30pm at Twp. House

Carryall Township (ZONED)

PO Box 652 Antwerp, OH 45813

Office: 419-258-2007

Trustees: Greg Hughes (258-5201)

Joe Barker (419-506-1854)

John Benny Wykoff (258-2007)

Zoning Inspector: Mike Molitor (419-633-2610)

Meetings: 2nd Monday @7pm Township House

Crane Township (ZONED)

Address: Main Street, Cecil

Trustees: Joe Sukup (399-5391)

Michael Meyer (769-5760)

Charlie Simpson (399-4737)

Zoning Inspector: Mike Brady (419-786-0000)

Meetings: 3rd Monday 7pm @Township House

Emerald Township (ZONED)

Township House: 16491 Rd 133 Cecil

Trustees: Kevin Anderson (399-8450)

Greg Adkins (393-4194)

Rick Weippert (399-4948)

Zoning Inspector: Nylice Thomas (399-3171)

Meetings: Last Thursday of the Month 6:30pm @ Twp. House

Harrison Township (ZONED)

Township House: 7877 Road 51

Email: kathyfeasby@hotmail.com

Trustees: Dan Olwin (263-2507)

Edward Stabler (263-2104)

Chad Benschneider (263-2277)

Zoning Inspector: Dave Jordan (419-786-9788)

Meetings: 2nd Monday 7pm @ Township House

Paulding County Township Directory

Jackson Township

Township House: 9992 Road 131, Paulding

Office: 419-399-2470

Trustees: Dennis Sanderson (399-2820)

Ray Johanns (399-4235)

Bill Strahley (399-5839)

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month 7pm @ Twp. House

Latty Township (ZONED)

Township House: 204 E. Jackson St. Grover Hill

Trustees: Lyle Ebel (587-3465)

Jason Sheets (786-8925)

Blake Sinn (587-3922)

Zoning Inspector: Jeffrey Ebel (587-3465)

Meetings: 4th Monday 7pm @ Twp. House

Paulding Township (ZONED)

Township House: Corner of SR 500 & Road 87

Email: pauldingtownship@windstream.net

Trustees: Dennis Layman (786-4959)

Mike Kauser (399-2955)

Jay Dangler (399-2688)

Zoning Inspector: Mike Brady (419-786-0000)

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday (Nov.-March) 7pm; April-Oct: 8pm

@ Twp. House

Washington Township (ZONED)

Township House: Corner of SR 114 & Road 177

Trustees: Burton Merriman (587-3192)

Lonnie Lytle (587-3819)

Lynn Noffsinger (587-3324)

Zoning Inspector: Chad Dotson (419-438-8509)

Meetings: Last Tuesday 7pm @ Township House

*Sometimes country air isn't
what city folks expect!!*



Creating Harmony in the Countryside

To many, Paulding County is a place to call home and where memories are made. It has taken a lot of hard work, dedication, and commitment by local farmers and residents to be good stewards of the land and preserving our natural resources for many years to come. Being a good steward of the land takes the whole effort of the community whether it be a farmer or the average homeowner. Together, we all can do our part to preserve and protect the resources of the county we all call home.

It goes without saying that being a good neighbor means being responsible, courteous of others, and most importantly respectful of one another. Being a good neighbor who is respectful of the property of others as well as the need for farmers to do what they need to do to produce the food that graces our tables all play a part in preserving & protecting our rural Paulding County landscape for future generations. Step out of your comfort zone and get to know your neighbor and let them know you want to build a working relationship.

Rural Residents/Country Dwellers/Livestock Producers:

- Keep your property looking neat & clean. Many people take pride in the appearance of their property in the country. Don't you want to keep your property looking neat and be a good neighbor?
- If you live in the country, expect the odors, livestock, noise, as well as farm machinery traveling down the road. Even though it may inconvenience you for a few days out of the year during planting or harvest, consider it a small price to pay with the benefits of open space the other days of the year
- Compromise and patience for those who have different rural lifestyles are an important thing to keep in mind to maintain harmony. A successful relationship will be rewarding and mutually beneficial
- Put forth all efforts to contain your pets to your property. Open country serves as a large source of temptation for many pets but roaming pets can cause crop damage and put livestock under added stress
- Keep trash in a covered & enclosed receptacle. Trash that blows onto an active farm can impact crops, farm machinery, and the livestock who may be out grazing
- Don't always think farmland is available to ride around on with an ATV or horse. Always ask for permission before doing so
- If you have a question, don't be afraid to ask your farmer neighbor. The more you talk to them, the more you will be able to understand reasoning behind some of their practices and possibly gain a bigger appreciation
- Don't spread manure on Friday or before a holiday. Ask the neighbors if a fresh application will hinder their plans. Incorporate manure if possible
- Explain to neighbors why you as a farmer need to do certain things. Explain why manure is applied (to recycle nutrients, put manure to use). Once they know, they could be more understanding
- Explain to neighbors the need to work late during harvest or planting season. Let them know it won't last forever
- Host an open house/picnic for neighbors to view the farm & take time to educate them on your different practices and why you do them
- Help one another out. During winter, if you have a tractor & blade or snow plow, be a good neighbor and plow their driveway for them
- Explain to neighbors that livestock require care around the clock and even on holidays, even when it is not convenient

A Right to Farm

Ohio is a “right-to-farm” state meaning there are laws included in the Ohio Constitution (Ohio Revised Code) that lay out protections from legal actions against noise, vibration, odors, smoke, dust, irrigation mist, pesticides, crop production substances, and transporting farm equipment, vehicles, or livestock on public roadways. Ohio’s Right to Farm Act was last updated by the 129th General Assembly in 2012 and can be viewed here: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/929>

Here are some frequently asked questions and a photo at right regarding Right to Farm. These are courtesy of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

What is an Agricultural District?

An agricultural district is a tract, parcel, or lot of land that, upon application by the landowner to the county auditor, receives an identity of being devoted to agricultural use. An individual landowner can apply to enroll his/her land as an agricultural district if the land is ten acres or more. If the tract is less than ten acres, the landowner must show that an average gross income of \$2500 in each of the last three years has been made from an agricultural use on the property. If the land is found to be devoted to an agricultural use or devoted to a federal government land retirement or conservation program, the land will be identified as an agricultural district on the records of the county auditor and thereby receive statutory benefits.



What are specific benefits that a landowner can receive if his/her land is placed in an agricultural district?

The statute allows landowners to voluntarily create an agricultural district, provided certain minimum requirements are met. Owners who place land in an agricultural district receive a deferment on collection of any new water, sewer, and electric assessments if the land is farmed. The only exception to this rule is if there is a residence located on the property. In that case, the landowner will be required to pay an assessment only on the one acre that the residence is located on, even if the residence does not occupy an entire acre.

