



Ross Soil & Water Conservation District

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

Ross Soil & Water Conservation District

2022 | FY23

Mission Statement

To provide leadership and education to the public for the stewardship of natural resources.

Vision Statement

Be recognized as a leader in Ross County, promoting innovative and responsible stewardship of natural resources to enhance the quality of life.



Ross Soil & Water Conservation District

Ross Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Plan of Work

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

Water Quality - Establish Practices to Improve Water Quality and Reduce Soil Erosion

Wildlife Specialist - Implement Wildlife Conservation Programs

Urban - Monitor Practices and Implement Urban Conservation Programs

GIS - Operate District Geographic Information System

Education - Present Conservation Education Programs to Residents and Students

Outreach - Present Conservation Outreach Programs to Residents and Students

DESCRIPTION

The Annual Plan of Work reflects an innovative District that remains responsive to its residents and diligent in fulfilling its responsibilities. Currently challenged by one staff resignation, personnel are prepared for another year with brisk Farm Bill implementation projects and increased outreach and education. District support for urban neighborhoods in the Ross County will continue with the reinstatement of a county planner position. Increased interest in solar farms is an area of some focus. The ODNR Wildlife Specialist agreement continues assisting ODNR and providing wildlife education. The District operates the GIS department for Ross County and continues research with OSU and the ARS in a project to provide GPS maps of existing subsurface drainage tile. Recent equipment acquisitions will mean a renewed emphasis on mapping new tile installations. A seemingly waning pandemic has the district resuming some education activities including co-hosting the Area 5 Envirothon and aggressively recruiting student teams. Outreach includes a return to the Earth Day festival, increased presence at the fair, and our 75th Anniversary celebration.

Goal:

WATER QUALITY

Project Name and Description:

Establish practices to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. Provide tech support and maintain programs to facilitate BMP installations. Monitor, review and respond to residents' water quality and soil erosion concerns.

Partners:

Ross County Producers, FSA, NRCS, ODA, ODNR Division of Forestry, ODNR Division of Wildlife, Ross County Landowners, Ross County Commissioners, Township Trustees, Heidelberg University, Ohio EPA

Events

EVENT NAME	TIMEFRAME OR DATE	STAFF INVOLVED	QUANTIFIABLE GOALS
Ross County Drainage	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Respond to requests from 65 residents concerning drainage
Pond Management	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Conduct 15 pre-construction pond site investigations Provide pond management to 15 residents
CRP WW Renewals	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Assist 50 CRP participants with grassed waterway re-enrolls
Grassed Waterways	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 20,000 feet of grassed waterways
Subsurface Drainage	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Technical support for 250,000 feet of tile/10 stone center outlets
Fence	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 15,000 feet of fencing
Pipeline	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 2,000 feet of pipeline
Access Road	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 50 feet of access road
Heavy Use Area Protection	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 5 heavy use area protection pads
Watering Facility	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 5 watering facilities
Spring Development	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 1 spring development



EVENT NAME	TIMEFRAME OR DATE	STAFF INVOLVED	QUANTIFIABLE GOALS
Prescribed Grazing	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 100 acres of prescribed grazing
Pasture/Hay Planting	Ongoing	Engineering Techs	Provide technical support for 60 acres of pasture and hay planting
Scioto River Water Test Samples	Ongoing	Wildlife Specialist	Maintain water testing station on Scioto River and submit 1,095 water samples to Heidelberg University NCWQR water quality lab
Equipment Rental	April-November	Admin/Techs	Provide no-till drill rental to establish 400 acres for 20 producers Provide soil test probe and dibble bar to loan out to 3 producers
Geotextile Fabric Sales	Ongoing	Admin/Techs	Provide 1500 feet of geotextile fabric for sale to 15 producers
Timber Harvest Plans	Ongoing	Admin/Techs	Review 10 Timber Harvest Plans
Ag Pollution Abatement	Ongoing	Techs	Respond to 1 Agricultural Pollution Complaint
Forestry Pollution Abatement	Ongoing	Techs	Respond to 1 Forestry Pollution Complaint
VNMP	Ongoing	Admin/Techs	Assist 1 producer write a voluntary nutrient management plan
Solar Farm Consultation	Ongoing	Techs	Provide technical support for 1 new solar farm project



Goal:

WILDLIFE SPECIALIST

Project Name and Description:

Implement wildlife conservation programs, provide technical assistance for BMP's that improve wildlife habitat, assist landowners with nuisance wildlife, support ODNR, and provide adult workshops and school wildlife education.

