# The Clean Ohio Report

## A Summary of $400 million in Innovative, Place-Based Preservation

CleanOhioFund

Ted Strickland, Governor • Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor

www.clean.ohio.gov

## Where are you from?

It's one of the first questions we ask when getting to know someone, but why do we so often start here? Perhaps it's because so much of *who* we are is determined by *where* we are and *where* we've been.

In Ohio, place-based preservation and development efforts, such as those supported by the Clean Ohio Fund, work to strengthen the economic and environmental health of the state. Residents are seeing the number of their natural areas increased, their family farms protected against suburban sprawl, and their dormant and abandoned industrial sites cleaned up to make room for new developments. These activities attract more jobs and make the state an overall better place to live, all without raising taxes.

Protecting. Connecting. Restoring. By improving the quality of place, the Clean Ohio Fund improves the quality of life, so that when people ask where you're from, you can answer with pride: Ohio

Toledo, Ohio

# Welcome to the 2009 Clean Ohio Report

Originally approved by voters in 2000, the Clean Ohio Fund devoted $400 million in its original four funding rounds to environmental conservation, preservation, and revitalization activities throughout the State of Ohio. These activities benefit a variety of Ohio constituents, from urban core communities to outlying farms. This is due to the Fund's design as a *family* of restorative efforts, comprised of four distinct competitive programs:

- **The Clean Ohio Brownfield Revitalization Program**, administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Urban Development Division and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, supports cleanup to encourage redevelopment activities at brownfield sites.
- **The Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program**, administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation, assists landowners and communities with the goal of preserving farmland.
- **The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program**, administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission, funds the preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors.
- **The Clean Ohio Trails Fund**, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, works to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans by funding trails for outdoor pursuits of all kinds.

Sandusky County, Ohio

Knox County, Ohio

Though managed by separate departments within the state government, these four programs complement one another as members of a family, each sharing an intense focus on "**Place**" – places such as Ohio's abandoned industrial sites, its fragile streamside forests, and its shrinking farm fields and open spaces. Clean Ohio restores, protects, and connects these places, contributing to the state's vitality and ensuring its future.

During the first four rounds, $200 million of the total $400 million went towards Brownfield Redevelopment, $150 million towards Green Space Preservation, and $25 million each towards Agricultural Easement Purchase and Trails. In November 2008, Ohio voters showed their support for the Clean Ohio Fund by approving Issue 2, authorizing the state to sell another $400 million in bonds to continue its funding. This total is divided amongst the programs the same as during the first four rounds. Issue 2 received broad support throughout the state; a majority of voters in each of Ohio's 88 counties voted to re-authorize the funding.

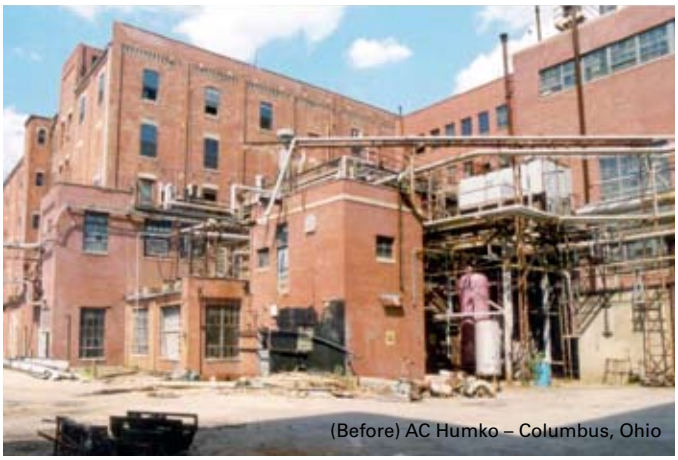
In the following report, you will find what the Clean Ohio Fund is doing to help keep the state environmentally sound, economically viable, and poised for the future.