The statute provides an affirmative defense against civil nuisance actions when generally accepted agricultural practices are used on land located within an agricultural district. To obtain this protection, the agricultural activities within the district must have been present before the actions or interests of the plaintiffs, the plaintiff cannot be a farmer, and the agricultural activities on the property cannot be in violation of any other state, federal, or local laws related to nuisance.

Does an agricultural district protect the land from eminent domain?

Limited protection against the use of eminent domain powers of the government is given to land located within an agricultural district. If an eminent domain entity uses eminent domain powers for more than 10 acres or 10 percent of a parcel located within an agricultural district area, additional review procedures may be required before the land is taken.

What are the minimum qualifications to form an agricultural district?

First, the land must have been devoted to agriculture or to a federal government land retirement or conservation program for three years prior to the year of application. Second, the land must be composed of tracts, lots, or parcels that total not less than 10 acres or have an average gross annual income of at least \$2500 during the past three years.

What if my farm is located within the boundaries of a municipality?

If the land proposed for an agricultural district is within a municipal corporation, or an annexation petition has been filed, the owner must also file with the city or village. Within 30 days the municipal corporation must approve, modify or reject the application. If modified or rejected, it must “Demonstrate ... a substantial adverse effect” on the provision of municipal services, the efficient use of land, orderly growth and development, or the public health, safety, or welfare. Modifications may include the limiting of assessment benefits, nuisance protection, and duration of district, but is not limited to those areas. If the land becomes annexed by a municipality after it is already in an agricultural district, then the municipality does not have the power to review the application providing:

- The land was not sold or transferred to another person (except within the immediate family).
- The owner that established the district did not sign the annexation petition, or the owner did not vote in favor of annexation.

Understanding the Laws

In addition to the right to farm, there are various laws that should be noted when living in a largely rural area such as Paulding County. Laws are included in the Ohio Revised Code which cover burning, drainage, slow moving vehicles, trespassing, aesthetic value, as well as zoning (if applicable to your township).

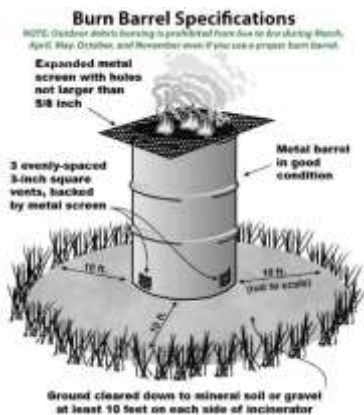
Burning Laws

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

What Is the Difference Between an Open Burn and a Prescribed Fire?

The term "open burn" refers to debris, brush and trash fires. Ohio EPA defines an open burn as any outdoor fire without a chimney or stack. Open burning is particularly dangerous in the spring and fall, when the leaves are on the ground, the grass is not green, and the weather is warm, dry and windy.

"Prescribed fire" refers to fires that are intentionally lit, under predetermined conditions, to meet various resource management objectives. Prescribed fire can be used as a tool to eliminate undesirable vegetation and reduce hazardous fuel levels. When managed carefully, prescribed fire can stimulate the growth of native vegetation and reduce fire hazards brought on by the accumulation of dead vegetation. Prescribed fires may be conducted during the burn ban, but only with the permission of the Chief of the Division of Forestry.



Are there any times of the year when open burning is restricted?

Open burning is restricted in Ohio during the months of March, April, May, October, and November between 6am-6pm. Included in this ban is the burning of yard waste, trash, and debris.

What materials are NEVER allowed to be burned in Ohio?

Food Wastes, dead animals, and materials that contain rubber, grease, asphalt, or made from petroleum

Other Facts of Burning Laws:

- Do not burn when conditions are dry as a small spark can start a raging grass fire. Use common sense.
- Do not burn inside city or village limits
- Specific wastes can be burned outside restricted areas but in the area they are generated:
 - Agricultural Wastes (excluding dead animals, garbage, chemicals)
 - Landscape wastes (trees, branches, brush, leaves, crop residue)
 - Residential wastes (wood/paper products)

Understanding the Laws

Drainage

With each drop of rain, sleet, or snow that falls on the ground, some can be absorbed into the ground (well water) or becomes runoff into lakes, streams, and rivers. It is important to understand where your “runoff” ends up. Once again, remember to be a neighbor that is courteous to others and their property. You may have heard about water pollution and nutrient overloading becoming a major problem, such as in and around Lake Erie. One thing to understand is that we all play our individual part to keeping our streams and rivers clean and big results are seen when all our individual efforts are put together.

When water falls on earth’s surface, it percolates through open spaces and is filtered by plants and soil particles as it moves through the soil profile. This way, when water reaches our groundwater reservoirs or streams, it is clean. This process is severely hindered when we construct new buildings, lay pavement, or make a roofline larger. Water is more likely to run off the surface and go directly into streams without being filtered.

It is important to note whether you have a wetland on your property. It is Ohio law that wetlands (areas with saturated soil for much of the year), vegetation in wetlands (cattails etc.), and water are prohibited to be drained. These areas are very critical to the function of the environment. Wetlands and the plants found within them provide many benefits including:

- Flood Control
- Filtering of Excess Nutrients
- Sediment Trapping
- Habitat for Animals
- Filtering of Pollution



Source: Awkwardbotany.com

Wetlands help provide a refuge for nearly 1/3 of the species that are on the Ohio Endangered Species List. Do your part and help protect the environment wherever possible. Certain exceptions may be made by the Ohio EPA or US Army Corps of Engineers.

Slow Moving Vehicles



When it comes to living in the country, slow moving vehicles (SMV’s) are a common sight, especially during the spring planting and fall harvest season. Under Ohio law, vehicles that travel under 25 mph are required to have flashing lights and a florescent orange triangle that is 14 inches in height.

With a car that is traveling at 55 mph or greater, a slow-moving vehicle such as a tractor or combine will come up faster than you might think. When approaching these vehicles, be cautious when it comes to passing these vehicles and give them time to pull off the road and allow you to pass. Take your time and have safety in mind when reaching your destination.

Farmers are working hard to provide us all with the food we eat and the clothes we wear every day. When you see this orange & red triangle slow down, it could be saving your life and the farmer’s.

Understanding the Laws

Trespassing

Source: Ohio Farm Bureau

It should ideally go without saying that you should always obtain the owner's permission prior to stepping on the property. Much of the land in the countryside is quite enticing to those who would want to hike, ride an ATV, as well as simply cause trouble. Landowners and those who wish to utilize the property should have documentation on hand which specifies the activity to be permitted and the specific dates to which the activity is going to be allowed.

