

STARK STEWARDSHIP

Stark Soil & Water Conservation District
2021 District of the Year

Fall 2023

Board of Supervisors

Ann Wolfe
Rick Horner
Rodney Campbell
Natalie Hammer
Andy Wentling

District Staff

John S. Weedon
Alyson Scheibe
Adrienne Bock
Isabelle Bruder
Matthew Ferrel
Max Miller
Taylor Noble

USDA-NRCS Staff

Lynette Harmon

2650 Richville Dr. SE.;
Suite 100
Massillon, 44646
330-451-7645

starkswcd.org

Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed: Veterans Day
(November 10th);
Thanksgiving
(November 23rd and
24th); Christmas
(December 22nd and
25th)

Board Meetings: 2nd
Thursday of the month
@ 8:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Home Winterization

Learn about winterization techniques to protect your home and lawn from harsh Ohio winters. Topics include lawn, tree, and shrub management as well as rain barrel preparation, equipment maintenance, and spring preparation.

- December 6th (2:00 p.m.) at Stark Library North Branch, 189 25th Street NW., Canton — Register for the program by visiting starkswcd.org or by calling the North Branch at 330-456-4356.

Rain Barrels and Compost Bins

Have you considered a rain barrel or compost bin, but are unsure where to start? Join Stark Soil & Water to learn about the benefits of implementing these sustainable practices, as well as installation and upkeep involved.

- January 31st (5:30 p.m.) at 2650 Richville Dr. SE., Massillon - Register for the program by visiting starkswcd.org or calling the District at 330-451-7645.



And the Winners are . . .

Natalie Hammer and Andy Wentling were re-elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Baltzly Cattle LLC won the 5th Annual Healthiest Soil Contest.

Joe Baker was named 2023 Cooperator of the Year.

DiPietro Excavating, Inc. was awarded 2023 Contractor of the Year.



Miller's Christmas Tree Farm was awarded the 2023 Big Tree Award for their American Sycamore. This stately tree sits in the middle of a crop field and has drawn the gaze of many onlookers driving down Cleveland Ave. The tree has an estimated height of 116' and a crown width of 105'. The circumference of the trunk was 187" or 15'7"! Not much is known about the planting of the tree but due to its upland location, its believed to be intentionally planted.



Stark Soil & Water greatly appreciates our Stark County Commissioners — Janet Weir Creighton, Richard Regula, and Bill Smith— for their continued financial support of the District.

Welcome Alyson!



Alyson Scheibe is the new Storm Water Manager at Stark Soil & Water. In this position she will review and approve Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans for projects that disturb an acre or more and coordinate other aspects of storm water permit requirements for 17 communities and the county. Her love for natural resources began at a young age hiking and camping with her family. Originally from Wayne County, she graduated from Dalton High School before attending West Virginia University where she earned a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources with a minor in Conservation Ecology. Throughout her career she has worked various roles including field technician conducting avian and vegetation surveys, and more recently, as a naturalist leading community programming at Mill Creek MetroParks. In her free time Alyson enjoys spending time with her nieces, reading, and recreating outside (i.e. mountain biking, trail running, and birdwatching).

Welcome Isabelle!

Isabelle Bruder is the new Drainage Specialist at Stark Soil & Water. She works with property owners in Stark County to address their drainage concerns and questions. Isabelle earned her bachelor's degree in biology at Grinnell College. Prior to graduating, she worked with American Conservation Experience as a crew member to manage invasive species and perform trail work. She also has held various biology intern positions, in which she assisted with ecological restoration projects through the collection of prairie seeds, prescribed burns, invasive species removal, and animal tracking surveys. In her free time, Isabelle enjoys upcycling furniture, crafting, hiking at Quail Hollow, finding good food, and making jewelry and thrifting.



Creating Backyard Habitat

Creating a habitat in your backyard is an opportunity for you to observe and forge a connection with the natural world as well as providing a secure location for wildlife. Backyard habitats are small-scale ecosystems that provide food, water, shelter, and places to raise young. In urban areas, backyard habitats are often the safest place for wildlife, out of reach of cars and the other perils of urban life. In rural areas, backyard habitats act as an alternative to habitats that may have been removed or altered to make room for agriculture. Crafting a backyard habitat can be a great hobby for you, or a fun bonding activity for a family. They add beauty and interest to your property while meeting the needs of your local wildlife.



