



Conservation Fact Sheet

What does the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the 88 County Soil & Water Conservation Districts do?

- The OFSWCD represents and serves the eighty-eight conservation districts in Ohio. The OFSWCD has a mission to “Provide leadership and support to the board of supervisors, soil and water conservation districts, and their partners through grassroots programs that promote natural resources stewardship.”
- The eighty-eight SWCDs provide technical, financial, and educational resources – whatever their source – and focus or coordinate these so that the resources meet the needs of the local land user for the conservation of soil, water, and other related natural resources.

Good stewardship has greatly benefited Ohioans with an abundant food supply, water quality improvements in our streams, rivers and lakes, habitat protection, and recreational opportunities. Some specific things related to the OFSWCD and SWCDs include:

- Help maintain water quality in 61,532 miles of streams, home to 1,400 species of aquatic life
- Protect 60,000+ inland lakes, reservoirs and ponds covering 200,000 acres
- Decrease cost to treatment plants providing drinking water to 6+ million Ohioans
- Protecting 40,469 square miles of Ohio land since it takes 500 years to form one inch of topsoil
- Sustain croplands to continue to provide abundant and affordably priced food and fiber
- Educate our youth to understand and appreciate Ohio’s Natural Resources
- Assist with conservation practices during construction activities
- Continue to maintain Ohio’s natural resources to attract business and new residents to this great state

How are the county SWCDs funded?

- Ohio’s 88 county SWCDs are funded by local government appropriations that are matched by state funds.
- Over the years, funding has been a challenge – and this trend will most likely continue. Financial strains and funding decreases impact the districts’ ability to serve local land users, local, state and federal governments, businesses, and many others who utilize critical conservation programs – which help to sustain Ohio’s natural resources for future generations.

What can you do to help?

- Learn more about the conservations districts and get involved in our conservation community!
- Help us educated lawmakers and other key decision-makers the importance of elevating conservation programs to a high priority status!