



## Ohio Environmental Education Fund Recent Grants for Storm Water Education

*Total since 2002: 22 grants for \$498,717*

**Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center**, NPDES Phase II Implementing Training and Assistance, \$39,270, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties, Audience: Regulated Community, #07G-037, Contact: Claudette Robey, [crobey@urban.csuohio.edu](mailto:crobey@urban.csuohio.edu)

Provides training for local officials on NPDES Phase II requirements on small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), to help them comply with permit and storm water management requirements. Program includes practical, hands-on tools for municipal employees to implement pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices, as well as illicit discharge detection and elimination programs. Another component will train contractors, construction site inspectors and local officials on proper installation, maintenance, and inspection of sediment and erosion controls at construction sites. A third component offers training for developers and engineers on design and implementation of post-construction storm water quality controls. The Center is a partnership between US EPA and Cleveland State University's College of Urban Affairs. Bramhall Engineering is collaborating.

**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, Audience: General Public, #F07G-039, Contact: Robin Corathers [robin@millcreekrestoration.org](mailto: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 driving and 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 show erosion and runoff controls. Volunteers will also plant native species for wildlife habitat, and install educational signs at Underground Railroad landmarks in the Mill Creek Greenway. Collaborators include the Northside Community Council, North Fairmount Community Center, Gardens at Village Green, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and Paul Hemmer Companies/Sand Run Nursery.

**B-W Greenway Community Land Trust**, “Public Rain Garden Demo & Education Project,” \$5,000, Greene and Montgomery Counties, Audience: General Public, F-07M-035, Contact: Christine Hadley, [sbatcha1@earthlink.net](mailto:sbatcha1@earthlink.net), 937-289-4237.

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, and collaboration from the City of Fairborn, Terran Corporation, Horticultural Management, Inc., and the Hebble Creek Watershed Coalition.

**Hamilton County Ohio – Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission**, “Hamilton County Greenprint WEB Resources / Greenprint Presentation Program,” \$4,595, Hamilton County, Audience: General Public, F-07M-028, Contact: Dean Niemeyer, [dean.niemeyer@hamilton-co.org](mailto:dean.niemeyer@hamilton-co.org), 513-946-4487.

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. A number of local agencies and organizations are collaborating.

**Toledo Public Schools, Start High School**, “Urban Watershed Habitat,” \$5,000, Lucas County, OEEF Priority: Education Reform, Audience: Pre-Kindergarten – University (High School), #S-07M-039, Contact: Wendy Wilson, [wendy12554@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy12554@yahoo.com), 419-473-1446.

Provides an outdoor classroom on the school grounds and in an underused portion of the adjacent Bowman City Park. The area will feature a rain garden, storm water management structures, and native species plantings. A workshop will help high school teachers learn to use activities from Project WET and *Healthy Water, Healthy People* to connect science and social studies. Activities for 1700 students will feature the water cycle, permeability, surveying and monitoring biotic and abiotic features, and how environmental conditions impact the neighborhood and community. Collaborators include the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City of Toledo Departments of Environmental Services, and Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

**City of Newark Litter Prevention & Recycling**, “Storm Water Teacher Education,” \$4,993, Licking County, OEEF Priorities: Teaching Skills and Community Issues, Audience: Pre-Kindergarten – University (Elementary and Middle School), #S-07M-054, Contact: Marti Kolb, [mkolb@newarkohio.net](mailto:mkolb@newarkohio.net), 740-670-7774.

Supports the K-12 education component of the city’s storm water management program required under NPDES Phase II regulations, by providing eight workshops on storm water issues for 110 local teachers, pre-service teachers from OSU-

Newark, YMCA Leaders-in-Training, school librarians, and non-formal educators from scouting and other local organizations. Workshops will present hands-on activities from Project Wet that are aligned with state science standards, and can be adapted for presentation in classroom, camp, and outdoor settings. Collaborators include the City of Newark Department of Public Service and Licking Soil and Water Conservation District.

**City of Struthers**, “City of Struthers Storm Water Outreach Program,” \$45,503, Mahoning County, Audience: General Public and Regulated Community, #06G-003, Contact: Danny Thomas, 330-755-2181.

Provides a comprehensive city-wide storm water education campaign, including information on water conservation and proper disposal of common household materials, with the objective of reducing water pollution in the Mahoning River and Yellow Creek Watershed. Components include workshops, brochures, presentations, posters, newspaper and radio ads, a video and Website, with themes changing quarterly. Additional components will target city businesses in an effort to reduce illegal discharges. Collaborators include the City Health Department and Water Pollution Control Department, Eastgate Council of Regional Governments, Mahoning County Recycling, Mahoning Soil and Water Conservation District, URS Corporation and Youngstown State University.

**Columbus Downtown Development Corporation**, “*The Urban/Environmental Interface: RiverSouth Exhibits*,” \$41,000, Franklin County, Audience: General Public and Regulated Community, #06G-012, Contact: Brian Ezzell, [BrianE@NewAlbanyCompany.com](mailto:BrianE@NewAlbanyCompany.com), 614-939-8070.

