

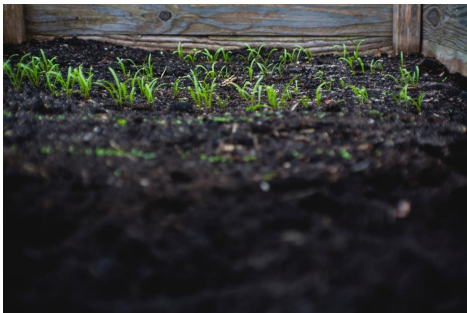
Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News April 2021

Applications Being Accepted For a Summer Internship

We're seeking current college students to apply for one (1) paid Summer Intern position. The internship is being funded through a grant from the Richland County Foundation Fran and Warren Rupp Fund. Our thanks goes to the Rupp's and the Foundation. The position is varied and provides the opportunity to assist with special events, social media, the website and more. Each day is different and gives students the chance to hone their skills, learn new skills and support the Soil and Water mission. Spend your summer with Soil and Water! The application deadline is **April 30, 2021**. Details and how to apply for each position may be found on the Richland SWCD [website](http://www.richlandswcd.net) or calling 419.747.8685.



Spring for a Soil Test



Now, is a great time of year to have your soil tested.

Why is soil testing important? Time and money may be saved if the soil composition is known prior to planting. Knowing your soil's composition is the first step toward attaining healthy plants. If you over-apply nutrients, you run the risk of causing soil

imbalance, adversely affecting the environment, contaminating water and harming aquatic life. It is estimated each year around 24 billion tons of soil is lost due to erosion, which could be caused by unbalanced soil management.

Soil testing for gardens, lawns, hobby farms and farm is inexpensive. For instructions on how to pull a soil sample and pricing information, please visit our [website](http://www.richlandswcd.net).

Don't Let Rain Water Go To Waste

We have a few of the original rain barrels left for \$70.00 that include the



Barrel, Diverter, Spigot, Inlet and installation instructions. Watch the demonstration video with Dan Herrold, on how to install. Click on [Learn About Rain Barrels](#). We are closing the original barrels out because we found a rain barrel that has a removable top you can plant in, easy to install fits in well with your landscape. They cost \$100.00. You can order one of the rain barrels on our [website](#).

Only Rain Down the Drain: Stabilize the Land

Join us this year as we share tips on keeping stormwater drains clear through the theme of [Only Rain Down the Drain](#).

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes, Lake Erie or the Ohio River and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico so we want to do everything we can to keep them clear of debris, litter, and pollutants. One way we can help is to stabilize our properties. Here are a few things to consider:

1. Check your stream and riverbanks, make sure they are not getting washed away. If they are starting to erode it might be time to install some type of erosion control after checking with the proper entities.
2. Have rocks down in your dirt driveways to reduce erosion and it will not be as muddy
3. Try and limit the amount of impervious surface on your property such as driveways, patios, accessory buildings, and the size of your home. Design your property so that there is someplace healthy for runoff to go before it enters our streams and rivers. Opt for more pervious surfaces.

Benefits from stabilizing the land are:

1. There will be less soil erosion which causes muddy streams and rivers that make it hard for wildlife.
2. Your yard will not disappear every time it rains.
3. Place mulch or decorative rocks on any bare pathways to reduce erosion.

To find out more about Only Rain Down the Drain and the MS4 program, contact [Dan](#) or visit the MS4 page on the [website](#).



Black Fork Ditch Petition Progress

During an organizational meeting held earlier in the month, Board of Commissioners in Richland and Crawford counties met to discuss the petition for the Black Fork Joint County Ditch Project.

Richland county Commissioner Cliff Mears was elected as chairman, Stacey Crall as clerk and



Richland County Engineer Adam Gove to oversee the cost/benefit analysis needed to implement a clean up plan of approximately 18 miles of the Black Fork from 50 feet south of the Mickey Road bridge in Sharon Township through Shelby to the bridge on Ohio 13 near Ohio 96 in Franklin Township. Survey work for the project will be done on foot and with a drone.

The In-Person Viewing will be May 20 at 1:30 p.m. to allow hiking down to the river to do personal inspections of several portions of the waterway. On May 21 at 9:30 a.m, there will be a Virtual Viewing in the Richland County Commissioners office to view drone footage of the 18 mile stretch of the river.

