

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News May 2020

Native Plant Sale

As gardening season gets underway, we encourage you to go native when planning your garden or landscape. Going native means planting native plants because of their many benefits. Native plants are more suited to our climate and soil and typically do better in our gardens than non-native species. They also provide excellent habitats and food for insects, pollinators, and wildlife. Because they have a strong root system, more soil is held in place which slows stormwater runoff and filters pollutants before they enter rivers, lakes, and streams. They are also pretty!



The plugs cost \$3 each. Orders and payment are due by June 5. Pick up is June 10. To find out more about the sale, please visit our [Rain Garden](#) web page.

Rain Barrel Sale



A rain barrel is a container that is used to collect and store rainwater. Water collected in a rain barrel can be used in gardens, landscaping, and lawns. When used this way, water is filtered through the soil and pollutants such as fertilizer, pesticides, phosphorous and nitrogen may be reduced or prevented from entering lakes, rivers, and streams. They also help conserve water.

We are selling Rain Barrels for \$70. The Barrel includes a $\frac{3}{4}$ " male pipe spigot boiler drain and $\frac{3}{4}$ " mail pipe thread to $\frac{1}{2}$ " hose barb connection and a downspout diverter, Includes assembly instructions and a rain barrel brochure.

For an order form, please click [here](#).

Do I Need a Stormwater Permit?

"Do I need a stormwater permit?" – If you find yourself asking this question, the answer is generally, yes. It's always a good idea to contact us before you start a project that involves earth moving outside the incorporated areas of Richland County or in the Village of Lexington. By contacting us first, we can

advise you on what is needed from our office in order to issue a stormwater permit or an exemption. We can also help contact other agencies, if needed, for your project. Check out our Permit Checklist document on our website [here](#) for a great guide on what is needed for our office to issue a stormwater permit or exemption for your project. A link to our fillable forms for the stormwater permit may be found [here](#). If you're having trouble with the forms or are still unsure of what we need, give us a call. We're more than happy to help!

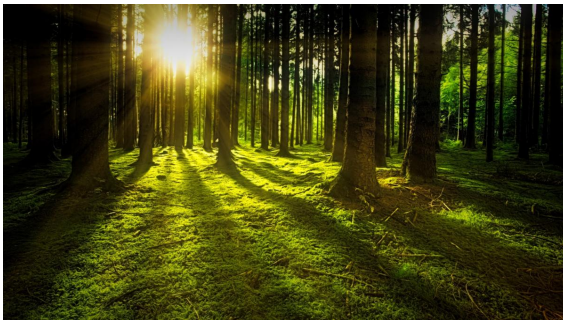
MWCD Cover Crop Program

We are partnering with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District on a program for producers who plant cover crops. Last year, the grant program assisted in getting cover crops on over 206.23 acres of Richland County farmland and resulted in 87 tons of soil from eroding into our streams, kept 139 pounds of phosphorous on the land and 255 pounds of nitrogen out of waterways.



The 2020 cost-share rate is \$12.00 per acre for returning applicants and \$15.00 per acre for new applicants. Interested applicants may apply through Richland SWCD. Producers in the Rocky Fork, Black Fork, and Clear Fork watersheds of the MWCD assessment area are eligible. To see if your farm falls within the designated area, please click on this [map](#). For an application and more information, go [here](#).

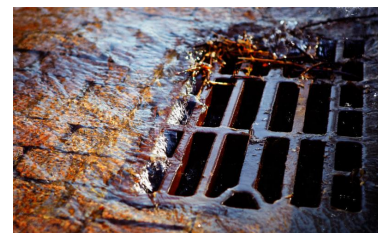
Individual Acts of Conservation



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.

What is the Difference Between a Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer?

The sanitary sewer is a system of underground pipes that carries raw sewage (effluent) from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, and other plumbing components to a wastewater treatment plant or septic system where it is filtered, treated and discharged as clean water.



The storm sewer is a system designed to carry rainfall runoff and other drainage. It is not designed to carry effluent or accept hazardous wastes. Storm Sewers are generally located in the right-of-way area of your property and are either above ground in the form of a minor ditch or a swale and below ground with stormwater running through some type of a piped system. Storm water then discharges directly into some type of natural local water body (streams, rivers or lakes) untreated. If you have an above ground or below ground system you should inspect these areas on a regular basis and keep them clear of any debris, sediment, trash, leaves, grass clippings, etc. that could clog them up, cause storm water to get contaminated or not flow smoothly through the system. Taking a few minutes to make sure these Storm Sewers are clear could save a lot of surface water problems in the future and ultimately save you money. Source: Michigan State University

Volunteers



The recent weather has kept our Precipitation Monitor Volunteers busy and Lake and Stream Monitors are beginning to monitor. To find out what they are reporting, please go to the [Water Data Map](#).

If you're looking for a safe, independent volunteer program, we can help. With these three volunteer programs, volunteers set their own schedule. Precipitation Monitors volunteer from home or work, Stream Monitor Volunteers monitor at assigned sites and Lake Monitors volunteer at Charles Mill, Clear Fork or Pleasant Hill. All three volunteer opportunities provide plenty of social distancing and are performed outside. To learn more about these volunteer opportunities, plus additional opportunities, please visit our [volunteer](#) page on the website or contact [Theresa](#). Pleasant Hill photo is courtesy of Munskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

Windbreaks and Other Agroforestry Practices

Windbreaks and other agroforestry practices provide a wide range of agricultural production and conservation benefits, helping farmers and furthering the goals of U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Perdue's Agriculture Innovation Agenda.

[Read more.](#)



Important Dates

May 25: Office closed in observance of Memorial Day. We thank all who have served and those who continue to serve. *"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."*
Franklin D. Roosevelt

May 26: [Enrollment open for USDA-FSA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#)

June 5: [Native Plant Sale Orders Due](#)

June 10: Native Plant Sale Pick Up. The Family Fun Festival is cancelled due to COVID-19.

July 9: [Manure & You Nutrient Management Workshop](#) (As we get closer to the date, please check to make sure the Workshop is still taking place)

October 20: Rain Garden and Barrel Workshops

SWCD Staff

Erica Thomas, District Administrator
419-747-8684
thomas.eric@richlandswcd.net

Dan Herrold, MS4/Urban Technician
419-747-8077
herrold.dan@richlandswcd.net

Jordan Keller, Urban Technician
419-747-8688
keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net

Theresa Sutter, Community Relations Coordinator
419-747-8685
sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net

Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician
419-747-8687
wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net

NRCS Staff

Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist
419-747-8691
jason.ruhl@oh.usda.gov

Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist
567-280-6058
dbenner@pheasantsforever.org

Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson
Fred Cooke, Treasurer
Aaron Dearth, At Large
Lanny Hopkins, Secretary
Dave Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.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.

NEW!!!

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.