To create your habitat, you should provide 3 food sources, 1 water source, 2 shelter options, and 2 places to raise young. When choosing how to meet the requirements, try to focus on the needs of local wildlife, and remember that you don't have to meet all the needs for every local species. Some great food sources include native plants that produce nuts, fruits, or seeds or decomposing trees or stumps that attract fungus and insects. Water sources can be a pond, lake, stream, bird bath, or rain garden. Shelter options and places to raise young are often one and the same and can include meadows, forested areas, ponds, lakes, streams, bird boxes, bat boxes, and rock or log piles. There are many more options in each category, and as you can see many natural features such as ponds, log piles, or native trees can fall into more than one category. If you are interested in creating your own backyard habitat, contact our office at 330-451-7645 for suggestions and more information.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

2023 Stark SWCD Shrub Sale

Stark SWCD is hosting a shrub sale consisting of the species listed below. Shrubs are in 3 gallon containers, approximately 3' in size, and \$25.00 each. Orders and payment can be made online at riversidenativetrees.com. Once you've added your selections to the cart and filled in your billing information, select **Fundraiser only Delivery to your pick up location** from the shipping options to pick up your shrubs at our office.

Order deadline is November 13th.

Order pickup is November 16th 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Stark SWCD office (2650 Richville Dr. SE., Massillon).

Questions? Give us a call: 330-451-7645 M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

2023 Shrub Sale Species

COMMON NAME (SCIENTIFIC)	HEIGHT	LIGHT REQ.	SOIL REQ.	BLOOM COLOR	BLOOM TIME	DESCRIPTION
Blackhaw Viburnum (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>)	8-15'	Full to Shade	Moist to Avg.	White	Spring	Large shrub with white flowers and copper-colored leaves
Hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>)	15-20'	Full to Shade	Moist to Dry	White/Green/ Brown	Spring	Large shrub with varied flower colors and green/brown leaves
Swamp Rose (<i>Rosa palustris</i>)	6-8'	Full to Shade	Moist	Pink	Spring- Summer	Medium shrub with thorny stems, pink flowers, and green leaves
Pasture Rose (<i>Rosa carolina</i>)	1-2'	Full to Shade	Avg. to Dry	Pink	Summer	Small shrub with pink flowers and green leaves, beautiful foliage in fall
Downy Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>)	15-25'	Full to Partial	Moist to Avg.	White	Spring	Large shrub with white flowers and green leaves, beautiful foliage in fall



2650 Richville Dr. SE., Suite 100
Massillon, Ohio 44646
330-451-7645 (SOIL)
www.starkswcd.org
Facebook: StarkSWCD
Instagram: stark.swcd
YouTube: @starksoilwater9702



Storm Water Winterization

Winter in Ohio is a time for frigid temperatures, snow, rain, and ice. It is a time for snow storms and other weather extremes. It is also the season with some of the largest quantities of storm water, or the flow of water after a precipitation event. In winter, storm water is comprised of rainfall or snow melt. As storm water flows across the ground, it can pick up pollutants from sources including road salt, leaking auto fluids, and trash. It's important that we prepare for the winter season and the large quantities of storm water so we can all work to prevent storm water pollution.

There are steps you can take to winterize your home and property so it's ready to handle storm water. To prepare your home, make sure your gutters are clear and your rain barrels are drained, cleaned, and properly stored. This step ensures storm water is directed away from your home, and your rain barrel will be ready to accept water next spring. To prepare your lawn, test your soil to see if fertilizers are needed and make any adjustments in late fall. Soil testing ensures only the necessary nutrients are added, avoiding excess nutrient runoff. Compost bins should be insulated or emptied. Winter is also the season for salting to avoid ice. Remember that 1 heaping coffee cup of salt covers 10 sidewalk squares or 250 square feet. If you would like to learn more about winterizing your home and property to prepare for the excess storm water in winter, attend our upcoming Home Winterization program on December 6th at 2:00 P.M. at Stark Library North Branch.

Go Green!

Request this newsletter electronically and help reduce your environmental impact.

Send an email to ajbock@starkcountyohio.gov with the message, "Let's Go Green!" or "Save the Trees!" to be added to our electronic mailing list. Thank you to all our electronic subscribers for going green!