Provides a series of interactive exhibits on the relationship between urban land use, air and water quality, natural habitat and the built environment. CDDC will host three charettes (citizen focus group meetings) to solicit suggestions on indoor and outdoor downtown exhibits featuring the Lazarus Building green roof, Scioto River and storm water issues, Columbus Air Quality, Wildlife in the City, Brownfield Redevelopment and Green Building Techniques. A Developer’s Toolkit exhibit/tour and Remodeler’s Manual will provide up to 500 real estate developers and representatives of the construction and remodeling industry with information on how to renovate an historic building (the former Lazarus department store in downtown Columbus) to be certified under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System. Collaborators include Audubon Ohio, Columbus Development and Public Utilities Departments, Ohio Department of Development Office of Energy Efficiency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, and Ohio EPA Public Interest Center.

**Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District**, *“Franklin SWCD Storm Drain Model Project,”* \$16,789, Franklin County, Audience: General Public, #06G-061, Contact: Nora Hiland, [nora-hiland@franklinswcd.org](mailto:nora-hiland@franklinswcd.org), 614-486-9613.

Creates a storm drain model and accompanying materials about best management practices that can be used at public events and local trainings of small business owners. The model will have running water and interchangeable backdrops to illustrate residential and commercial activities and show the connection between run-off down storm drains and water quality in local streams.

**Cuyahoga County Board of Health**, *“Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Guidance Manual”*, \$4,195, Cuyahoga County, Audience: Regulated Community, #06M-004, Contact: Harry Stark, [hstark@ccbh.net](mailto:hstark@ccbh.net)

Provides a guidance manual on Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Methods, component 3 of U.S. EPA’s Phase II Storm Water Program. The manual is designed for local communities to utilize in developing their own storm water education materials for the general public. Project will focus on educating elected officials, city and county engineers, and service & building departments about methods to identify and eliminate illicit sources that are discharging to municipal storm sewer systems.

**Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District**, *Building Bridges from the Classroom to the Watershed*, \$5,000, Muskingum County, Audience: Pre-School–University (Elementary), #05M-021, Contact: [linda-atkinson@oh.nacdnet.org](mailto:linda-atkinson@oh.nacdnet.org)

Approximately 375 third- and fourth-grade students will participate in classroom and outdoor lessons about soil, water, wildlife, and forestry, then design and install storm drain markers in the Muskingum River Watershed to teach community residents about watershed protection. Students will also present their project to local community leaders, teachers, school board members, and SWCD staff.

**Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District**, *“Paddling Programs Improve Awareness and Pride in the East Fork”*, \$4,980, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, and Highland Counties, Audience: General Public, #05M-034, Contact Paul Berringer, [paul-berringer@oh.nacdnet.org](mailto:paul-berringer@oh.nacdnet.org)

Provides equipment to implement a new in-stream educational program and support the Adopt-A-Waterway program and annual river sweeps in the East Fork of the Little Miami Watershed. The program will pair professionals such as biologists, ecologists and hydrologists with members of the agricultural community, developers, civic organizations, business and community leaders for canoe tours of the River to study the effects of urbanization, hydrologic modification, agricultural runoff, and other sources of water quality impairment. Tours will examine healthy areas of the River with thriving riparian corridors, clean substrates and access to floodplains, and unhealthy areas where siltation has degraded aquatic life and

where excessive stream bank erosion has occurred. Collaborators include the East Fork Watershed Collaborative, Clermont County Park District, and Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality.

**Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, FLOWER: FLOW Educational Resources**, \$48,566, Franklin County, Audience: General Public, #05G-070, Contact: Kathy Remias, [flow2004@sbcglobal.net](mailto:flow2004@sbcglobal.net).

Provides a multi-faceted campaign to educate residents about storm water issues and the Olentangy Watershed Action Plan, including a canoe float and river clean-up; ten "Community Dialogue" meetings with expert speakers; ten backyard conservation workshops; a bus tour for local media and community leaders; pre-movie slideshows in local theaters; publications, multi-media presentations, and Web site coverage. Results of the campaign will be shared with other watershed groups statewide through the OSU Watershed Education Team.

**Clermont County, Office of Environmental Quality, A Developer-Led Approach to Addressing Urban Storm Water Runoff Issues**, \$11,850, Clermont County, Audience: Regulated Community, #04G-051, Contact: Paul Braasch, [pbraasch@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:pbraasch@co.clermont.oh.us)

Provides a one-day workshop on Better Site Design Tools and Techniques for managing post-construction storm water, for 150 planners, developers, engineers, contractors, and zoning and code enforcement officials. Also provides a subsequent tour of developments that have successfully used designs to minimize storm water impact. Collaborators include the Clermont County Planning Department, East Fork Watershed Collaborative, and the Center for Watershed Protection.

**Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, Give Water A Hand Educational Brochure Campaign for Non-urbanized Areas**, \$4,999, Lucas and Wood Counties, Audience: General Public, #04M-018, Contact: Kurt Erichsen, [kurt@tmacog.org](mailto:kurt@tmacog.org)

The Maumee Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and TMACOG are coordinating an education campaign with local jurisdictions to educate residents about storm water runoff and other environmental issues, their impacts on water quality, and how the average citizen can make a difference. The campaign includes quarterly mailings of brochures on specific topics such as water conservation, lawn care, septic systems, streambank stabilization, storm drains, and household hazardous waste disposal. The brochures are reinforced with multi-media advertising, and the campaign is funded in part with an OEEF general grant. Rural jurisdictions not regulated under NPDES stormwater permits may voluntarily participate to educate their citizens at comparable levels. This mini grant will extend the campaign to reach 1663 additional households in non-urbanized jurisdictions. Many of these communities are experiencing significant development pressures.

**Montgomery County Sanitary Engineering Public Education Committee**, Resource Library and Educational Displays, \$4,684, Montgomery County, Audience: Pre-School-University and General Public, #04M-049 and -050, Contact: Delores Beardsley, [beardsleyd@mcoho.org](mailto:beardsleyd@mcoho.org)

Provides a resource library with environmental print and multimedia materials about drinking and wastewater, the hydrologic cycle, and water conservation, for loan to local teachers and citizens. Also provides two portable displays for use in presentations to schools, citizen groups and local organizations.

**Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)**, "Give Water A Hand: You Can Make a Difference" Educational Brochure Campaign, \$49,989, Lucas and Wood Counties, Audience: General Public, #03G-044. Contact: Kurt Erichsen, [kurt@tmacog.org](mailto:kurt@tmacog.org)

Educational campaign to increase citizen understanding of water quality and quantity problems in the Maumee River Area of Concern. Provides 145,000 households with a series of six quarterly brochures on water conservation, lawn care, septic systems and illicit discharges, streambank stabilization and native plants, household hazardous waste disposal, and storm drains and ditches. Messages will be reinforced with television, radio and print advertising. Fifteen urban and two rural jurisdictions are collaborating with TMACOG and the Maumee Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

**City of Milford, Stormwater Drain Labeling**, \$657, Clermont County, Audience: General Public, #04M-019, Contact: Loretta Rokey, [lrokey@milfordohio.org](mailto:lrokey@milfordohio.org)

Provides "No Dumping - Drains to the River," markers to be installed by volunteers on 100 catch basins in the city. Also funds 600 door hangers in these neighborhoods, to educate residents about the water quality effects of dumping materials in storm drains.

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**, Greenways Environmental Education Initiative, \$37,934, Franklin County, Audience: General Public, #03G-022. Contact: Erin Miller, [emiller@morpc.org](mailto:emiller@morpc.org)

Seeks to educate local officials and residents in the Alum, Big Walnut and Blacklick Creek watersheds about the benefits of riparian conservation and the relationship between land use and water quality. Provides a video, Riverfest event, watershed tours, canoe floats, stream cleanups, and storm drain marking activities. Video will also be made available to municipal officials, residents, developers and construction companies through two public forums. Collaborators include a number of local watershed groups, the Northeast Area Commission, and the Building Industry Association.

**Lake County Engineer**, Storm Water Education Outreach, \$49,500, Lake County, Audience: General Public, #03G-052. Contact: James R. Gillis, [igills@lakecountyohio.org](mailto:igills@lakecountyohio.org)

Campaign of radio, television and newspaper ads over a six-week period during the spring rainy season, to increase public awareness of Storm water pollution problems. Campaign includes a newsletter, water flow model on display in public libraries, and two seminars on good housekeeping practices for maintenance personnel of storm sewer systems. Collaborators include Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Lake County Health District, Lake Soil and Water Conservation District, Lakeland Community College, OSU Extension, and multiple local jurisdictions.

**Miami Conservancy District**, Municipal Storm Water Management: Educating Decision-Makers and Constituents in the Mad River Watershed, \$37,313, Champaign, Clark, Greene and Montgomery Counties, Audience: Regulated Community (local governments) and General Public, #02G-056. Contact: Angela Manuszak, [amanuszak@conservancy.com](mailto:amanuszak@conservancy.com)

Proposes to educate municipal officials, their staffs and citizens in the Mad and Great Miami River Watersheds about storm water and nonpoint source pollution. Develops customized Power Point presentations for local land use decision makers, provides technical workshops for public service departments' staff, and develops a video public service announcement for broadcast on local television outlets. OSU Extension, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Lower Mad River Watershed Protection Project are collaborators.

**Home Builders' Association (HBA) of Mahoning Valley**, Rainwater and Land Development Manual training, \$5,000, May-Dec 2002, Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull Counties, Audience: Regulated Community, #02M-029. Contact: Betty Sekula, [mvhba@aol.com](mailto:mvhba@aol.com)

Makes training available to 200 HBA member builders, 79 developers, and 38 landscapers in the use and application of Urban Best Management Practices (BMP's) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation's "Rainwater and Land Development Manual". BMP's will be used whenever one or more acres of ground is disturbed. Expectations are that effective application of BMP's could result in soil savings of 160,000 tons or more per year in the Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana county area.

For more information, contact:  
Ohio EPA, Office of Environmental Education  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049  
(614) 644-2873  
[oeef@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:oeef@epa.state.oh.us)  
[www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/) □