A public hearing about the petition will be held August 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Richland County Longview Center at 1495 W. Longview Avenue in Mansfield.

The purpose of the Ditch Petition is to help with cleaning efforts and maintain the Black Fork River. More details on the Black Fork Ditch Petition may be read [here](#). There is information on our [website](#) about the general ditch petition process and drone video of a portion of the Black Fork..

Pond Clinic Coming in June



The Morrow and Richland Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a [pond clinic](#) for and pond owners interested in pond management, aquatic vegetation control, fish stocking, and so much more.

This event takes place on June 10th, 2021, 7pm at the Headwaters Outdoor Education Center in Mt. Gilead. For any questions, please

contact Richland Soil and water at 419.747.8686 or Morrow Soil and Water at 419.946.7923.

Soil and Water Stewardship Week

Forests are alive and working 24 - 7. Isn't that great news, especially since they provide OXYGEN, which we need 24 hours a day and 7 days a week ! One large tree can make enough oxygen in one day for 4 people. Source: Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation District.

Please join us at the Richland County Commissioners Office for the reading and signing of the Soil and Water Stewardship Week Proclamation on Thursday, April 22 at 9:30 a.m.



[Learn more](#) about Soil and Water Stewardship Week from our partner, National Association of Conservation Districts, April 25 - May 1, 2021. There are many great resources available for families, teachers and churches on this year's theme, Healthy Forest, Healthy Communities

Local Food List Connects Producers to Consumers



Now more than ever, people want to know where their food is coming from, how it's grown and how to get it. Richland SWCD, along with [Destination Mansfield](#), [North End Community Improvement Collaborative](#), [OSU Extension - Richland County](#), [Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development](#) and [Richland County Farm Bureau](#) are supporting a Food Grower and Producer [List](#) for Richland County consumers to find locally grown produce, raised meat, dairy farm products, etc. If you are a local producer, please complete a brief [questionnaire](#) to be added to the list. Please contact [Theresa](#) with questions.

Acts of Conservation

Even though we may be socially distancing and staying at home, conservation measures we take as individuals can still make a big impact when combined **Together**. To participate in an Individual Act of Conservation, click [here](#). Thank you to our friends at Cuyahoga SWCD for allowing us to share.



Winter Interns Finish Up

Natalie Snyder and Kourtney Van Wagner finished up their internships with us. They helped with In the Know Videos, Virtual Conservation Story Times and mapping outfalls and identifying storm drains in the MS4 areas. We had a good time while accomplishing alot! We wish Natalie and Kourtney well and hope they won't be strangers. [Watch](#) the video they created at the end of their internship. We think it will be evident why we enjoyed their time with us.



Important Dates

April: [Ohio Native Plant Month](#)

April 25 - May 2: Soil and Water Stewardship Week

May 19: Board Supervisor Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

May 31: Memorial Day, Office Closed

June 10: [Pond Clinic](#) in partnership with Morrow SWCD

June 15: [Native Plant Sale](#), no pre orders, 4pm-6pm

Ongoing: Virtual [Raising Richland](#) Community Garden Summit

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Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson

Fred Cooke, Treasurer

Robert McConkie, Jr., At Large

Lanny Hopkins, Secretary

David Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44906. The meetings are open to the public. Call to confirm meeting date, time and attendance. If you plan to attend a board meeting, please contact Erica Thomas, District Administrator, in advance so that enough meeting packets will be prepared.

To be more efficient in answering and managing phone calls, we are using an automated answering system. If you call our main number at 419-747-8686 you will be given the opportunity to connect with a staff member or partnering office. Individual phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the left. If you have any questions, please [let us know](#).

RICHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906
419.747.8686 | www.RichlandSWCD.net

See what's happening on our social sites:



For information on varied volunteer opportunities within our office, including scanning and archiving historical photos and documents, engaging young people in the District, becoming a Precipitation Monitor, Lake Monitor, Stream Quality Monitor, Office Assistant, Photographer, help with Special Events or be an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#). **Congratulations to volunteers for being awarded the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Chief's Field Office awards!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Programs and assistance of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability or veteran status.