

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

GEAUGA COUNTY  
ENGINEER



# GEAUGA COUNTY ENGINEER

## Joe Cattell, PE, PS



Joe Cattell, PE, PS, grew up in Eastlake, Ohio. During his school years, Joe excelled in math and science. His passion for building things and his expertise in these subjects led him to pursue a career in civil engineering. In 1993, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Cleveland State University. Joe furthered his education in 1995 by earning his surveying license. By 1999, he had become a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in Ohio, and in 2002, he also became a registered Professional Surveyor (PS) in the State of Ohio.

## CHIEF DEPUTY ENGINEER

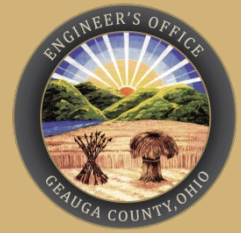
### Andy Haupt, PE, PS

Andy Haupt, PE, PS currently serves as Chief Deputy Engineer under County Engineer Joe Cattell. Andy received his Associate of Science degree from Lakeland Community College in 1993 and later graduated from Cleveland State University in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Andy is a registered Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor in the State of Ohio. In his multifaceted role, Andy oversees daily operations, ensures regulatory compliance in survey reviews, leads GIS applications for infrastructure management, and manages highway and bridge maintenance.



# ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

**Katie Taylor, Administrator**



The Administrative Department continues to embrace technological advancements to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness. It plays a dual role by both supporting daily operations and orchestrating long-term strategic and procedural advancements within the Engineer's Office. This department has taken charge of converting all historical records, including survey data, correspondence, and information on past road projects, into digital formats.

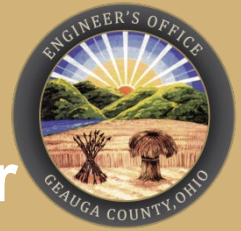
These records used to occupy extensive office space and required laborious efforts to locate specific documents. Now, through ongoing scanning and digital indexing, these files are stored efficiently and are easily accessible. This streamlined access benefits not only the engineering staff, who can now conduct quicker research, but also the public, who can perform more efficient public records searches. Additionally, the Administrative Department has been actively updating and revising policies to better manage the long-term operations of the Engineer's Office.

## **Department Responsibilities:**

- **Human Resource Administration**
- **Drug and Alcohol Training & Testing**
- **Payroll**
- **Prevailing Wage Compliance**
- **Records Retention**
- **Employee Training and Safety Programs**
- **Benefits Administration**
- **Invoice Procurement and Processing**
- **Contract Negotiations**
- **Ohio Public Records Compliance**

# BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

## Jacob Scotese, PE, Deputy Engineer



The County Engineer is responsible for inspecting and maintaining Geauga County's 186 bridges located on county and township roads. The County Engineer also provides bridge inspections of three (3) of the Geauga Park District bridges that are required to be inspected yearly.

The Bridge Department, along with all other state-wide entities, have made the transition to the Ohio Department of Transportation's Structure Management System for reporting 2023 inspection year condition ratings, work orders, and inventory updates. Through effective management of inspection data, a scheduled maintenance program is being developed to efficiently preserve and extend the life of the county's most expensive pieces of infrastructure.

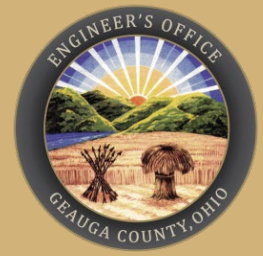
Each bridge is evaluated annually based on the State and Federal Law and in accordance with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) recommendations. Each bridge is given an ODOT sufficiency rating and overall appraisal rating based upon bridge inspection rating factors. It is the statutory responsibility of the County Engineer to maintain bridges in all unincorporated areas within the County. The most recent inspection assessment found that ninety-eight percent (98%) of the County bridges have a numerical rating of 5 or higher.

