

2020 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



SUMMIT
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's 2020 Annual Meeting

The Summit Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting its 74th Annual Meeting, including the Election of candidates for the Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be a Drive-up event held at the Summit County Russell M. Pry Building located at 1180 South Main Street in Akron Ohio, 44301.

All interested residents and stakeholders are invited to attend our non-traditional meeting which will provide for social distancing and safe access to voting from your vehicle. To receive a free box lunch, you are required to register at:

<https://sswcd.summitoh.net/featured/2020-annual-meeting-supervisor-election>.

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's Election Process

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

There are 2 ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1.) At the Summit SWCD Office Building Drive-up Election, which will take place at the Summit County Russell M. Pry Building parking lot located at 1180 South Main Street in Akron, Ohio 44301 on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; or
- 2.) Voting absentee from September 7, 2020 until October 20, 2020, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following mailing address: 1180 South Main Street, Suite 241, Akron, OH 44301 or by calling 330-926-2445 or emailing jroyer@summitoh.net. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023. The Nominees are:



Barry L. Ganoe

Barry L. Ganoe was born in Akron, Ohio (1961) and has been a resident of Summit County all his life. Barry is a graduate of Springfield Senior High School (*Diploma 1979*), The University of Akron College of Fine & Applied Arts (*B.F.A. Degree 1987*), and the Connecticut School of Broadcasting (*Diploma 1987*).

Barry has a diverse career background with an equal balance between the private sector and local government service. Barry's career background includes computer operations, retail store management, professional photography and graphic arts plus previous radio broadcasting experience with WKLM in Millersburg, WGAR in Cleveland and WHBC in Canton. Barry was the owner and president of Cricket Photo and Imaging, Inc. from 1995 until 2002. Barry worked as an Assistant Zoning Inspector for Springfield Township between 2002 and 2003 before becoming the full-time Administrator for the City of New Franklin Zoning & Planning Department in 2003, a position he has held for 17 years. Barry's governmental background includes all aspects of zoning and planning plus previous service on the Summit County Board of Health for five years (*President of the Board of Health for 2 years*). Barry was recently appointed an Associate Supervisor for the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District. Barry is married to Sharon Furiga Ganoe with two stepdaughters Lauren and Kaitlyn. Barry and Sharon have two canine family members named Abby and Ginger. Barry is a member of the Arbor Day Foundation, Green Energy Ohio and the Ohio Environmental Council. Barry's interests include natural resource preservation, green energy, specifically solar energy, as well as enjoying the many aspects of nature and the outdoors.



Craig Graf

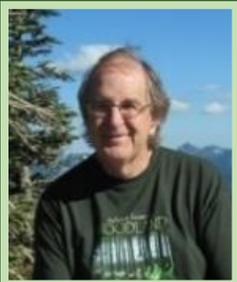
Born and raised in Copley Township, Craig Graf graduated from Copley High School in 1988 and Kent State University in 1993. In 2002 and 2003, Craig was a member of The Ohio State University Leadership, Education and Development (Lead) Program, Class IX. He served on the advisory board for the OSU Swank Program in Urban/Rural Policy from 2002-2005. The Swank Program conducts and supports research, teaching and outreach within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and OSU Extension.

The goal is to combine innovative approaches in economic theory, planning, advanced statistical research, and geographical information systems to create products that can be used by the academic community, stakeholders, policymakers, students, and the public. Craig is an owner-operator of Graf Growers, a family owned vegetable farm and greenhouse in Copley Township. He is a member of Farm Bureau and has been a Summit SWCD Supervisor since 2006. Craig currently resides in Fairlawn.