According to the Ohio Revised Code 2911.21, trespassing is a crime and a fourth-degree misdemeanor. If the landowner sees trespassers on their property, please do not attempt to apprehend the trespasser. Call the Paulding County Sheriff's Office at 419-399-3791 for assistance.

Landowners should be aware that anyone who enters your property takes on a certain status per Ohio Law. It all depends how the person enters your property whether they are a trespasser (unknown entrance), known trespasser, or a social guest. Each status brings with it issues of liability, refer to the Ohio Revised Code for more specific information.

Aesthetic Value



One thing that should be pointed out is that you as the landowner were not the first one to live in the country and enjoy the great beauty that Paulding County has to offer. Ideally, you need to respect the rights of all those who came out to the country prior to you. As with anything, you should leave the area or property just as clean or cleaner when you came. If this practice is followed, we can reach our goal of preserving the environment for all to enjoy for many years to come!

Zoning

Source: Peggy Hall, OSU Extension

With the exception of Brown & Jackson Townships, each township in Paulding County is zoned and has a Zoning Officer who is knowledgeable on applicable zoning laws. Refer to the township office directory for the zoning officer of your respective township and their contact information. For residents in Brown in Jackson Township, questions should be directed to the Paulding County Engineer's Office at 419-399-2433.

There are some exceptions to agriculture when it comes to zoning laws. Ohio Revised Code sections 303 and 309 provide the "agricultural exemption" to county and zoning laws. It should also be noted that villages within the county may have additional laws on the books pertaining to their corporation limits. According to Peggy Hall with OSU Extension, agriculture is exempt from rural zoning laws in most situations. A county or township may not prohibit land use for agriculture in unincorporated areas.

Exempt activities must also be in the current definition of agriculture as stated in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Refer to the ORC for how agriculture is currently defined in Ohio. OSU Extension also notes that agricultural buildings may also be exempt from zoning if the building is directly related to an agricultural activity.



Understanding the Laws

Nutrient Management *By: Mick Britenriker, former WLEB Nutrient Mgmt. Specialist Paulding SWCD*

When winter takes hold, livestock producers and commercial manure applicators should be storing or stockpiling liquid and solid manure, unless they are applying their manure to a cover crop or growing crop that over winters. For farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) since July 3, 2015, when Senate Bill 1 or Revised Code 939.08 and 939.09 came into effect, the Ohio Revised Code RESTRICTS:

- 1) Hauling manure on frozen or snow-covered ground
- 2) Hauling on saturated ground (top two inches of soil are saturated with precipitation)
- 3) Manure application when the weather forecast calls for greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding a half inch in a 24-hour period

The following are EXCEPTIONS to the land application RESTRICTIONS:

Farmers can haul on frozen or snow-covered ground, saturated ground or the weather precipitation condition under any of the following circumstances:

- 1) Manure is injected into the ground
- 2) Manure is incorporated within 24 hours
- 3) Manure is applied on an over wintering growing crop or cover crop

Although the above exemptions may permit manure application, extreme caution should be used, especially if applying manure to a growing crop under frozen or snow-covered conditions. Agricultural Pollution Abatement Laws still apply, and a violation will be issued if manure discharges into the waters of the State.

Fertilizer application: Applicators also have restrictions in place from Senate Bill 1 or Ohio Revised Code 905.326:

- 1) No person in the WLEB shall surface apply nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizer on snow-covered or frozen soil
- 2) No person shall apply nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizer when the top two inches of soil are saturated from precipitation
- 3) No one shall apply nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizer in a granular form when the weather forecast calls for 50% chance of rain greater than one inch in a twelve-hour period.



Applicators can spread fertilizer in the WLEB during these circumstances:

- 1) The fertilizer is injected into the ground
- 2) The fertilizer is incorporated within 24 hours of surface application
- 3) The fertilizer is applied onto an over wintering growing crop or cover crop

Nutrient Management continued

Applying Manure to Fields:

- Liquid manure applicators need to examine the fields for tile blowouts, soil cracks, wormholes, and any other situations that might allow manure to reach surface waters.
- For incorporated liquid manure or liquid manure incorporated within 24 hours, there are no setbacks requirements from ditches and streams.

For hauling manure on frozen and/or snow-covered ground with growing crops, or on small farms with a written exemption from Ohio Revised code 939, a setback of 200 feet from all residences, private wells, streams, ditches, grassed waterways, surface inlets, and surface drains is required.

- All the setbacks can be requested from WLEB Nutrient Management Specialist Mick Britenriker, and/or contact the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District.



NRCS Recommendations for Stockpiling of Pen Pack Manure:

- Farmers or custom applicators need to stockpile 500 feet away from a residence,
- 300 feet away from any water source (waterways or surface drains),
- And 1500 feet from any public surface drinking water intake.
- Also, planned stockpiles cannot be stored in the field for more than 8 months.
- If you have any questions on stockpiling setbacks or laws, do not hesitate to call. Mick Britenriker, WLEB Nutrient Management Specialist, can come and look at the site before you stockpile, make recommendations, and make sure the setbacks are being followed.

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Laws still apply in ALL circumstances, and a violation will be issued if manure discharges into the waters of the State. Please use caution and anticipate changes in the weather as much as possible to protect yourself and protect the environment.

For questions or more information, contact Manuel Lay, current WLEB Nutrient Management Specialist, serving Paulding, Defiance and Williams Counties, via his cell at 419-670-2187 or Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District at 419-399-4771.

Know Before You Buy: Soils

Contacts:
SWCD, HD, OSUE

For the most part, Paulding County soils are used to produce livestock and cash crops like corn, soybeans, wheat. This section contains generalized information on the soils of this county, if you desire more specific information on your township or area, refer to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Web Soil Survey which can be found at <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>. There are also PDF versions you may download of the County Soil Survey by running a search “Paulding County Ohio Soil Survey” or visiting the USDA website at www.usda.gov.



Within this survey, you will find information on the soil type that comprises your land along with any properties associated with the soil type. Limitations of the soil will also be included as well as any hazards that may be contained within the soil. The USDA Soil Survey also included information on management practices that can be implemented to overcome limitations such as how to deal with slope or drainage, in addition to how various land uses will impact the soil.

It is important to keep in mind that your soil and the neighbors could be different in many ways. The soil types could differ, drainage could be different so flooding may be a problem. If you have a clay soil that stays wet for long periods of time, a septic tank or absorption field will be poorly suited, or if the water table is high, a basement will not be recommended as flooding will occur often in a rain event.