Partners:

Producers, ODNR Division of Wildlife, ODNR Division of Forestry, ODA, FSA, NRCS, Pheasants Forever, Ross County School Districts

Events

EVENT NAME	TIMEFRAME OR DATE	STAFF INVOLVED	QUANTIFIABLE GOALS
10402 - Wildlife Basic Service	Ongoing	Wildlife Specialist	3 - Wildlife related student outreach programs (300 students) 1 - Wildlife related workshops reaching (40 adults) 15 - Wildlife related trainings, Meetings, Conferences, etc.
10406 - Wildlife CRP Contract Management	Ongoing	Wildlife Specialist	Assist landowners with Contract Management on CRP 25 - Contract Management Assessments 52 - CRP Contract Management Landowner Meetings
10408 - Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring	Ongoing	Wildlife Specialist	Wildlife disease surveillance and testing upon request from the Ohio Division of Wildlife including CWD monitoring
10413 - Wildlife Habitat Management	Ongoing	Wildlife Specialist	Provide habitat assistance to landowners: 10 - Upland Habitat Assistance (Non-Farm Bill) 10 - Wetland Habitat Assistance (Non-Farm Bill) Assistance to landowners in CRP, CREP, and other Farm Bill Programs: 150 - Site Visits For (CRP/CREP New & Re-enroll) 200 - Conservation Plans & Contracts (CRP/CREP New & Re-enroll) 200 - Landowner Meetings (CRP/CREP New & Re-enroll)
10421 - Wildlife Population surveillance of game species	Ongoing	Wildlife Specialist	Assist with Wildlife surveys: 2 - Grouse/Turkey and 4 - Pheasant
10425 - Wildlife Conflict Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Wildlife Specialist	12 - Deer Damage investigations 65 - Deer Damage Permits 10 - Assistance with wildlife conflict issues (Not Deer)



Goal:

URBAN

**Project Name
and Description:**

Monitor practices and implement urban conservation programs. Maintain systems and provide technical assistance and natural resources planning and guidance to manage runoff in urban development. Respond to resident urban drainage concerns.

Partners:

Residents, Ross County Commissioners, Ross County Building & Planning Department, Ross County Engineer, Township Trustees

Events

EVENT NAME	TIMEFRAME OR DATE	STAFF INVOLVED	QUANTIFIABLE GOALS
Neighborhood Detention Ponds	Ongoing	Urban Technician/ Engineering Techs	Inspect and provide maintenance suggestions through 48 visits to 12 detention ponds maintained by county subdivision stormwater funds in urbanized neighborhoods of Ross County
Urban Plan Review	Ongoing	Urban Technician	Review 5 construction sites and stormwater plans and calculations to ensure that county requirements are satisfied
Urban Drainage and Erosion	Ongoing	Urban Technician/ Engineering Techs	Conduct 15 urban and 5 lot inspections site visits regarding drainage issues and runoff in response to requests from contractors and residents
Urban Ditch Maintenance	March-November	Urban Technician/ Engineering Techs	Inspect, contract, and supervise maintenance through 12 visits to three county-maintained ditches in urbanized neighborhoods
Solar Farm Stormwater Analysis	Ongoing	Urban Technician	Meet planner/contractor to provide stormwater assistance and erosion mitigation advice for 2 solar farm installations
Maintain Stormwater Certification	Ongoing	Urban Technician	Attend training required to maintain stormwater certification



Goal:

GIS

Project Name and Description:

Manage county-wide geographic information system (GIS) including program assistance, deploy emerging technology to conservation applications, manage district data storage and IT functions

Partners:

Ross County Commissioners, Engineer, Auditor, 911 Coordinator, Chillicothe Fire Department, EMA, Adena Regional Medical Center, US Census Bureau, OSU ARS, Ross County Agricultural Society (Fair Board), Producers