Michael Rorar

Mike Rorar grew up in Akron and graduated from Kent State University with a BS in Conservation and Forestry and a minor in History. Mike has over 20 years of labor, operational, and management experience in the field of Parks, Recreation, and highway operations. A broad range of responsibilities have included overseeing multi-million-dollar operating and capital budgets, development and maintenance of over 1000 lane miles of streets and highways, park renovation, design, and construction. Currently, Mike is working as the Service Director for the City of Tallmadge, where he oversees the departments of Utilities, (Water/Sewer and Stormwater), Street, Cemetery, Zoning, and Park and Recreation. Mike is running for his second term for the Board of Supervisors. During Mike's first term, he is proud of the accomplishment of the Board in creating the position of Watershed Coordinator. The Watershed Coordinator will help municipalities manage their natural water systems. This is the first time that the Summit SWCD in Summit County has had such a position. In addition, he is excited about being involved in implementing the strategic plan that has been created to guide the agency over the next five years in providing leadership for the County's natural resource and land uses.



Danny A. Ross

Danny Ross graduated from Lincoln Memorial University in 1974 and then completed his Graduate Degree at Duke University in 1975. Danny is a retired USDA NRCS employee with over 33 years of experience in natural resource management with a specialty in Urban Conservation. Over 30 years, he was at the field office level, some of the time at Summit SWCD, and the last 3 years, he was the State Urban Conservationist in Ohio.

He has also taught 20 years part time at Kent State University in the Departments of Geography and Biology. In 2013, Danny went full time as an Associate Lecturer in both departments. His major interests at the University have been in Urban Conservation, Forestry, Wildlife Development, Sediment Transport and Golf Course Design. He retired from his second career in Spring of 2015. He also has a natural resource education consulting business, where he does educational workshops, and CPESC/CESSWI Review Courses for clients. He has served as Chair of the CESSWI International Council, and Administrative Vice Chair of the International ENVIROCERT Council. Danny loves to travel with family on vacations, sporting clays, pheasant hunting, racquetball, and of course, golf. He is also involved in the Music business because he helps manage his son – Ian – who is a full-time professional musician.

Welcome Nichole Lopez!

Summit SWCD is excited to welcome Nichole Lopez as our new AmeriCorps/NOWCorps Service member. Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners is sponsoring the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps program, affiliated with the National AmeriCorps program. Nichole will be spending her year with the District creating and facilitating enhanced programs for our Community Public Involvement and Public Education and Outreach, PIPE, initiative. Nichole will also be helping our Watershed Coordinator, Stephanie Deibel, with Stream Monitoring as well as Watershed Outreach and Education. We are fortunate to have Nichole lending her talents to our programs. Here is what Nichole had to say about joining Summit SWCD:

"I am so excited to join the team. Counting down the days until October!

I am a recent graduate from the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree in Marine and Geological Sciences. I have extensive field experiences in the remote areas of Canada, Death Valley, West Texas, and Florida exploring the natural resources and features. I also had the opportunity to write a senior thesis and submit several different abstracts/presentations regarding my undergraduate research for various symposiums and conferences, resulting in awards and grants totaling over \$1000. With international concern of climate change and the threat anthropogenic pollution poses to our clean water reservoirs increasing day to day, I am excited to work with the team at Summit Soil and Water Conservation District to focus on the necessary steps to mitigate the current health crisis regarding our planet. Fun fact: I was born and raised in the Dominican Republic so if anybody needs a dancing lesson for merengue or bachata, my door is wide open."



“Invest in Your Future, Invest in Your Watershed”

To better manage the natural resources in a rapidly developing county, Summit SWCD offers technical assistance to the communities and landowners of Summit County. Our Stormwater program oversees the implementation of the County’s and local communities’ erosion and sediment control and stormwater management programs. This includes review of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, as well as inspections of active construction sites for compliance with their approved SWPPP. Our Education program