Several questions should come to mind when considering your soils on your property (*Source: Logan County Homeowner Guide*):

- What soils can be found on my property?
- What limitations do I have on my property that may be a problem?
 - Seasonal Water Table
 - Shrink or Swell likelihood (future cracking of soil)
 - Paulding County has a lot of clay, which means shrinking and swelling pressure will have a greater chance of occurring in this county
 - Standing Water- how long will water remain on the surface before it can get away?
 - Slope
 - What is the overall grade of your site? Is there any potential for erosion issues that may need to be addressed?
 - Sand or Gravel subsoil layer
 - How far until you reach the bedrock layer?
 - How well does water move through your soil (permeability)?
 - Does it drain well or take time to drain?
 - Is your property in the floodplain? What extra steps might be required if the property is?
- Will I need to install drainage systems to remove excess or standing water?
- What will the Paulding County Health Department require of septic systems?
- Do I have the topsoil needed to grow a garden or establish a successful lawn?
- Do I have access to a sufficient outlet for my subsurface drainage to enter?

Agency Abbreviations

SWCD= Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District

ZI= Township Zoning Inspector

ENG= Paulding Co. Engineer

WMEA= Paulding Waste Mgmt. Edu. & Awareness

HD= Paulding Co. Health Department

OSUE= Ohio State University Extension Pldg. Co.

TWP= Township Trustees

UT= Public Utilities

AUD= Paulding Co. Auditor

Know Before You Buy: Watersheds

Reference: Logan Co. Homeowner Guide

The first thing that you might be wondering is what exactly is a watershed. A watershed is simply defined as an area of land that drains to a common water source. All the land, cities, rivers, lakes, and streams are included in a watershed. Within Paulding County, there are several smaller watersheds that make up our waterways.

On a larger scale, Paulding County falls in the Lake Erie Watershed which means that all our water here will eventually make its way to Lake Erie primarily via the Maumee River. The important thing to keep in mind with watersheds is the fact that everything we do here in Paulding County will affect someone down the stream. Think of the algal blooms in Lake Erie and water pollution in general. Those were caused by excess nutrients and pollution from a variety of different sources (farm, residential, and industrial in the Lake Erie Watershed that flowed downstream to Lake Erie. Watersheds are relied upon for drinking, irrigation, and, industry.

There are several ways the way you use your land above, below, or even your property can affect the landscape and the watershed. Keep these things in mind when thinking about the water resources on your property as well as your neighbor:

- Flooding
 - How easily is your property prone to flooding?
 - Have you checked to see if you are in the floodplain?
- Erosion
 - Are there ways to keep erosion to a minimum or stopped altogether on my property?
 - Vegetation/Trees
 - Healthy Grass
- Runoff of soil or chemicals from construction
 - More times than not, construction proves to be one potential source of pollution as chemicals used in the process may get spilled and runoff into streams/rivers
 - Plant ground cover to reduce erosion
 - Build small ditches to catch runoff
- Pollution
 - Do you know what is considered pollution and what is not?
- Do you know where the water that comes to your property originates?
 - Underground Tile?
 - County Maintenance?
 - Private Ditch?
- After your water leaves your property, where exactly does it go next?
- How do you know if you have water problems?
 - Standing Water
 - Dead Grass or No Grass
 - Rills or Gullies forming on the soil surface
 - Deepened road ditch



Know Before You Buy: Sewage Systems

Reference: Logan Co. Homeowner Guide, Paulding County Health Department

It is the responsibility of the Paulding County Health Department to enforce regulations pertaining to the construction, installation, and maintenance of sewage disposal systems that serve 1,2, and 3 family dwellings. The Paulding County Health Department works to ensure that residents of this county do not have to deal with disease, adverse health effects, or nuisance from improper sewage treatment.

Things such as steep slopes, seasonal high-water tables, limited depth to bedrock, and low permeability of the soils can influence the operation of conventional onsite sewage systems.

Health Department Services

Site Evaluation: The Paulding County Health Department will come visit your site that requires a sewage disposal system prior to construction if you are a new home build. They will help you determine the proper location for your sewage system. Visit the Paulding County Health Department website for an application www.pauldingcountyhealth.com

Inspection of Septic System: If you are selling or refinancing your home, the Health Department offers to come out and inspect the septic system. The home must be occupied and the system cannot have been pumped for more than 30 days. Visit their website for additional information.

Things to Consider

- Is the located out of any flood hazard area?
- Does the property have any access to an adequate outlet for curtain drain discharge?
- Are public sanitary sewers in place or are any planned?
- Does your lot meet any minimum requirements of the health department such as isolation distance from any on-site sewage disposal system for the well?
 - Visit Paulding County Health Department www.pauldingcountyhealth.com
- Does your lot meet size requirements to allow for relocating your leach field?
- Is there a map available of the septic tank and leaching fields?

Contacts:
HD, OSUE

Know Before You Buy: Water Supplies

For those of you that live in town, your water supply comes from your municipality. Water that comes from the town supply is subject to extensive testing and treatment processes between the time the water is taken up from the water supply and the point which the water reaches your tap. Your drinking water quality falls under the regulation of the EPA.

In town, most of your water comes from a creek or river running through your area. Water enters the intake at the water treatment plant and goes through a variety of treatment processes at which point the water is tested and released to your home.

For those of you that live in the country, your water comes from an underground well at which you do the water treatment yourself. Some face sulfur water while others do not, it just depends on your specific location as to what will affect you.

Regardless of whether you live within the boundaries of a village or out in the country, the ultimate responsibility for ensuring water is safe and clean falls upon the homeowner. The municipality can only do so much to make sure the water is safe to drink, but the responsibility falls upon you once the water reaches your home.

Before purchasing a home, there are a few things to consider (source: Logan County Homeowner Guide & US EPA)

- How recent was the last test for bacteria, pH, and nitrates conducted on your home's water system?
- Water systems should be inspected at least once per year and water should also be tested once a year to make sure water quality is at appropriate levels
- Are there any leaky or faulty pipes that will need repaired?

Inspection of your Water System for Homebuyers (US EPA):

- The following areas of your water system should be inspected:
 - Well Pump
 - Pressure Tank
 - Condition of area around the well
- Make sure the well is not in an area that will be most likely to see flooding

For more information, visit the US EPA website at

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/pdfs/realtorprivatewell.pdf>



Contacts:

ZI, SWCD, ENG, OSUE

Know Before You Buy: Drainage & Natural Features

For the most part, Paulding County has a flat landscape with minimal slopes with a few exceptions of course. We have several creeks and the Auglaize River and Maumee River as well as Flat Rock Creek running through the county. According to the USDA Soil Survey for Paulding County, our land is nearly level to gently sloping with wetness noted as a major limitation with most of the soils in the county.

