

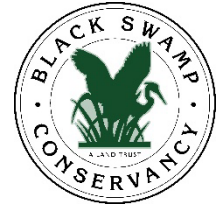
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW NATURE PRESERVE ALONG THE MAUMEE RIVER

Black Swamp Conservancy and Rotary District 6600 have announced the establishment of the Rotary Riverside Preserve along the Maumee River in Henry County.

The Conservancy purchased the 61-acres of flood-prone farmland in 2021 to return it to natural habitat. That work is scheduled to start in early July.

Converting this property's frequently flooded fields will help address erosion concerns and reduce nutrients reaching the Maumee River and Lake Erie where they contribute to the growth of harmful algal blooms. This restoration design will capture runoff from nearby agricultural fields and hold that nutrient-rich water, filtering it through the soil where it will be taken up by trees and shrubs rather than flowing into the river.

The project will also enhance wildlife habitat in the region, adding to existing nearby preserves including Ohio Department of Natural Resource's North Turkey Creek Wildlife Area. This restoration includes planting 6,600 trees for the establishment of wet woods that will be home to a wide range of songbirds, raptors, and breeding territory for salamanders and other amphibians.

Rotary District 6600 contributed funding to support the property's long-term ecological management.

Purchase and restoration of the property was made possible by a grant from ODNR utilizing the H2Ohio program, a comprehensive water quality initiative that is working to strategically address serious water issues that have been building in Ohio for decades.

About Black Swamp Conservancy

Black Swamp Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to protecting natural habitats and family farms, now and for future generations, through land conservation agreements. The Conservancy does this to preserve the rural heritage, unique natural habitats, and streams of northwest Ohio. Since its founding in 1993, the organization has permanently protected more than 21,000 acres of woods, wetlands, and family farms in northwest Ohio. By protecting the region's valuable land and water resources, the Conservancy supports healthy communities with strong, sustainable economies including agriculture and ecotourism.

About Rotary District 6600

Rotary District 6600 is part of Rotary International, a global network of 1.4 million people in over 200 countries. District 6600 consists of 62 community-based clubs located in the northwest and west-central region of Ohio, with approximately 3,000 members. Along with Rotary International, District 6600's has seven areas of focus and service which are to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, save mothers and children, support education, grow local economies, and protect the environment.