provides communities with a variety of public education, outreach, involvement and participation programs to meet the requirements of the local MS4 management plan. These programs include both print and electronic newsletters, social media platforms, community displays, and workshops. Our Watershed program initiates and manages watershed planning to restore and protect the water resources of Summit County. This includes collaboration with stakeholders to identify goals and implement projects. These projects include habitat restoration and preservation, watershed tours and field days, homeowner workshops, and the development of Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic Plans. Over the past three years, District staff has participated in a technical advisory committee to assist and guide in the development of the Portage Lakes Management Study, an initiative led by Maia Peck, Watershed Planner at NEFCO. This study aims to guide decision makers towards sustainable lake management while addressing the longstanding concern for water quality in the Portage Lakes. To further support a healthy lake and a healthy economy, the need for a comprehensive watershed management plan became evident. Partners quickly realized that the success of the Portage Lakes management depends on more than one agency, one community, or one watershed. Currently, Summit SWCD is seeking funds to expand the watershed program to devote a more direct and permanent management presence in the Portage Lakes and the broader spanning Tuscarawas Watershed. With your commitment, Summit SWCD will bring together community partners and stakeholders to streamline efforts and amplify existing initiatives. The District will lead watershed management efforts by developing an applicable Non-point Source Implementation Strategic Plan (NPSIS), which is a plan that represents larger scale, more general watershed planning efforts and guidance. This plan is a great tool to help start conversations, facilitate information sharing, and unify individual efforts. The District will also offer problem area and remedial project area identification, grant application assistance, and project oversight. In part, a broad scale water quality monitoring program will be developed along with potential expansion of Phase II post construction services and existing public education and outreach programs. Please contact Stephanie Deibel at 330-926-2455 for information on the program and funding commitments.



Trees Are the Answer

The problem of polluted stormwater runoff entering our streams and rivers, and then flowing into Lake Erie, has been around for a long time and worsens as time passes. Urban and suburban development is constantly expanding, adding more impervious surfaces to the mix and increasing runoff which travels through a network of stormwater sewers designed to concentrate flows and this results in concentrated pollutants and increases the speed in which the runoff exits the property. The pollution was so severe in the past, that the section of the Cuyahoga River where it enters Lake Erie caught on fire several times and finally became the poster child for water pollution. The national attention garnered by the last incident was the catalyst needed for the federal government to pass the “Clean Water Act” and create the Environmental Protection Agency. Since then, Stormwater professionals and community officials responsible for public health and safety have been asking the “Burning” question: “What solution can we find to solve the problems of polluted runoff and flooding?” We believe that **“Trees Are the Answer!”**

The practice of planting trees is one of the tools in our healthy landscaping toolbox and plays a major role in stormwater runoff control. Here is a quote from the United States Environmental Protection Agency: “Trees are natural managers of stormwater. When included as part of a system engineered to manage stormwater, they can improve infiltration and capacity, reducing the overall amount of runoff.”

One of the most important benefits of trees is their ability to capture and hold stormwater. This leads to a reduction in the volume of water rushing through gutters and pipes following a storm. The result

is less investment in expensive infrastructure (storm sewers) and consequently cleaner water when the runoff reaches rivers and lakes.

Urban stormwater runoff containing non-point source pollution washes chemicals (oil, gasoline, road salts, fertilizers and other lawn chemicals) from hard surfaces such as roadways and parking lots into streams, wetlands, rivers and oceans. Drinking water, aquatic life and the health of our entire ecosystem can be adversely affected by this process.

Trees act as reservoirs, controlling runoff at the source. Trees reduce runoff by:

- 🌳 Intercepting and holding rain on leaves, branches and bark.
- 🌳 Increasing infiltration and storage of rainwater through the tree's root system.
- 🌳 Reducing soil erosion by slowing rainfall before it strikes the soil.
- 🌳 Tree roots hold the soil in place and prevent sediments, (another major component of non-point source pollution) from entering lakes and streams.

Besides keeping you dry, the leaves and bark of a tree retain large volumes of water, allowing some to evaporate, and some to reach the ground at a slower rate. Depending on the species, a single tree may store 100 gallons or more, until it becomes saturated after one or two inches of rainfall. A single Eastern White Pine planted in Northeastern Ohio, with a trunk diameter of 24 inches will intercept as much as 3,787 gallons of stormwater runoff annually. When multiplied by all the trees in a community, this catching and holding of rainwater is very significant and can reduce annual urban runoff by 2% all the way up to 44%, depending on the amount of canopy cover and the tree species involved, according to an academic paper published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, (reference: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6134866/>). When trees are combined with other natural landscaping features such as native plants, as much as 65% of stormwater runoff can be reduced in residential developments. This reduction can be converted into dollar savings because smaller drainage and artificial stormwater retention systems can be utilized.

