

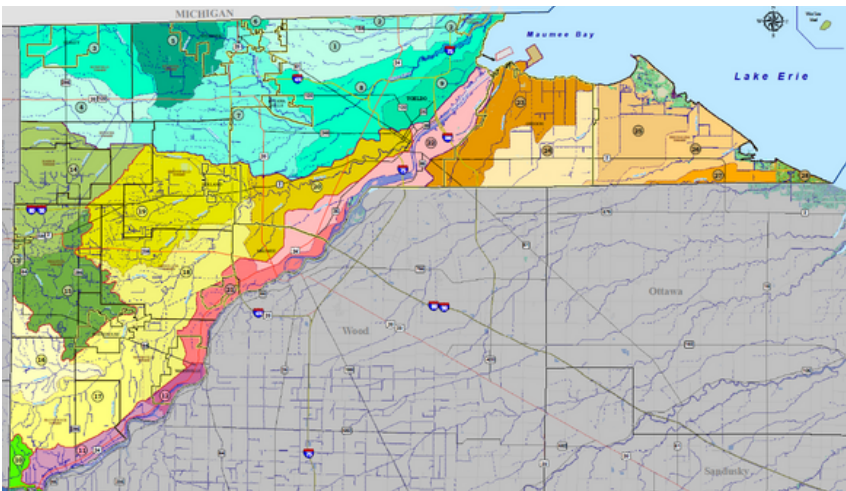


ANNUAL REPORT 2023

(January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)

The mission of the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide **leadership for conservation** of our soil, water, and other resources through **education, information, and technical assistance.**

WHERE WE WORK



LUCAS COUNTY

- Population: 431,279 (2020 Census)
- 340.4 square miles
- 155 Schools
- 386 Farms
- 65,558 Acres of Farmland
- Primary Watersheds:
 - Lower Maumee River
 - Cedar / Portage River
 - Ottawa River

LAND USE:



45% Developed



34% Agriculture



13% Forest/
Grasslands



8% Wetland &
Open Water

CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND

The Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District (Lucas SWCD) serves local residents by offering assistance programs, informational workshops, and technical insight on implementing best management practices (BMPs) on their properties. Our staff manages a demonstration farm at Blue Creek Conservation Area (BCCA) in Whitehouse, Ohio and we are also involved in facilitating ditch maintenance and other drainage projects throughout the County. In December 2023, Olusola Oyewumi was hired as the Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador and District's Grant Coordinator.



60 acres at BCCA under BMPs including cover crops, nutrient management and filter strips

9.5 miles of trees and brush removed along maintenance ditches



13

acres of seeding permanent grass filter strips along maintenance ditches



25 acre Stream restoration project, funded by the US EPA, began along the Headwaters Tenmile Creek



14

ditches across Lucas County are scheduled for maintenance in 2024

10 acre Greenspace behind office is in a multi-phase project with Lott Industries to add demonstration practices



In 2023, Lucas SWCD applied for and is now a Local Sponsor for ODA's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program



Completed Practices for Crop Year 2023

11,251.1 Acres of Voluntary Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Implementation

3,539.7 Acres of Variable-rate Tech. Phosphorus Application

133% Increase in acres of Overwintering Cover Crops



Staff provided technical assistance on topics like native plants, erosion control, ponds, and stormwater management

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The Lucas SWCD offers Lucas County citizens of all ages a variety of educational programs in the realm of natural resource conservation, awareness, and appreciation.

In addition, through grants and partnerships, the District offers professional development opportunities for local educators. Staff also participate in public events where we provide information and activities on conservation to the community. Lucas SWCD also started hosting workshops and classes at the new office in 2023.



16,971

students reached through K-12 School Programs

692

 K-12 School & Adults Programs offered in 2023

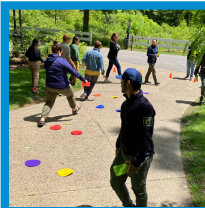
4,245

 people reached through non-school & adult programs

81

 Non-school & Adult Programs offered

2

 Educator Workshops

3

 Field Days with K-12 students

4

 Conservation Education Newsletters sent bi-monthly during the school year to 400 teachers and administrators.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We welcome community members to our office to utilize the resources and products we have available to aid with conservation projects at home. We also offer Rain Barrel Workshops, Fish, Tree, and Cover Crop Sales, and a Native Plant Sale each year, striving for convenience and affordability. Our newsletter, blog, website, and social media channels are another way Lucas SWCD reaches out to the community. Lastly, our staff represents the District in local government by serving on several committees and project teams, offering technical insight and programming support.



