

## Potential Projects

- Preparation of Master Plan for watershed in the community, to assure effective and coordinated effort.
- Streambank Erosion Remediation by installation of measures ranging from willow stakes and other native riparian plantings, to hand-placed wood or boulder bank toe armoring.
- Streambed Rehabilitation with rock riffles, J-hooks, and habitat boulders.
- Removal of dead trees, beaver dams, and other obstructions.
- Floodplain Restoration with re-established channel connection, dual-stage channels, removal of invasive species
- Construction of wetlands for detention and groundwater recharge.
- Detention Basin Retrofits with outlet control structures designed to optimize their stormwater mitigation potential, reduce stream erosion and enhance stream water quality.
- Remediate flooding separately or in conjunction with above measures.

## Rules and Regulations

- Streams, waterways and ditches shall remain open and free-flowing, shall not be altered without a permit, and shall not be polluted.
- Filling and grading operations; and construction of ponds, bridges, culverts, and storm sewers must meet standards, and are subject to plan review and permit requirements.
- Existing bridges, culverts, and storm sewers must be properly sized and properly maintained, or may be ordered removed.
- Enforcement, appeal, and penalty provisions are in place.

---

### Summit County Surface Water Management District

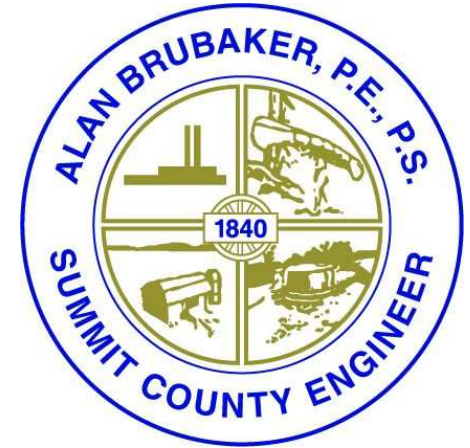
538 E. South Street  
Akron, Ohio 44311  
(330) 643-8010

[SWMD@summitengineer.net](mailto:SWMD@summitengineer.net)

For more information on the Surface Water Management District, please contact us or check our website:

[www.summitengineer.net/swmd](http://www.summitengineer.net/swmd)

**Alan Brubaker, P.E., P.S.**  
**Summit County Engineer**



## A Guide to the Summit County Surface Water Management District

05/2019

## Introduction

- Road and Bridge funds can not be used to work outside the road right of way, where many drainage problems occur.
- With no revenue, we are left to use the *ditch petition* process, where citizens or the township can petition the county to do a surface water project and pay assessments, as the only way to address most stormwater problems.
- Summit County regularly utilizes the ditch petition laws to establish a Drainage Maintenance Assessment on each new subdivision constructed since the 1980s. Each lot owner pays a small annual property assessment for the ongoing maintenance, operation, and minor repair of the stormwater management facilities located outside the public road rights-of-way.
- Recent ditch petition projects initiated by landowners have been objected to by others that would be assessed, resulting in the measures stalled at council.
- We spent many years devising and evaluating various solutions to stormwater issues in Summit County.
- SCE now has the **Surface Water Management District** to function as a utility & charge residents a small monthly fee.
- The **SWMD** revenue can be used for studies, design, and a portion of construction.
- The ditch petition process will generate revenue for a portion of construction and for maintenance of the new facility.

## County Ditch History

- Many drainage systems were installed independently by farmers. In some cases involving large land area and many property owners, they would petition the County to manage the construction of the ditch.
- In all cases, either directly or indirectly, property owners who benefit from the existence of the drainage system or county ditch pay for its installation.
- Many county ditches were improved by widening and straightening, between 1935 and 1943 as federal Work Project Administration projects.
- Many ditches and streams are not formally established county ditches.
- Prior to August 23, 1957, after a ditch was constructed through the County Petition process, the completed project was turned over to the property owners for maintenance and upkeep. The County owns an easement for the County Ditch but otherwise the County's role with regard to the ditch was concluded.
- In 1957 the state legislature revised the law whereby all County Petitioned Ditches constructed after August 23, 1957 are put under permanent maintenance. As such, a special assessment is placed on the property tax bill of all benefited property owners and repairs and maintenance to that particular ditch are paid for out of that special fund.

## Program Summary

- The new SWMD functions as a local stormwater utility.
- Participation is entirely voluntary and is open to all Summit County townships, cities, and villages.
- Rate for Conventionally Developed Residential properties is \$4/mo., billed Annually.
- There is a 25% Credit for parcels with Homestead Exemption, and 25% Credit for parcels in assessed subdivisions.
- The rate for Non-Conventional-Residential (Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Multi-Family) parcels is \$4/mo per 3,000 square feet of impervious area (one ERU).
- Credits will be available for Non-Conventional-Residential properties that install measures that reduce runoff or enhance water quality.
- All money collected from property owners in a political subdivision will be used for projects that benefit that subdivision.