Overall ODOT general appraisal ratings for bridges are as follows:

Condition	Rating	Number of Bridges
Failed	0	0
Imminent Failure	1	0
Critical	2	0
Serious	3	0
Poor	4	4
Fair	5	19
Satisfactory	6	38
Good	7	55
Very Good	8	63
Excellent	9	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>186</b>

# DESIGN, FUNDING, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

Shane E. Hajjar, PE, Deputy Engineer  
Jacob Scotese, PE, Deputy Engineer



The Design, Funding, Planning and Construction Department is responsible for various project design duties on the 235.3 miles of county roads, 186 bridges, and 576.7 miles of township roads. This department uses professional engineering expertise to perform statutory engineering responsibilities for all County roads, all bridges and all 16 Township Boards of Trustees within Geauga County.

The Design Department performs the following statutory duties:

- Design of all bridges, culverts, ditches, and roads
- Hydraulic studies
- Preparation of improvement plans, specifications, and estimates
- Right-of-way acquisition

## Condition Assessment of County Roads and Bridges

The County reports its roads infrastructure assets using the modified approach. The following disclosures pertain to the condition assessment and budget versus actual expenditure in 2023 for the preservation of these assets. The Geauga County Engineer administers a five-year program for road and bridge repairs and improvements. This plan is modified continually based upon conditional inspections and budget allowances.

Overall ODOT general appraisal ratings for roads are as follows:

Condition	Rating	Gauga Road Mileage
Failed	0	0
Imminent Failure	1	0
Critical	2	0
Serious	3	0
Poor	4	0
Fair	5	16.3
Satisfactory	6	47.9
Good	7	31.2
Very Good	8	75.4
Excellent	9	64.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>235.3</b>

# DESIGN, FUNDING, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

## Summary of 2023 Contracted Projects

### Project Summary - Resurfacing & Reconstruction

Project	Project Miles	Total Miles	% of Total	Total Cost
Total County Resurfacing Projects	25.88	235.7	10.98%	\$7,349,493
Total Township Resurfacing Projects	19.40	576.7	3.36%	\$6,774,766
<b>Total Miles Improved:</b>	<b>45.28</b>	<b>812.4</b>	<b>5.57%</b>	<b>\$14,124,259</b>

### Project Summary - Bridge Projects

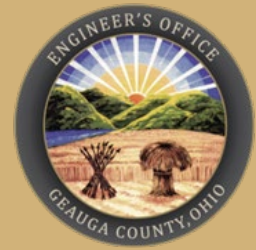
Project	# Replaced	Total Bridges	% of Total	Total Cost
Bridge Replacements	2	186	10.75%	\$1,808,002

### Project Summary - Other Projects

Project				Total Cost
County Pavement Marking	83.62	235.7	35.48%	\$260,635
Township Chip Seal Projects	7.37	576.7	1.28%	\$441,999
Township Culvert Replacement	7	-	-	\$274,339
Township Storm Sewer Replacement	1	-	-	\$178,630
<b>Total Other Improvements:</b>				<b>\$1,155,603</b>
<b>Grant Funding:</b>				<b>\$4,954,320</b>
<b>Local Cost:</b>				<b>\$12,133,544</b>
<b>Grand Total of 2023 Projects:</b>				<b>\$17,087,864</b>

# SURVEY DEPARTMENT

Nick Goodrich, PS, Surveyor II



The Survey Department continues to grow and enhance its capabilities as a team. The engineer's office effectively and efficiently utilizes newly acquired, cutting-edge survey equipment, including a robotic total station and a GPS receiver configured to use ODOT's Virtual Reference Station (VRS) system. This advanced technology has enabled the Survey Department to increase both efficiency and accuracy, while requiring fewer staff members per survey crew. The department has provided the Engineer's Office with the following survey-related data collection:

- Control
- Topological
- Drainage
- Easement
- Right-of-Way and centerline surveys

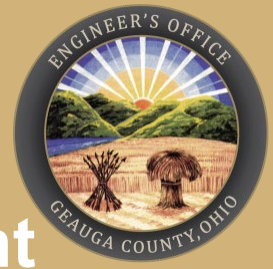
The Survey Department supported the Engineering Department by conducting record research, assembling records, and diligently recovering field monuments. Additionally, the Survey Department assisted townships with centerline retracement, right-of-way staking, drainage surveys, and right-of-way vacations and dedications.

## DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Right-of-way Relocation
- Vacation of Public Right-of-Ways
- Research of records for improvement projects
- Acquisition of easements for bridges and culverts
- Retracement of county and township road centerlines



# HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT



## Rick Weikart, Highway Superintendent

The Geauga County Engineer Highway Maintenance Department is responsible for maintaining approximately 235 miles of county roads and 186 bridges. In 2023, the department responded diligently to residents' requests and provided efficient and safe snow and ice control on county roads and bridges.