Events

EVENT NAME	TIMEFRAME OR DATE	STAFF INVOLVED	QUANTIFIABLE GOALS
GIS	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator	Operate/Maintain Geographic Information System (GIS) for Ross County Government Offices, Departments, Agencies, Districts, and Boards and maintain IT systems supporting SWCD office and remote working
GIS Auditor, 911, Engineer	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator	40 Specific projects maintaining GIS layers for Auditor CAUV 40 Specific projects maintaining GIS layers Ross County 911 system As needed projects supporting the Ross County Engineer’s Office
GIS Census	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator	8 Specific projects to maintain GIS layers for the US Census Bureau
Farmland Preservation	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator/Admin	Provide mapping and data assistance for 2 LAEPP applications
GIS UAV	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator/ Engineering Techs	Create 6 specialized tile maps conducting thermal research with ARS Create 6 specialized tile maps locating new tile installations
GIS Map Products	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator	Create 3 maps for the public - deliver 1 Parcel Data cartographer file
GIS Program Assistance	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator	Prepare 10 specialized maps for county and partner agencies, organizations, departments, and institutions
GIS Data Storage	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator/Administrator Engineering Techs	Develop data storage plan digitizing 10% of District maps Aerial documentation of 1 BMP installation
GIS RTK UAV Real-time kinematic	Ongoing	GIS Coordinator/ Engineering Techs	Complete 1 topographic survey using RTK drone Provide training for engineering techs to use RTK drone



Goal:

EDUCATION

Project Name and Description:

Promote conservation of natural resources in Ross County while increasing awareness about the goals and mission of the Ross SWCD by providing educational workshops for adults and school presentations to students

Partners:

Ross County school districts, Chillicothe City Schools, Area 5 SWCD's, NRCS, ODNR Division of Wildlife, OSU Extension, Farm Service Agency, Ohio EPA

Events

EVENT NAME	TIMEFRAME OR DATE	STAFF INVOLVED	QUANTIFIABLE GOALS
Develop Virtual Education Program	Ongoing	Admin/Techs/GIS/NRCS	Develop Virtual Education Presentations Augmented Reality Sandbox Videos for Schools Produce/Share online content for Schools
Envirothon	September-May	Wildlife Specialist/ Admin/Techs	Recruit, encourage, and financially support Ross County participation from 4 high school FFA or science programs
Butler Springs Conservation Camp	Spring	Engineering Techs/NRCS	Present conservation demonstrations to 200 students at 1 event
Forest Field Days	Spring	Wildlife Specialist/ Techs/NRCS	Make conservation and wildlife presentations to 300 students with ODNR Division of Wildlife
4-H Project Judging	Summer	Engineering Techs/NRCS	Judge 4-H conservation and natural resources projects from 25 students participating in OSU Extension 4-H
Workshops	Fall	Admin/Techs/GIS/OSU	Conduct 1 workshop for 25 Woodlands producers



Goal:

OUTREACH

Project Name and Description:

Increase awareness about the goals and mission of the Ross SWCD and promote conservation by making regular contact with residents through publicized events, regular newsletters, media news releases, website, and social media posts

Partners:

Area 5 SWCD's, Ross County Farm Bureau, Ross County Agricultural Society (Fair Board), OSU Extension 4-H, NRCS, Ohio Department of Agriculture, ODNR Division of Wildlife, Chillicothe Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs, Ross County Park District, Pump House Center

Events

EVENT NAME	TIMEFRAME OR DATE	STAFF INVOLVED	QUANTIFIABLE GOALS
Requests for Assistance	Ongoing	Admin/Techs/GIS	Log 100 calls from district residents requesting advise or assistance
Public Events	Ongoing	Admin/Techs/GIS	Contact and engage 7000 residents at Ross County Fair Contact and engage 1500 residents at Pump House Earth Day Attend 4 Agriculture, Community, Garden Club, and other meetings
Producer/Resident Public Sales	Spring	Admin/Techs/GIS	Facilitate tree stock purchases for 100 residents at tree sale Facilitate pond stock purchases for 40 residents at fish sale Facilitate pollinator purchases for 12 cooperators in plug sale
Farmland Preservation	Ongoing	Admin/Techs/GIS	As local sponsor, assist 2 district property owners enroll in LAEPP Monitor 3 existing agricultural easements in the district
Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI)	September-October	Admin/Wildlife Specialist/ Engineering Techs/NRCS	Publicize and collect 15 gallons of milkweed pods from 5 residents
Annual Meeting/ Election	August	Admin/Techs/GIS	Elect Supervisors with 50 voters - Recognize Cooperator Provide Annual Report to 50 residents, officials, and stakeholders
Communication Outreach	Ongoing	Admin	3 Newsletters mailed to 1350 producers - 40 Facebook posts Develop Annual Plan of Work resident/stakeholder survey Upgrade website and develop email contact list - Erect road signs