Erosion is also a hazard to be concerned with in the county particularly on area which are sloping to steep and along the valleys of streams. The Maumee and Auglaize Rivers are where most of the sloping land in Paulding County will be found and are the main waterways which drain the county. Common areas where you will see drainage issues occur would be if your home or lot is located within the boundaries of a floodplain of a stream or if your lot falls within an area which serves as a natural drainage pathway.



Below are some considerations to consider regarding the drainage of your location:

- Is my property located in a floodplain? (see Engineer's Office & information later in this booklet)
- Can runoff from other properties affect my property in some way?
- Does my property fall under any drainage improvement or maintenance programs? (See SWCD)
- What direction does my wind primarily come from and is it possible for me to install a windbreak to slow down erosion?
- Do I anticipate installing geothermal heating? Drainage and land features are important things to keep in mind here.

Contacts:

ZI, ENG, TWP, HD

Know Before You Buy: Regulations, Legal Requirements, Assessments

Before you begin building, there are several regulations that you need to be aware of when it comes to building in Paulding County. Several agencies such as the SWCD Office serve as an information source while others require documentation to fulfill regulations.

The Paulding County Engineer has eight (8) requirements in place that must be satisfied to build in the county:

1. **Purchase a Building Permit for Paulding County-** The purpose of a permit notifies the Paulding County Auditor that a new development is in progress in addition to letting you know if your property may fall in a Flood Hazard Area. For those living within the corporation limits of a village, it is best to check with your town hall first. A building permit may be purchased from the Paulding County Auditor's Office located in the courthouse.
2. **Purchase a township or village Zoning Certificate-** For those who live in Auglaize, Benton, Blue Creek, Carryall, Crane, Emerald, Harrison Latty, Paulding, or Washington Township you are required to contact your zoning inspector to get a Zoning Certificate. The Zoning Certificate must be in your possession before any new construction begins. Residents living in Brown or Jackson Townships will not need a Zoning Certificate from the township but will still need a Building Permit from the Paulding County Auditor.
3. **Contact local utility companies for proper installation or location of existing lines-**It is Ohio Law that you must contact Ohio Utility Protection Service within two working days if you plan on doing any digging with your development. Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS) may be contacted at 1-800-362-2764.
4. **Contact the Paulding County Board of Health to make an appointment-**This meeting will serve to allow the Paulding County Board of Health to approve new or existing septic and drinking water systems on the site. Inspectors from the Board of Health will require drawings which clearly show where new systems are to be installed along with distances of which they are apart from one another in addition to where current systems are located.
5. **Obtain a Driveway Permit-**If a new driveway is being installed at your site and it is located on a county maintained road, a Driveway Permit must be obtained from the Paulding County Engineer's Office. There is a minimum notification time of two weeks to allow for timely processing of the application. It is important to note that there is NO COST to a Driveway permit, but information regarding the proper size pipe that will be needed is important. If you live along a township road, you will need to contact your respective township trustee for a permit. Those that live along state highways will need to contact the Paulding County ODOT Garage for a State Driveway Permit at 419-399-2746.

Easements & Assessments

- With the property you may be looking at, it is important to know the tax structure which may be in place for property tax, real estate tax, as well as any special assessments such as for Ditch Maintenance. Contact the Paulding County Auditor for more information.
- Be sure to check to see if there are any drainage, water, or sewer maintenance assessments on your property
- Are you considering building a pond? If you are building a pond, it is recommended to look into any requirements or permits which may be necessary.
- Check to see if your property is clearly marked with boundaries that match reference points in the deed to your property

Contacts:

SWCD, ENG, UT, SCHOOL

Know Before You Buy: Features of your Community

Beyond just buying a home, there is so much involved especially when you consider the community that surrounds your home. What does the community currently look like and what could it look like 10, 15, 20, or 50 years from now?

Utilities: Other considerations to make would be to know what utilities are available in your area. What electric, water/sewer, telephone, and cable companies cover the area that you are looking to build or buy a home? If you live in town, the best place to start would be your village office as they will more than likely have the information you need to get you started.



Schools: If you have children of school age, you will want to know what schools are available in your area and whether they offer busing to the school. Below are the local school systems in Paulding County along with their contact information:

Paulding Exempted Village Schools

Paulding Elm, JH/HS, Administration: 405 N. Water St. Paulding, OH 45879
Oakwood Elementary (Gr. Pre-K- 6th): 309 N. First St. Oakwood, OH 45873
Phone: 419-399-4656 (Paulding) or 419-594-3346 (Oakwood Elementary)
Website: www.pauldingschools.org

Wayne Trace Local Schools

Junior High/High School: 4915 US 127 Haviland, OH 45851
Phone: 419-622-5171

Grover Hill Elementary: 101 Monroe St, Grover Hill, OH 45849
Phone: 419-587-3414

Payne Elementary: 501 W Townline St, Payne, OH 45880
Phone: 419-263-2512

Website: www.waynetrace.org

Divine Mercy Catholic School

Address: 120 Arturus Street Payne, Ohio 45880
Phone: 419-263-2114
Website: <http://divinemerccatholic.com/school/>

Antwerp Local Schools

Address: 303 Harmann Road Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-258-5421
Website: www.antwerpschools.org

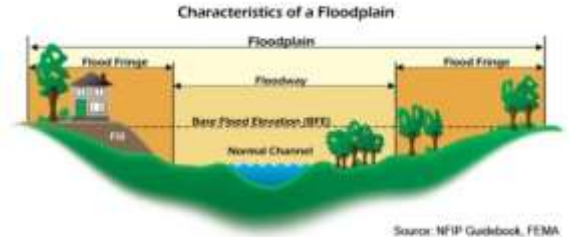
Land Use: One last consideration you will want to make is to survey the surrounding area to see if there is land use around you that may have some sort of impact on the resale value of your property should you decide to sell in the future.

Before You Build: Floodplain Issues

One important factor to keep in mind when examining your property is to know whether you are located in the floodplain or not. What exactly is a flood plain? A floodplain is a generally flat area of land next to a river or stream that is prone or subject to frequent flooding. Most floodplains are based on the 100-year flood maps.

Here are a few things to know about flood plains:

- It stretches from the banks of the river to the outer edges of the valley.
- A flood plain consists of two parts.
 - The first is the main channel of the river itself, called the floodway.
- Beyond the floodway is the flood fringe.
 - The flood fringe extends from the outer banks of the floodway to where the land begins to increase in elevation.
- Floodways can sometimes be seasonal, meaning the channel is dry for part of the year.
- Floodplains have specific building requirements and are subject to erosion and weathering due to the flooding.



Where can I find a floodplain map for my township?

The Paulding County Engineer has maps available on their website which highlight floodplains for each township in Paulding County. This information can be obtained via the following web address <https://www.pauldingcountyengineer.com/resources/> or by contacting the Engineer's Office.

