

Ohio Environmental Education Fund Adult Education Grants Awarded, Fall 2006

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, *Community Ecology Awareness and Action*, \$30,234, Cuyahoga County.
Contact: Carol Marshall, marshall@shakerlakes.org

Provides classes, printed materials, and service learning projects for at least 300 residents of the Doan Brook watershed, a diverse and densely populated urban area that directly impacts Lake Erie. Project will focus on the effect of environmental waste and polluted runoff and steps residents can take to help restore and preserve the ecosystem. Topics will include "Laudable Lawns," rain barrel construction, invasive and native plants, sustainable landscaping, geology of the watershed, bird banding, and water quality monitoring.



Summit/Akron Solid Waste Management Authority, *Making Recycling Work Through Environmental Awareness*, \$29,037, Summit County.
Contact: Jenny Markovich, jmarkovich@sasqma.org

Provides a multi-faceted citywide public awareness campaign targeting 27,362 residents of the city of Barberton in an effort to raise residential recycling rates. Campaign will include a recycling drop-off center demonstration project in a multi-unit low-income housing complex, community-specific brochures, utility bill inserts, a traveling exhibit, and incentive programs, reinforced by ongoing school programs.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy Firelands Chapter, *Vermilion River Watershed Educational Book*, \$49,825, Ashland, Erie, Huron, Lorain counties.
Contact: Mary Garvin, mary.garvin@oberlin.edu

Collaborators will develop and distribute a color booklet targeting residents, property owners, township governments, and recreational users of the river. A series of presentations using the booklet are planned to build community support for seeking designation as a Scenic River to accord it the highest possible level of protection.

Contents will include the watershed's distinctive geology, local flora and fauna, water quality, history, recreational uses, and actions residents and local communities can take to protect the water resource.

Hiram College, *Primary Headwater Habitat Multi-media Training Modules*, \$46,044, Statewide. Contact: Dennis Taylor, taylorj@hiram.edu

Develops a multi-media training curriculum to educate the general public, environmental consultants, the academic community and regulated entities on the use of Primary Headwater Habitat (PHWH) assessment protocols and the proper interpretation of water quality monitoring data. Demand for training is anticipated due to changes in rules regarding use designations, 401 Water Quality Certifications, credible data collector training requirements and other regulatory applications of the PHWH classification system. Interactive online modules will include the Headwater Habitat Evaluation Index and biological evaluation methods using invertebrates and vertebrates. Courseware will incorporate slideshows, online quizzes, videos and podcasts, and materials will be coordinated with the manual and field test provided by Ohio EPA.

Mill Creek Restoration Project, *"Integrating Cultural History and a Heightened Sense of Place with Community-based Approaches to Public Storm Water Education, Urban River Regeneration and Neighborhood Revitalization"*, \$50,000, Hamilton County.
Contact: Robin Corathers, robin@millcreekrestoration.org

Seeks to involve residents of two low-income Environmental Justice neighborhoods within the Mill Creek floodplain in Cincinnati in efforts to restore and protect the Creek. Educational opportunities will include neighborhood meetings, workshops on topics selected by the residents, Mill Creek walking tours, water quality presentations by local environmental and public health officials, tree plantings, and other hands-on activities for 100 neighborhood volunteers at storm water

demonstration sites to showcase methods for controlling erosion and runoff. Volunteers will also plant native species for wildlife habitat, and install educational signs at Underground Railroad landmarks in the Mill Creek Greenway.

Williams County Health Department, “Septic Systems 101,” \$4,507, Williams County.
Contact: James Watkins, jdw@saa.net

Provides 12 bi-monthly evening seminars on how to properly operate a home sewage treatment system for homeowners in Williams County. Sessions will include basic information on types of septic systems, when to pump out the system, what chemicals not to put into a septic system, costs and problems that result from improper maintenance, and the importance of water conservation.



Ashland University, “Mercury Thermometer Exchange Project,” \$4,988, Ashland County.
Contact: Linda Kill, lkil@ashland.edu

Provides a public awareness campaign on the health and environmental hazards of mercury, and provides a collection and recycling opportunity for county residents and schools to exchange mercury thermometers for digital ones.

Friends of the Lower Muskingum River, “Meigs Creek Watershed Education,” \$2,728, Morgan, Muskingum and Noble counties.
Contact: Kristyn Robinson, flmr@charterinternet.com

Provides watershed signs and a series of workshops for adults and families to help raise awareness and understanding of issues affecting water quality in the Meigs Creek watershed. Volunteer monitors will be trained to conduct physical, chemical and biological testing in the creek.

Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, “Soil and Water Conservation Display at Malabar Farm State Park Visitor Center,” \$5,000, Richland County (Statewide).
Contact: Nelson Strong, nelson.strong@dnr.state.oh.us

Provides an inter-active permanent display in the new Malabar Farm State Park Visitor Education Center. The display will focus on soil and water resources, food production, and conservation issues and methods, and includes an EnviroScape watershed model for use in school and family programs



Hamilton County Ohio – Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, “Greenprint WEB Resources / Greenprint Presentation Program,” \$4,595, Hamilton County. Contact: Dean Niemeyer, dean.niemeyer@hamilton-co.org

Provides tools for greenspace preservation to 49 local jurisdictions, including community-specific mapping and flyover movies, tree ordinances, conservation design for subdivisions, green building techniques, and riparian corridor protection regulations. CITYgreen software will help local communities calculate the economic benefits of greenspace preservation in terms of storm water management, air quality, and summer energy savings.



B-W Greenway Community Land Trust, “Public Rain Garden Demo & Education Project,” \$5,000, Greene and Montgomery counties.
Contact: Christine Hadley, sbatchal@earthlink.net

Provides a public demonstration rain garden at the Fairborn Senior Center to educate the community about environmentally friendly ways to handle storm water runoff. Project includes four community educational workshops and a brochure.

Columbus Green Building Forum, “Residential Green Expo,” \$5,000, Franklin County.
Contact: Meera Parthasarathy, skrishna@pipeline.com

A Residential Green Expo in the spring of 2007 will showcase green materials and technologies that CGBF is currently employing in its LEED Home demonstration project in Downtown Columbus. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an international certification program for energy efficiency, reuse and recycling, use of non-polluting construction materials, and other green building techniques. The expo offers a day of workshops and tours for builders, developers, design professionals, and homeowners. Seniors from Worthington Kilbourne High School will be incorporating green building design into a service project building a house for the working poor.

For more information, contact:

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Ohio Environmental Education Fund

K-12 Grants Awarded, Fall 2006

Ohio University Southern Nature Center, *On the Cutting Edge: Teaching-N-Tomorrow*, \$48,016, Adams, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, and Scioto counties. Audience: Elementary, Middle and High School. Contact: Robert Culp, culpr@ohio.edu

Provides four-day professional development workshops for 60 teachers to improve science teaching in alignment with state standards, to encourage teaching in an outdoor setting, and to develop and disseminate lesson plans and activities using an environmental issue or topic specific to southeastern Ohio. The summer workshops in 2007 and 2008 will focus on chemistry in grades K-3, geology in grades 4-8, and plant ecology and botany in grades 9-12. Lessons developed by the teachers will be field-tested with visiting students then posted on the OUS teacher Web site.



Waynesfield Goshen Local Schools, "Nature's Restaurant... Education with a Taste," \$4,521, Auglaize County. OEEF Priority: Education Reform, Audience: Pre-Kindergarten – University.

Contact: Cindy Weaver, mlbsig@prodigy.net

Provides an educational garden where pre-school students and parent volunteers will grow plants to attract birds and butterflies, as well as pizza ingredients, strawberries, potatoes, and pumpkins to be used in school programs. Activities will be incorporated into the curriculum using *Habitats for Learning: A Planning Guide for Using and Developing School Land Labs*, funded by a previous OEEF Outstanding Project grant.

Cincinnati Public Schools, Dater Montessori School, "Mentoring Teachers and Students for Environmental Education," \$5,000, Hamilton County, Audience: Pre-School, Elementary and Middle School. Contact: Susan Vonderhaar, vonderhaar.susan@epa.gov

Provides resources and training for 100 teaching staff to more fully utilize FOSS (Full Option Science System) science kits and the school's nature center in their classes. Program will also develop junior high students as mentors to assist in teaching younger students.

Noble Soil and Water Conservation District, "Duck Creek Watershed Day Camp," \$3,344, Noble and Washington counties. Audience: Elementary and Middle School.

Contact: Heidi Suhoski, heidi.suhoski@oh.nacdnet.net

Provides a two-day summer watershed camp for 30 youth ages 8-12. Students will learn to identify their watershed and how human activity impacts streams through soil erosion and acid mine drainage. They will also collect macro-invertebrates to understand how water quality affects pollution-tolerant and pollution-intolerant species

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New Web resources

Clean and Green Schools

Illinois EPA's **Greening Schools project** offers tips on greening your lesson plan in chemistry, physics, biology, and industrial arts and vocational classes, as well as information on health and safety in art classrooms, theater departments, chemistry labs, and janitorial supply areas; and information on environmentally preferable purchasing. Check out all the green tips at <http://www.greeningschools.org/>

The **Healthy Schools Campaign** offers a free, 8-page guide to help schools adopt cleaning programs that encourage the use of green products, equipment and practices. Find out more at http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/green_clean_guide/