# The Clean Ohio Brownfield Revitalization Program

The Toledo Marina – Toledo, Ohio

# TURNING BROWN TO GREEN:

Take a walk through the Harrison Park neighborhood in Columbus, with its single-family homes and loft-style condos designed to blend into the area's historic Victorian houses, and you'd be hard-pressed to guess the property's past use. Try imagining the brooding and abandoned AC Humko plant, built in 1883 and used mostly as a vegetable oil refinery, which stood here as late as 2004. Try imagining the huge brick walls, the tangles of piping, or the rusted silos that towered above the community surrounding them. It's not easy to imagine the plant because not a sign of it remains.



(Before) AC Humko – Columbus, Ohio

Without the **Clean Ohio Brownfield Revitalization Fund**, this abandoned factory would likely still be standing, still blighting the community that lived in its shadow.

**Summary – Clean Ohio Brownfield Revitalization**

| | Applications Funded | Total Amount Awarded | Average Amount of Each Grant |
|---|---|---|---|
| Round 1 | 17 | $39,953,748 | $2,350,220 |
| Round 2 | 17 | $36,602,244 | $2,153,073 |
| Round 3 | 15 | $40,392,943 | $2,692,863 |
| Round 4 | 16 | $42,988,065 | $2,686,754 |
| Assistance Fund* | 109 | $39,108,956 | $358,797 |
| **Total** | **174** | **$199,045,956** | **$1,143,942** |

*The Clean Ohio Assistance Fund accepts applications on an on-going basis instead of in rounds.

In the original four funding rounds, the Clean Ohio Revitalization and Assistance Fund programs devoted $200 million towards making the redevelopment of such brownfields possible throughout the state. Brownfields are vacant or underused properties, originally developed for industrial or commercial uses.

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the number of brownfields in the United States ranges from 500,000 to more than 1 million sites covering 5 million acres of land. Redevelopment of these sites is impeded by the presence of environmental contaminants such as asbestos in building materials and various pollutants in the soil and groundwater.

The cleanup of such contaminants is a complex and expensive enterprise that turns away potential investors, unwilling to take on so much initial risk. Helping alleviate this risk is one of Clean Ohio's greatest contributions to the state's economic and environmental health.

These two programs, administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Urban Development Division and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, award grants to various municipalities and public entities, such as cities, counties, and port authorities, to clean up sites and make them ready for redevelopment. The Revitalization Fund is administered in rounds and awards grants up to $3 million for acquisition, demolition, remediation,

## The Process

Only public entities, such as cities, counties, and port authorities are eligible to apply. The applications receive three different scores: 1) The applicant provides a self-scored application, which is then verified by the brownfield team within the Ohio Department of Development; 2) Points are earned based on the project's priority ranking according to the District Integrating Committee; and 3) The members of the Clean Ohio Council rank each of the applications. The combination of these three scores determines which projects receive funding.

and infrastructure activities. The Assistance Fund, on the other hand, accepts applications on an on-going basis and awards grants up to $300,000 for Phase II Environmental Assessments and up to $750,000 for remediation and demolition activities.

## Did you know?

The Clean Ohio Revitalization and Assistance Funds have contributed to the projected creation and retention of nearly 15,000 jobs as a result of the first four rounds of funding.

(After) AC Humko – Columbus, Ohio

By helping restore Ohio's places, these grants improve the quality of life for residents and create environments ready for economic development. Properties that once deterred local investment, reduced tax revenues, and served as magnets for crime and vandalism are transformed into vital sites of economic productivity and beacons of hope for underserved communities.

There are many examples throughout Ohio, such as the transformation of a 100-year-old paper mill in Lockland. At the American Tissue project, the paper mill that stood vacant for 14 years, full of friable asbestos, was demolished and replaced with light industrial facilities. This project created new jobs and added momentum to the revitalization of this troubled "first suburb."

Likewise, at the Mosler Safe project, 32,500 tons of debris and contamination were removed to make room for a new Kroger grocery. This particular project helped breathe new life into the redevelopment of the Route 4 Corridor in the City of Hamilton, known for its rate of depopulation and growing number of abandoned buildings. Yet with the new energy of the Mosler redevelopment, several new developments have emerged. In cities such as Hamilton, Clean Ohio often acts as a catalyst for widespread and dramatic change, stretching beyond the acreage of the individually funded projects.