Who can help me in Paulding County?

Tony Windsor with the Paulding County Engineer is their FEMA Floodplain Administrator. His office is located in the basement of the Paulding County Courthouse and his phone number is 419-399-2366.

What are floodplain regulations for Paulding County? (From Paulding Co. Engineer)

- Permission must be obtained from the Paulding County Engineer's Office for any extensive movement or rearrangement of ground surface contours (ponds, embankments, causeways, boat ramps, etc.) which occur upon or within a 100-year flood plain as depicted on Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- Any structures including, but not limited to, houses, garages, barns, etc., which are built in or upon a flood plain, must meet specific standards in order to be permitted by the Engineer's office. These standards vary according to location.
- Banks and/or lending institutions also check the flood plain maps to determine property locations before lending money on properties located in the flood plain. Once all standards are approved through the Engineer's Office, the bank and/or lending institution may or may not approve loans or mortgages for structures located within the flood plain.
- There appears to be a popular tendency toward filling in low-lying areas. These low-lying areas serve as temporary water retention resources and filling them in increases the likelihood that the displaced water will end up in less desirable location.
- Increased development means increased water run-off. This increased water run-off, along with continuing improvements to farmland surface and subsurface water drainage makes the preservation of these natural temporary water storage areas important. It would be unfortunate if we had to replace the low-lying water retention areas which nature has provided, with costly man-made reserve areas.
- The intent of these regulations is to prevent the flooding of existing structures and to monitor the building of new structures which would be vulnerable to flooding.

Contacts:
SWCD, ENG

Do you know how long it takes to build one inch of topsoil where soil nutrients and organic matter is found? In order to build just one inch of topsoil, it takes about 1,000 years to replace or build the soil back up. If you don't have this topsoil, there won't be much luck growing anything in your yard. Know the facts of soil erosion and ways you can help prevent it from happening on your property.

Facts of Erosion:

- When soil is dry, and the ground is bare, soil is very easily carried away by an act of wind
- Erosion is caused when flying soil particles crash into land and break off to create more particles
- Soil is removed from one area and deposited in another



Natural Causes of Erosion

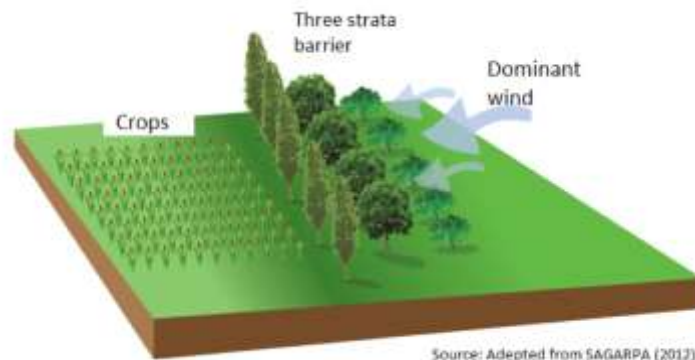
- Rainfall-heavy and powerful rains wash soil away
- Drought-soil dries out and easily carried by wind

Human Caused Factors

- Deforestation-no vegetation to hold soil in
- Deep plowing by farmers

How you can help:

- Plant cover crops whose roots will hold the soil in place
- Place mulch around landscaping at home
- Windbreaks
 - Help slow down the wind and prevent wind erosion



Windbreaks are linear plantings of trees and shrubs designed to enhance crop production, protect people and livestock, and benefit soil and water conservation.

After You Build: Do you have flooding issues?

Rain is certain a commonplace in the area along with the instances of flooding. Flooding issues in your yard are handled differently depending if your issue is on the surface or below the surface. There are cases where you might have issue both above and below the surface in which improvements will need to be made to both.

Surface Drainage

Source: Logan County Homeowner Guide

Believe it or not, any changes that you make to your landscaping such as adding plants, soil erosion, and maturing of your plants/shrubs all have an effect on how well the surface water around your home drains. It is certainly not a bad idea to have a grading and landscaping plan in place that describes how drainage of surface water will be controlled on your property. One important thing to note when controlling surface water on your property is to ensure that it is directed away from the walls of your foundation so that this stays in good shape for a longer period of time.



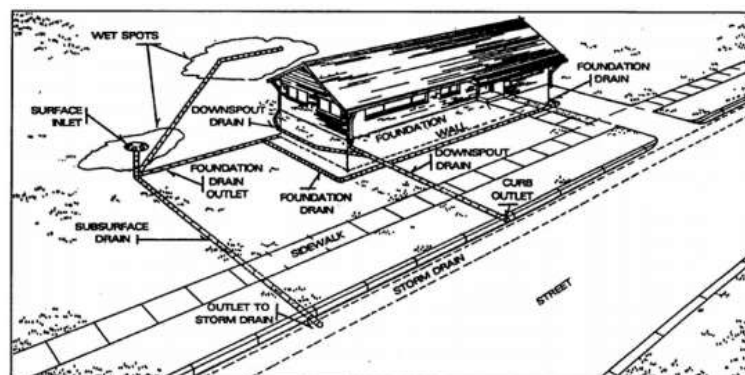
- In order to keep water away from your building, divert surface water away from the structure
- Building up soil around the foundation is a good way to direct water away from the foundation wall
- Regular maintenance of gutters and downspouts is a good thing to get water away from your structure and to try to extend these the farthest distance possible away from the walls of your foundation

Subsurface Drainage

Source: Logan County Homeowner Guide, Subsurface Drainage Fact Sheet (Franklin SWCD)

When you think of subsurface drainage, you generally are going to think of tile that a farmer would use to drain water from their fields. Most of your subsurface drainage will be made up of concrete, clay, perforated plastic with the size of the pipes depending on the amount of drainage that will be needed on your property. Franklin SWCD notes that a majority of your landscaping areas can get away with a four to six-inch diameter drainage pipe with gravel placed around the pipes.

Of course, the type of soil that is found around your home will play a great factor to determine the type of drainage on your property as well as any guidelines within your town or village. The purpose of the drainage pipes is to take the water from your downspouts, footer drains, and your lawn under the condition you have an outlet to drain the water towards. It is never a good idea to direct your water to the sewage system. For those that live in town, your drainage will typically outlet to the storm drain as shown in the diagram below from Franklin SWCD.



Basements serve as a nice addition to a home a safe place to go in the event of severe weather. As a homeowner, a flooded basement is certainly one of the worst nightmares that you can possibly imagine. What do you do? Who can you call? How can you prevent this from happening again in the future? If you stay on top of any routine maintenance you can and will have a dry basement at all times.