Trees have additional benefits, over and above stormwater control:

- 🌳 Trees save money.
 - 🌳 Trees reduce energy costs when they shade buildings in summer, block winds in winter, cool sidewalks, and add moisture to the air. A Sugar Maple planted on your tree lawn can reduce your energy bills by as much as \$50.00 a year.
 - 🌳 Trees reduce automobile fuel costs. Vehicles parked in shade use less fuel to cool down in summer and warm up in winter.
 - 🌳 Trees reduce watering expenses. Established trees need less watering than lawns and their shade can reduce the water needs of other landscape plants.
 - 🌳 Shade from trees extends the life of paved surfaces, including roofs.
- 🌳 Trees can make us healthier, happier, smarter, and safer.
 - 🌳 Trees capture air pollution and breathe out oxygen. A 12-inch diameter sugar maple will reduce atmospheric carbon by 502 pounds annually.
 - 🌳 Trees planted in traditionally underserved neighborhoods will absorb air pollutants and reduce the incidence of respiratory problems including childhood asthma.
 - 🌳 Hospital patients with views of greenery instead of a brick wall were found to spend 8.5 fewer days in recovery.
 - 🌳 Shade from trees helps reduce the incidence of skin cancer by intercepting ultra-violet rays.

- 🌳 Urban areas with trees and other greenery have less crime than those without trees.
- 🌳 Trees around homes and schools decrease distraction and improve the ability of students to concentrate on their work.
- 🌳 Tree lawns are perceived by residents to mean more walkable streets. A study of urban adults in Europe found that residents in areas with the highest levels of greenery were three times more likely to be physically active and 40% less likely to be overweight than those living in the least verdant settings.
- 🌳 Trees contribute to wildlife health and species diversity.
 - 🌳 Trees provide food, habitat, travelling corridors, migration resting sites, and nesting sites for many wildlife species. An oak tree can support 534 species of insects and other wildlife and more moths and butterflies than any other species of tree.
 - 🌳 Tree canopy over streams keeps the water cool and supports increased oxygen concentration which, in turn, supports an abundant array of aquatic life.
 - 🌳 Vegetated buffers around streams filter out pollutants and prevent them from entering the stream.

Because of all the advantages that trees provide for stormwater retention and quality, and the benefits mentioned above, we would like to see an increase in community education and community public involvement events such as these below:

- 🌳 Tree-planting events in underserved and disadvantaged neighborhoods
- 🌳 I-Tree presentations teaching students how to measure the value of trees
- 🌳 Drive-up tree distribution modelled on successful drive-up rainbarrel workshops
- 🌳 I-Tree project Plant-It, Project Learning Tree, used in school programs
- 🌳 Tree giveaway with an accompanying “Trees for Clean Water” pledge
- 🌳 Safe Distancing Public Involvement tree planting events

Our Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education group, NEO PIPE, has applied for a grant from Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Dominion East Ohio, that would provide funds to purchase trees that will be planted in our ten-county area in Northeast Ohio. We believe that once these trees are planted, they will provide long-term sustainability in our Northeast Ohio area by decreasing stormwater runoff, water pollution, flooding, air pollution, soil erosion, and providing many other benefits. Summit SWCD is a supportive member of NEO PIPE’s mission which is to educate and involve our Northeast Ohio residents in ways to promote the long-term health of our watersheds and the best way to accomplish that goal is to provide them with hands-on healthy watershed practices such as planting trees. For more information on Tree-planting and other Healthy Watershed practices, call 330-926-2452, or go to <http://sswcd.summitoh.net>.

Check us out on our website at
sswcd.summitoh.net and on social media

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
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Mission Statement:

Summit SWCD provides leadership and advocates for the stewardship of our natural resources and responsible land use through the provision of education, technical assistance, and partnerships in Summit County.

The Summit SWCD is an independent division of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and is funded by the State of Ohio, the Summit County Council, and the Summit County Communities for Clean Stormwater.

Summit SWCD provides all services without regard to race, skin color, national origin, religion, gender, age, physical or mental handicap, or political activity.