8,820
Trees and shrubs sold
through the 2023 Tree Sale

Over
500
Native plants sold, plus
rain barrels, composters
and more



17,723
Fish fingerlings sold
through Fish Sales



7

Rain Barrel
Workshops

137

Rain Barrels
Made



7,124

Gallons of rain water
captured each time all
of the Workshop
barrels fill up!



We reached over 56,000 people
through our Facebook posts in
2023! Follow us [@LucasSWCD](https://www.facebook.com/LucasSWCD)

OUR PARTNERS



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lucas County Commissioners
 Lucas County Engineer
 Lucas County Auditor
 Lucas County Farm Bureau
 Lucas County Ag. Society
 Toledo Public Schools
 Oregon City Schools
 Sylvania City Schools

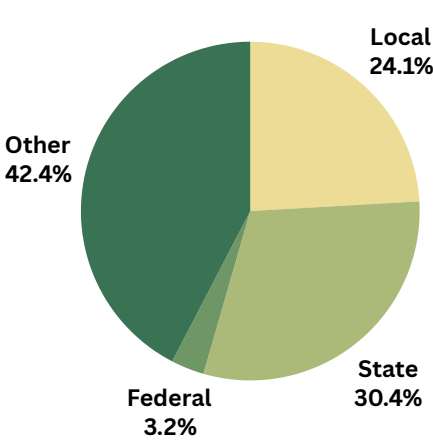
Anthony Wayne Schools
 Ottawa Hills School District
 Washington Local Schools
 Springfield Local Schools
 Maumee City Schools
 Swanton Local School District
 Toledo-Lucas County Libraries
 Natural Science Technology Center

Fender's Fish Hatchery
 Walnut Creek Seeds
 Woody Warehouse
 Engel's Nursery
 Alpha Nursery
 Advanced Tree Technology
 Area 1 SWCDs
 The 577 Foundation

2023 FINANCES

(JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023)

While we are a subdivision of government, there is no mandated public budget for the SWCD. Our work depends on acquiring grants and voluntary funding from Lucas County Commissioners, local municipalities, and individual donors.

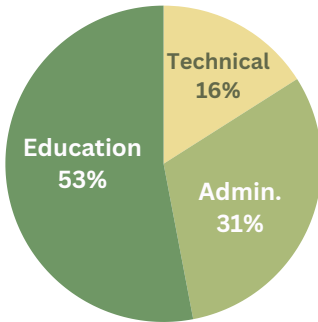


INCOME

Local Income	\$191,744.00
State Income	\$241,840.00
Federal Income	\$25,126.00
Other Income <i>(incl. farm income, office sales, etc.)</i>	\$337,350.00
Total	\$796,060.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Total	\$1,133,693.00
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STAFF HOURS

(JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023)

District staff time is divided into three categories, and examples of tasks that fall under each category are below:

Administrative: includes financial obligations and reporting; Board, staff, and other agency meetings; correspondence; facility maintenance

Education: includes school and general public programs; newsletters; social media; sales

Technical: includes urban and agricultural technical assistance/programs; grant reporting

The Lucas SWCD wishes to thank the following entities, whose financial support at the local level either draws matching funds from the State of Ohio and/or in-kind support that enables the District to provide services to Lucas County:

- The Lucas County Commissioners
- Cities of: Oregon, Toledo & Sylvania
- Townships of: Harding, Jerusalem, Monclova, Richfield, Springfield, Spencer, & Sylvania
- Villages of: Holland & Ottawa Hills
- Lucas County Farm Bureau
- Lucas County Engineer's Office
- In-kind services from the USDA-NRCS, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture, & OFSWCD
- Grants from Ohio EPA, OFSWCD, US EPA, & Ohio Dept. of Agriculture
- 2023 Affiliate Members



2023 BOARD & STAFF

Kevin Joyce, Chair

Diane DeYonker, Vice-Chair

Stephen Loeffler, Treasurer

Tom Schoen, Fiscal Agent

Jim Vogelbacher, Secretary

Joey Warner, District Manager

Dj Mears, Drainage/Agricultural Conservationist

Jessica Grisier, Communication & Outreach Coordinator

Penny Bollin, Urban Conservation Technician

Matthew Browne, H2Ohio Technician

Patrick Troyer, Education Specialist

Olusola Oyewumi, Urban Waters & Grant Coordinator



**3350 Hill Ave., Ste. K
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M-F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

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www.LucasSWCD.org

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