The following tips will help keep your basement dry. They come from Justin Woodard of Woodard Cleaning & Restoration Services (<https://www.angieslist.com/articles/7-tips-prevent-basement-flooding.htm>):

- **Clean & Maintain Gutters & Downspouts**

Cleaning your gutters and maintaining your downspouts is an essential part of maintaining your home. By keeping your gutters free of debris and ensuring downspouts are properly positioned away from the foundation, water from rain and storms will flow freely, rather than pooling up against your home. Essentially, you want the downspouts to take the water at least three feet from your home before displacing it. You may have to use an extension to make this happen.

- **Properly landscape your yard**

Did you ever give much consideration to the slope of your yard or flower bed to the cause of your basement flooding or other water issues? If the slope of your yard is directing the water towards your home, generally by the force of gravity, this water is going to go to the lowest point and find its way into your home. Depending on your specific landscaping issue, you may need to regrade your lawn directing water away from your home.

- **Inspect and repair foundation cracks**

Any cracks in the foundation of your home provides prime opportunity for water to enter your home. Regularly inspect the exterior of your foundation, basement walls, and floors. Should you notice any abnormalities, such as cracks epoxy will work to fill your cracks. Should the epoxy not be successful, it is recommended that a professional be called.

- **Practice proper sump pump maintenance**

Sump pump failure is the most frequent cause of basement floods. If your home has a sump pump, you've already got a great defense in combating mold, water damage, and flooding. However, simply owning a sump pump doesn't give you a "get out of jail free" card – you've got to maintain it too. If you know a huge storm is headed your way, check to make sure your sump pump is working properly and is plugged in. Also, consider investing in a generator for your sump pump and a replacement to keep on hand, just in case you lose power, or the pump fails when you need it most.

- **Get familiar with your insurance**

Do you have flood insurance? How about additional coverage for sewer backups? This won't prevent basement flooding per se, but if you don't know the answer to either of these questions, take a few moments to review the details of your home's insurance policy.

Sources: Cuyahoga SWCD Stream Maintenance Manual, West Virginia Dept. Environmental Protection, Logan County Homeowner Guide

Do you have a small stream or even a river flowing along your property? If so, there are several considerations that you will want to consider in order to protect the long-term viability of your property. The flow of a stream can be quite pleasing to many and only add to the aesthetics of your property thus increasing its value, given that proper maintenance steps are put in place to maintain the stream's quality both in terms of water and streambanks. With streams, some of the main concerns that arise are bank erosion, impermeable surfaces such as pavement, and pollution discharge.

Streambank erosion is a process that occurs naturally but one that is accelerated when it comes changes in either the stream channel or the watershed. Every time the stream overflows its banks during a flood, more water than normal is present, and which is moving at a strong current which easily erodes the bank if there is no vegetation to stabilize the streambank. With the bank eroding, this is going to lead to an increase in the sediment load in the stream which affects stream depth as sediment builds and the water quality of the stream when considering the materials such as nutrients, pesticides, or other toxic chemicals that could come along with sediment. According to the Cuyahoga SWCD Stream Maintenance Manual, sediment erosion affects the water's turbidity that in turn hinders the visibility of aquatic organisms with things as simple as finding food to eat.



Source: Nature Conservancy

So what can be done to prevent erosion? Vegetation is going to be your best friend when it comes to naturally stabilizing the stream bank along your property. Riparian buffers consist of natural vegetation along streambanks that help protect streams from pollution and also providing a source of bank stabilization. One of the best things to plant as a riparian buffer is trees due to many reasons. The roots of trees grow out long distances from the tree and deep into the ground which anchors the soil and sediment making up the streambanks. In addition, trees provide shade to the stream, which helps to maintain an adequate temperature suitable for organisms living in the water.

Riparian buffers are also a good practice to install when it comes to maintaining water quality. Vegetation in these buffers will help to trap and filter out any nutrients or toxins before they enter the stream with clean water making its way into the stream.

Here is what you can do in order to maintain the long-term viability of your backyard stream (Source: Logan County Homeowner Guide):

- Log jams prevent the free flow of water through the stream leading to increased flooding due to the fact that the water is unable to get away. Remove any log jams or other obstacles in addition to litter as a place to start
- Consider installing a riparian buffer to stabilize your streambank naturally. The Paulding SWCD can assist with planning and preparation as well as any questions you may have. Contact the office at 419-399-4771
- If installing a riparian buffer, be sure to select plant species which will grow and establish themselves in a fast manner. Don't forget to consider native species!
- Inspect the drainage around your home. Is water draining in a timely manner? With proper drainage runoff can be prevented which ensures bank stabilization
- As tempting as it is to dump your grass clippings and leaves in the stream, make attempts to avoid this practices as these materials are full of nutrients which can increase aquatic nutrient levels and contribute to algal blooms downstream

Contacts:

HD, OSUE

After You Build: Managing your Septic System

Source: United States EPA <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-your-septic-system-works>

Given that Paulding County is primarily a rural county, there are plenty of septic tanks to be found. With that being said, it only makes sense to offer some insight of basic functions of septic systems along with a few tips on how you can ensure that your septic system is properly maintained and functions properly.

How does a septic system work? According to the US EPA, common septic systems will include a septic tank along with a drainfield or soil absorption fields. After wastes leaves your home the first stop is the septic tank, a buried watertight tank. The septic tank takes organic matter and separates any floating matter such as oils or grease and solids from the wastewater. Bacteria decomposes the solids that settle out at the bottom of the septic tank. Among the most widely used septic systems is the soil absorption system which is the next stop following the septic tank. In this type of system, liquid known as effluent, is released from the septic tank into a network of perforated pipes in a leach field or leaching chamber which are built to gradually release the effluent into the soil or surface water. Soil acts as a filter which helps to remove any remaining substances or pollutants.

Need your septic tank pumped?

Contact the Paulding County Health Department at 419-399-3921 for a listing of trustworthy septage haulers.

How do you find your septic system?

- Looking on your home's "as built" drawing.
- Checking your yard for lids and manhole covers.
- Contacting a septic inspector or pumper to help you locate it

Tips for Managing your Septic System:

- Be sure to keep track of all maintenance records on your septic system such as when it was last pumped or the sludge/scum levels found by a service professional
- Employ some water conservation practices in your home. The more water conserved will lead to less water entering your septic system. Some water conservation tip to consider are:
 - High Efficiency toilets, washing machines, or shower heads
 - Repair leaky pipes or faucets
- Properly dispose of your waste. Understand that toilets are not trash cans. See the graphic on the right of items to avoid pouring down the drain as they do not easily decompose!
- Maintain your drainfield by not parking or driving on it, planting trees ideal distances away to keep roots from growing into it, and positioning roof drains away from the drainfield so as to not allow excess water to enter (excess water slows the wastewater treatment process)
- Ideally septic systems should be inspected once a year, although the US EPA suggests at least once every three years at the very minimum to look for any signs of a malfunctioning system which would be green grass on the drainfield during dry months shows that effluent is reaching the surface. The Paulding County Health Department can offer suggestions on ways to make repairs



As a homeowner, it is important to have a solid understanding on how your septic system function and how to properly maintain it. By having a properly functioning septic system, your property will be enhanced, and your will be able to avoid any health hazards and issues with groundwater pollution.

