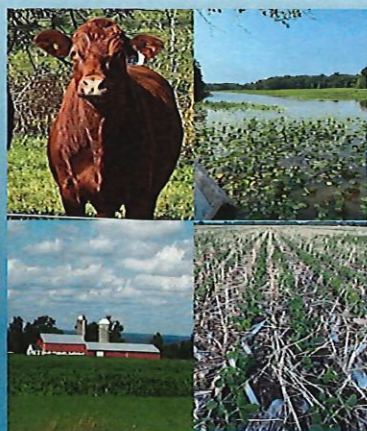




Local Workgroup Meeting

August 25, 2026

Purpose of the Local Workgroup



Provide input to

- Identify and prioritize resource needs
- Determine best conservation practices for our local area
- Identify funding and technical assistance needs
- Determine high-priority areas or concerns

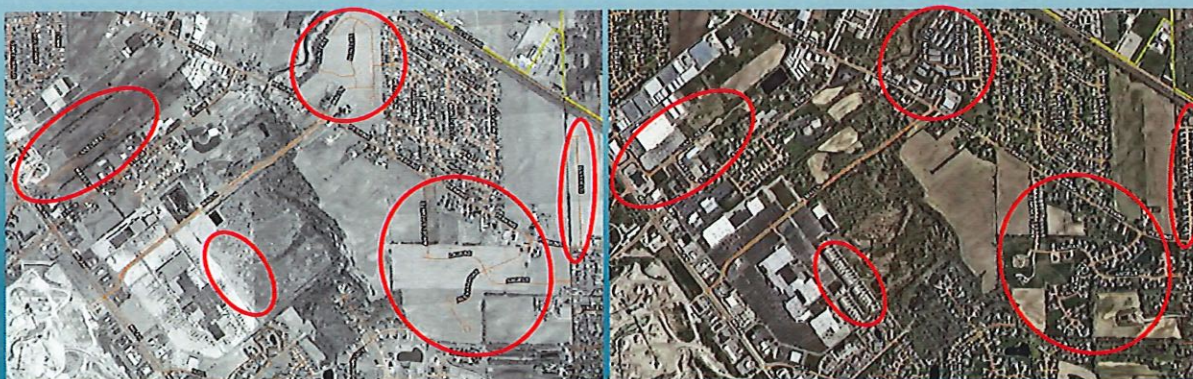
Erie County Natural Areas



- Forests – 30,080 acres
- Scrub-shrub – 2,061 acres
- Grasslands – 4,937 acres
- Wetlands – 10,125

Erie County Land Use

The greatest loss was Agriculture (4.14 sq mi), and the greatest gain was Development (4.31 sq miles)



2001

2026

Erie County Changes in Agriculture

Recent

Statistic	2017	2022	% Change
Number of Farms	382	317	-17%
Land in Farms	86,440 ac	77,157 ac	-11%
Average Farm Size	226 ac	243 ac	+8%
Acres in Wheat	4,082 ac	8,400 ac	+106%

Long term

Statistic	1978	2022	% Change
Number of Farms	550	317	-42%
Average Farm Size	177 ac	243 ac	+37%
Acres in Wheat	8,045 ac	8,400 ac	+4%

On the Ground Conservation



- **H2Ohio**
 - Nutrient Management Plans
 - Nutrient/Manure Applications
 - Winter Covers – wheat, hay, cover crops
- **Grants**
 - Conservation Ditches
 - Wetland Restoration
- **FarmBill**



Education/Engagement



- **Monitoring**
 - Stream water quality
 - Tillage transect
 - Wildlife
 - Cocorahs
- **K-12/Public Programs**
- **Professional Programs**
 - Field Days
 - Stormwater Expo
- **Invasive Species Buyback Program**
- **Conservation Mini-grant**

Survey Feedback Results

- **13 responses**
- **Top Resource Concerns**
 - Water Quality
 - Land Use Change
 - Soil Health
 - Invasive Species
 - Forest Health
- **Communication**
 - Email/Direct Mail
- **Event Time Preference**
 - Full Field Days
 - Evening
- **Topic Interest**
 - Soil Health
 - Conservation Planning
 - Invasive/Noxious Weed
 - Ditch Maintenance

Discussion – Natural Resource Considerations

Soil - Erosion, compaction, fertility, health

Water - nutrients, sediment, or bacterial pollution; algal blooms, debris

Animal - Livestock (manure/pasture management), wildlife management

Plants - Plant health, wildlife habitat, invasive species

Air – Air quality

Land – Land use

Energy – Energy efficiency