Throughout the projects within Clean Ohio's brownfield program, the Urban Development Division, with a devoted staff of urban restoration and brownfield specialists, stays closely involved. The staff is busy processing applications and grant agreements, helping facilitate communication between parties both public and private, and working to ensure that these projects are thorough in their chief purpose: improving the economic and environmental health of Ohio communities. In its first four years, the Brownfield Revitalization program has been a key player in the Clean Ohio Fund's efforts to restore, preserve, and connect Ohio's places.

The Clean Ohio Brownfield Revitalization and Assistance Funds are collaboratively administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Urban Development Division. This shared interagency administration allows for a dual focus on both environmental and community development concerns.

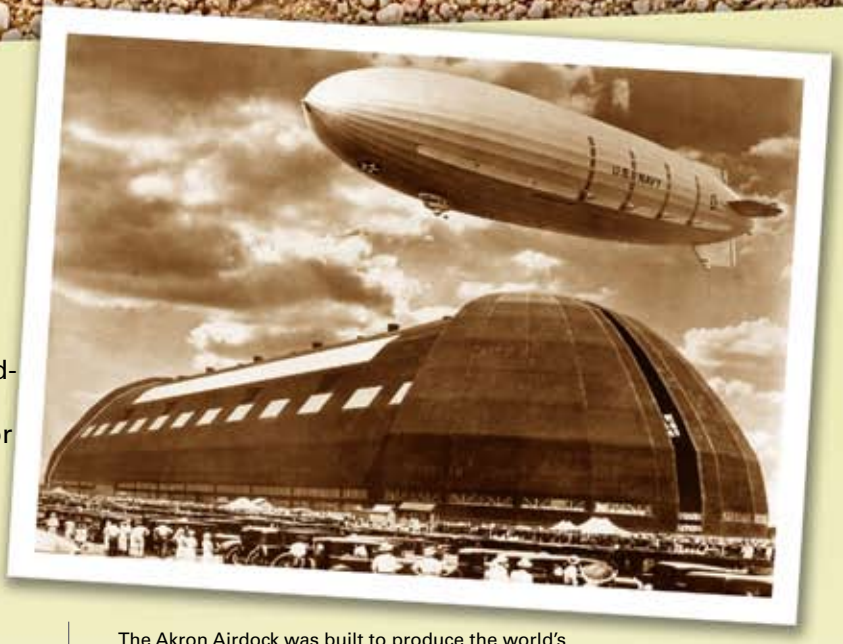
# Featured Place

## The Akron Airdock

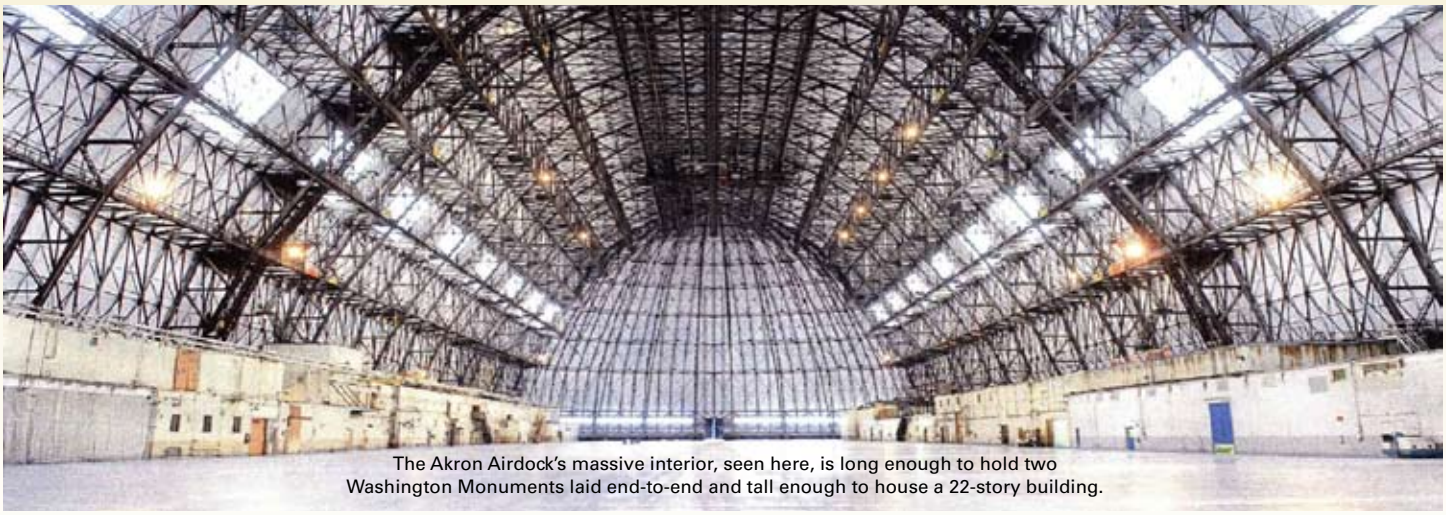
Between 1928 and 1930, the Goodyear Zeppelin Company constructed the facility known as the Airdock to build the world's first steerable, lighter-than-air airship. The Airdock, located in the City of Akron, is a massive, enclosed space with height equal to a 22-story building and length that can accommodate two Washington monuments laid end-to-end. In the 1940s, however, as usage shifted to machining and press shops, the huge arched interior came to be drastically underused.

In 2003, several years after the Lockheed Martin Corporation acquired the Airdock, the fireproofing layer within the structure's protective steel covering began flaking. This tar-based fireproof material contained Polychlorinated Biphenyls, commonly known as PCBs, and was now essentially snowing down upon anyone that stepped inside. The life of this historic landmark was in jeopardy.

This is when Clean Ohio's involvement became a critical factor in the City of Akron's environmental and economic health. With a $3 million Revitalization Fund grant and matching funds from Lockheed Martin, along with $2 million from the Department of Development's Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund, 528 jobs were retained and 93 were created. The United States Missile Defense Agency awarded Lockheed Martin a $149 million contract to build a prototype unmanned airship (about 17 times the size of the Goodyear blimp) that will hover approximately 60,000 feet above the earth's surface. The Akron Airdock is one of the only available facilities in the country capable of producing the airships. By restoring this unique location, the Clean Ohio Fund helped preserve a piece of history and simultaneously generated new economic activity.