After You Build: Attracting Backyard Wildlife

We all enjoy sitting outdoors in the morning or evening and listen to the birds singing their harmonious and pleasant songs. The sounds of cardinals, blue jays, and robins are simply music to the ears in the opinion of many a bird lover. Other forms of wildlife provide a welcome sight those who enjoy watching nature's creatures. As more people move into the rural areas or our towns expand, wildlife has less area in order to live. There are several things that can be done to coexist with wildlife by planning areas that provide them with the food, water, and shelter that most wildlife are looking for all year long.

Food



The idea with attracting bird species is providing them with a source of food that they prefer. Most birds are going to prefer a variety of plants that produce an adequate selection of fruits and berries, especially those which bear fruit through the winter months. Grasses have also proven to be an attractant for birds, primarily the seed produced. Many of the grasses that are native to the area can be a great food source for birds as many species like the seeds. Check with the SWCD or OSUE for native species to recommend. HGTV says one way to make certain your grasses are a friend to the birds is to leave them alone and not trim back the seed heads until spring to leave seed but also shelter for any birds who may be passing through. Sparrows, finches, and cardinals are some seedeaters that would be grateful for a grass planting!

It is easy to attract birds to our backyards throughout all the seasons, but it is winter when the birds need our help the most. According to HGTV, birds are in greater need of our help through the winter months because they are utilizing a clear majority of their energy and time to look for food, water, and shelter. Coneflower, blazing star, or sunflowers as some popular perennial favorites among birds with the suggestion to plant these in large groups so enough seed is available for all the bird visitors.

Water

Beyond plant selection, there are a few more things that we can do for birds, not only in the winter but well throughout the year. One main thing is accessibility of water for the birds. For those that have bird feeders, it is important to keep a clean supply of water available in your birdbath, especially in the winter time when it can be difficult to find water. Believe it or not, there are warmers sold for birdbaths to keep the water from freezing in the winter months and even birdbaths with warmers already built in.



Shelter

Wildlife are looking for some place they can raise their young, seek protection from predators, among many other things. Each species of bird is going to be attracted to a different species of plants, particularly when it comes to plant height. Birds like food and shelter at varying heights or in a canopy of tall trees over smaller trees or shrubs. Landscape designer Doug Gagne says homeowners want to go for a tiered approach by placing taller tree species at the border of your property, with smaller trees and bushes next, followed by tall grasses and low growing flowers to imitate what birds typically find in nature.

All forms of wildlife vary in the type of cover that they prefer. According to Auburn University, woodpeckers and flying squirrels like dead trees, rabbits like tall grasses to make nests, and deer like shrubs. By offering a variety of cover, you will attract more wildlife. If you need more information on conservation practices such as planting trees, contact the Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District at 419-399-4771.

Conflicts with wildlife?

Contact the Paulding SWCD for information at 419-399-4771 on handling human/wildlife conflicts

Contacts:

WMEA, OSUE, SWCD

After You Build: Managing Household Waste

On a daily basis, households all across the world and right here in Paulding County are producing waste. To put it into numbers, there are around 230 million tons of garbage that are thrown away on a given year in the United States which boils down to 4.6 pounds of waste per person/day. Believe it or not, a majority of the things we throw away are able to be recycled, which helps a lot to protect our valuable natural resources and keep wastes from landfills.

It goes without saying that keeping our community looking beautiful takes a whole-hearted effort from everyone. If you see litter, pick it up. Want to get rid of food & yard waste? Give composting a try! As these materials break down, a valuable fertilizer is produced that can come in handy for those who partake in gardening.

What can be recycled?

Recycling Tip- Make sure recyclables are empty, clean, and dry!

Paper

Newspaper, envelopes, junk mail, phone books, brochures, magazines

Cardboard

File folders, poster board, frozen food boxes, cardboard boxes, milk cartons

Plastic

Water bottles, take out containers, soda bottles, milk jugs

Aluminum/Metal

Aluminum beverage cans, food cans, scrap metal

Glass

Beverage containers, glass food jars



What CAN NOT be recycled?

- Aerosol Cans
- Aluminum Foil
- Clothing
- Shredded Paper
- Stickers/Address Labels
- Tissues
- Napkins
- Ceramic
- Glass Windows
- Pyrex
- Styrofoam

Have a Recycling Question?

Contact the Paulding County WMEA at wmea@bright.net

After You Build: Managing Household Waste

Contacts:

WMEA, OSUE, SWCD

Where can I take my recycling?

1st Saturday of the month

Paulding – Fairgrounds

9:00am – 11:00pm

Grover Hill

9:00am – 11:00am

Haviland/Scott

@ Haviland Park

11:15am – 12:00pm

2nd Saturday of the Month

Melrose United Methodist

9:00am – 9:30am

Junction – Catholic Church

11:15am – 11:45am

3rd Saturday

Payne – Ball Park

9:00am – 11:00 am

Briceton Gas

11:15am – 11:45am

Latty Community Bldg.

12:00pm – 12:30pm

Recycling Items Requiring Special Handling

Used Oil and car batteries:

Advanced Auto Parts – 419-399-9644

Household batteries:

Any Radio Shack – put them in a container with a lid

Plastic Grocery sacks:

Any Wal-Mart Store

Old Computers:

Goodwill Store

Defiance: 419-782-2577

Erie Recycling 419-258-2345

602 Erie St. Antwerp, OH

Used Tires:

Henry County Landfill

419-256-7343



Terms Glossary

Below you will find a glossary of some terms that are used throughout this publication.

Easement- legal notification of a certain property right owned by others

EPA- Environmental Protection Agency, branch of federal government or state of Ohio (Ohio EPA) created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress or Ohio General Assembly

FEMA- Federal Emergency Management Agency, primary purpose is to coordinate the response to a disaster that has occurred in the United States and that overwhelms the resources of local and state authorities

Floodplain- nearly level or flat land location on either or both sides of a water channel that is the first area subject to flooding during a flooding event

Lien- legal notification that the property is collateral for a loan

Permeability- ability of water to move within the soil

Runoff- water resulting from a weather event that flows off the land into streams and other waterways

Watershed- area of land where all the water drains into a common outlet such as a river, lake, or wetland

Water Table- level below which the ground becomes saturated with water