The Highway Maintenance Department worked with the Engineering Department to perform ditching and grading of roadsides before resurfacing projects to ensure proper drainage. Additionally, the department maintained all roadside signs on county roads, ensuring safe and efficient traffic control.

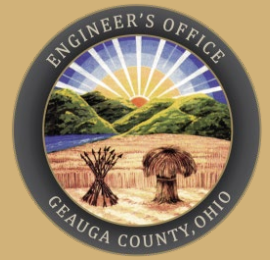
The Highway Maintenance Department provides services such as grading, culvert repair, tree work, core sampling, hydro-excavation, signage, restoration work, and bridge maintenance and repair among other services in support of county highway projects. These services save taxpayer dollars on projects by reducing the reliance on outside contracts.

### Summary of 2023 Highway Projects and Activities

Project	Miles	Number
Asphalt Repair	6.2	
Crack Sealing	46.9	
Snow and Ice Control	49,725	
Culvert Replacements		4
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>49,778.1</b>	<b>4</b>

# TAX MAP DEPARTMENT

Steven Roessner, PS, Tax Map Supervisor



The Geauga County Tax Map Department is responsible for assisting the public in obtaining tax maps and survey information for real property in Geauga County.

## DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

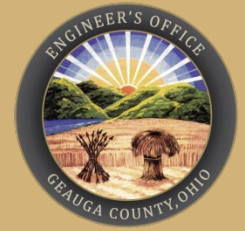
- Maintains the GIS map depicting the County Auditor's tax duplicate
- Reviews property descriptions and plat maps
- Assigns house numbers and business addresses for driveway permit application



## WORK COMPLETED BY THE TAX MAP DEPARTMENT IN 2023

- 332 Addresses Assigned, Changed, Split, Removals, Coordinated
- 319 Surveys Reviewed for Splits and Combines
- 370 Descriptions Reviewed
- 26 Easements Reviewed
- 27 Plats Reviewed

# CURRENT EMPLOYEE LISTING



Kelly Baeslach, Office Manager  
Brent Buell, Highway Worker II  
Rick Carlson, Highway Worker V  
Matt Carver, Fleet & Inventory Coordinator  
Katelyn Cellitti, Finance & HR Manager  
Keith Delfs, Survey Technician III  
Brent Eldred, Highway Worker IV  
Joseph Godfrey, Highway Worker I  
Nicholas Goodrich, Surveyor II  
Thomas Goodridge, GIS Technician  
Shane Hajjar, Deputy Engineer  
Tyler Hall, Mechanic II  
Elijah Haller, Engineer I  
Andrew Haupt, Chief Deputy Engineer  
Eric Hawk, Mechanic III  
Jared Hinkle, Highway Technician I  
Luke Horwatt, Highway Worker IV  
Jerad Howes, Highway Worker V  
Rory Judd, Mechanic IV  
Corey Keeney, Highway Worker III  
Brian Kingure, Highway Worker III  
Jonathan Kreuz, Highway Worker III  
Paul Kucharski, Engineer Technician II

Susan Martin, Tax Map Technician II  
Daren Maruna, Highway Worker III  
Matt Miller, Highway Worker V  
Evan Miner, Facilities Maintenance Technician I  
Joseph Orinko, Highway Worker II  
Connor Packard, Highway Worker II  
Ron Quercioli, Highway Worker V  
Joe Rini, Highway Worker VI  
Steve Roessner, Tax Map Supervisor  
Tom Ross, Highway Manager  
Steve Sabol, Highway Worker III  
Tyler Schubert, Highway Worker I  
Jacob Scotese, Deputy Engineer  
Kevin Shea, Highway Worker III  
Kaleb Smothers, Highway Worker I  
Katie Taylor, Administrator  
Lee Thomas, Foreman  
Chris Villers, Highway Worker IV  
Robert Weigle, Subdivision & Permitting Manager  
Rick Weikart, Highway Superintendent  
Clayton Wingfield, Highway Worker III  
Timothy Woodcock, Engineer IV