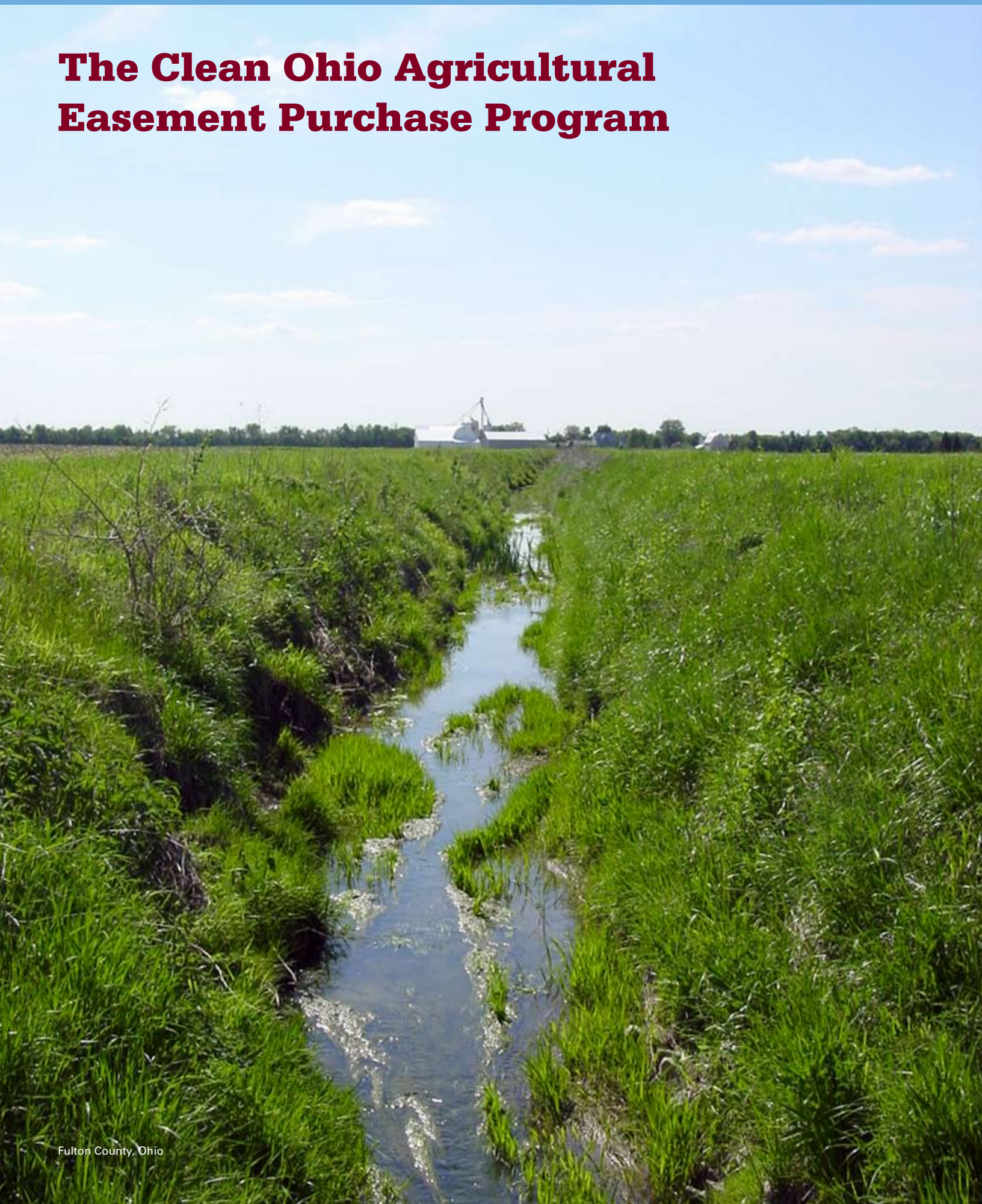


The Akron Airdock was built to produce the world's largest lighter-than-air airship.



The Akron Airdock's massive interior, seen here, is long enough to hold two Washington Monuments laid end-to-end and tall enough to house a 22-story building.

# The Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program



Fulton County, Ohio

# A FAMILY TRADITION:

The year was 1805 when John Kepner first moved to Ohio, purchased 636 acres for not quite $2,000 in gold and silver coins, and began a prosperous career as a farmer. When he died, the farm was divided amongst his 11 children.

Almost two centuries later, Nancy Kepner succeeded in achieving her goal of expanding her 125-acre dairy farm into a re-creation of the 636 acres John Kepner had first bought. Yet with this expansion came an increase in responsibility. Nancy Kepner was now the steward of an agricultural property significant to the state's economy and its environment, as well as its history.

She soon became worried at the sight of so many suburban-style homes replacing the surrounding farms. She wanted to make sure such a fate didn't befall her own land. So in 2001, Nancy Kepner applied for funding from the **Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program**.

The Program provides funding to assist communities and landowners such as Nancy Kepner in their efforts to preserve Ohio's farmland. The state's fertile soils have always been essential to feeding a growing population and are also called upon to meet a booming demand for renewable energy. Nearby competing land uses, especially suburban sprawl, often exert incredible pressures upon these farms to convert to non-agricultural uses. The Agricultural Easement Purchase Program serves Ohio by counterbalancing these pressures, creating incentives to draw focus to the importance of place, as opposed to merely wealth.

Farmland represents one of Ohio's most significant resources. The state's history is rooted in farming, as well as its economy. Yet between 1950 and 2000, more than 6.9 million acres of Ohio farmland were lost. Ohio is currently ranked second nationally for the rate of farmland loss. If this trend continues, Ohio might one day lose a critical piece of its cultural heritage, not to mention the economic stability and security that arises from rich agricultural lands.