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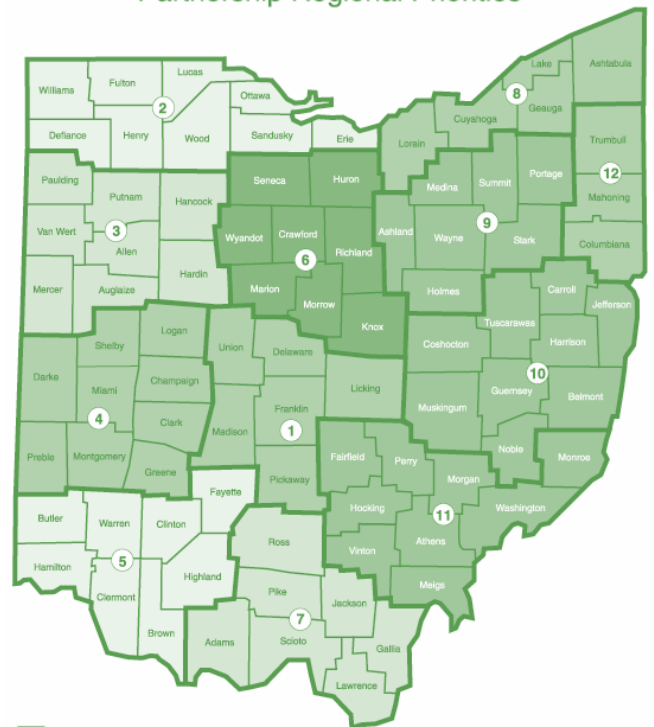
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Ohio EPA-Environmental Education Council of Ohio Partnership Regional Priorities



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Funding Sources for Outdoor Classrooms and Wildlife Gardens

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Greenworks Grants of \$200 - \$2,000 are available from Project Learning Tree at the national level, for projects involving youth, adults in communities, with positive environmental effects. www.plt.org or www.ohiodnr.gov/forestry/education/plt.htm

WILD School Sites grants of \$500 are available from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, with applications accepted between January 1 and May 31, www.dnr.ohio.gov/wildlife/Resources/wildschools/default.htm

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program award grants between \$5,000 and \$20,000 for wetland, riparian, or coastal habitat restoration projects that include education and community stewardship components. Deadline March 1. <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.htm>

Toyota Tapestry grants up to \$50,000 and mini grants up to \$2,500 are available to science teachers and administered by the National Science Teachers Association, <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/program.htm>

American Electric Power Teacher Vision Grants of \$100-\$500 are available to pre-K-12 educators in the AEP service area. www.aep.com/go/teachergrants

FirstEnergy Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Grants up to \$500 are available to educators at schools and youth groups in communities served by Ohio Edison, The Illuminating Company, and Toledo Edison, applications due September 30. See www.firstenergycorp.com and click on "community involvement" then "education" and "educational grants."

American Honda Foundation Grants to K-12 and higher education programs in the fields of youth education (up to 21) and scientific education. Deadline: May 1. Download brochure: http://corporate.honda.com/images/banners/america/AHF_brochure.pdf
<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Learn and Serve Ohio grants are available through the Ohio Department of Education for schools to develop service learning programs to help students and communities address education, public safety, human and environmental needs. www.ohioik-16service.org

Ohio Environmental Education Fund mini grants of \$500 - \$5,000 are offered by the Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education, with application deadlines around January 9 and July 9 each year. www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef

US EPA Environmental Education grants are awarded through both the national Office of Environmental Education www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html and smaller grants (but less competition) through the Region 5 office in Chicago (contact Megan Gavin at gavin.megan@epa.gov).

Application is usually announced in the Federal Register in September, with deadlines in November.

NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund grants are available for ecological restoration projects, in the service area of Columbia Gas of Ohio. Application deadline is usually in February, www.nisource.com/enviro/ecf.asp Largest grant awards are \$10,000, most under \$5,000.

Youth Garden Grant Program of the National Gardening Association offers \$500 gift cards from The Home Depot to schools and community organizations with child-centered outdoor garden programs. www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp

Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School Grants
Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper and National Geographic Explorer! classroom magazine offer outdoor classroom grants up to \$2000 to K-12 public schools. Grants up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. Proposals are reviewed three times a year. <http://www.Lowes.com/outdoorclassroom>

Captain Planet Foundation Grants
Between \$500 and \$2,500 for schools and nonprofit organizations that develop innovative environmental projects for youth that promote cooperation, planning, and problem-solving skills. Deadlines four times a year. <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/256624>

Your local **community foundation** is a clearinghouse for local donors. Most large cities and many rural counties in Ohio have them. To Find other Funders: see if your public library reference section has the **Guide to Ohio Grantmakers**, also available for \$125 from the Foundation Center, www.fdncenter.org in print or a searchable CD ROM.

Other Sources of funding at the local level:
Wal-Mart stores, Target, BP stations, Kraft Foods. Wendy's restaurants and grocery stores may not offer cash but may provide food or other supplies.

Boy Scouts: Eagle Scouts have to complete a community service project, and often may be enlisted to perform construction or maintenance in parks and other outdoor learning sites.