## The Process

To apply for Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase funds, local sponsors, such as municipalities and townships, submit an application on the landowner's behalf. Applications are scored based on a number of criteria, from fertility of the soil to development pressure. Regional balance of applications is also a consideration to ensure a variety of Ohio places are protected.

**Summary – Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program**

| | Applications Funded* | Total Amount Awarded** | Average Amount of Each Grant |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 24 | $6,250,000 | $260,417 |
| 2003 | 13 | $3,125,000 | $240,485 |
| 2004 | 13 | $3,125,000 | $240,485 |
| 2005 | 24 | $3,125,000 | $130,208 |
| 2006 | 23 | $3,125,000 | $135,870 |
| 2007 | 20 | $3,125,000 | $148,810 |
| 2008 | 18 | $3,125,000 | $173,611 |
| **Total** | **136** | **$25,000,000** | **$183,823** |

*Numbers include pending offers and are subject to change.
**Does not include matching federal grant dollars.

Nancy Kepner on her farm in Trumbull County, Ohio. She received a Clean Ohio grant to participate in an easement program, preserving the farm's rich heritage for future generations.

Kosier Farm – Wayne County, Ohio

With the help of Clean Ohio, the state is beginning to make some significant headway against these dangerous trends. In an effort to protect Ohio's agricultural places, easements are proving to be powerful tools. These easements take the form of contractual agreements between landowners and the Ohio Department of Agriculture that limit the usage of the land to predominantly agricultural activity. While the landowner may sell the property or pass it on at any time, the agricultural easements remain in place in perpetuity.

## Did you know?

The Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program has helped protect more than 26,000 acres of family farms.

Clean Ohio assists in the state's efforts to protect farmland by devoting $25 million in the original funding rounds to purchasing these easements. Grants are issued for up to 75 percent of the points-based appraised value of a farm's development rights. A payment cap has been set at $2,000 per acre, with a maximum of $500,000 for a single farm. Local sponsors, such as counties, townships, municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, or charitable organizations, apply on the landowner's behalf. The scoring of applications is extremely competitive. Between 2002 and 2008, the Department of Agriculture received 1,801 applications, but only 135 were funded.

Every one of these 135 farms is special to Ohio's economy, its environment, and its identity. Farming is a critical part of the state's past, as demonstrated in the story of the Kepner Farm. Thanks to Clean Ohio support, this farm is no longer *merely* history, but a living and thriving part of the state's present – one of Ohio's many assets now protected for the benefit of future Ohioans.

# Featured Place

## The Berschet Farm

Marvin Berschet has had many careers in his life. He has spent time in the United States Air Force, played professional football, and has been an Ohio farmer since 1956.

Now, because of his efforts to preserve Ohio's agricultural places for the benefit of future generations, he has earned the right to have "conservationist" added to his resume.

Marvin Berschet is one of many Ohio farmers to participate in the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. His farm, located in Clark County, represents a real treasure for the Tecumseh Land Trust in Yellow Springs, Ohio, that co-holds the easement. The Tecumseh Land Trust works to conserve agricultural land with prime soil, natural property with good water sources, and sites of historical significance.

According to Krista Magaw of the Tecumseh Land Trust, "It's a real win-win-win for us when we get a historic farm that also has a river going across it."

The Berschet Farm is just such a farm. Now, with the help of Clean Ohio, it will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Quiet, picturesque areas such as the rural stretches of Clark County have seen a great deal of development pressure from nearby cities. As a result, farms such as Marvin Berschet's are disappearing. But because of Clean Ohio funding, he will not only continue to farm, but will also work on new high-tech, eco-friendly farming techniques, such as the use of field radishes to prevent erosion and infuse fallow soil with nutrients. He also practices no-till farming, where instead of churning up the earth with large discs, farmers inject seeds below the top layer of soil – a much more efficient method that prevents soils and chemicals from washing into nearby waterways.

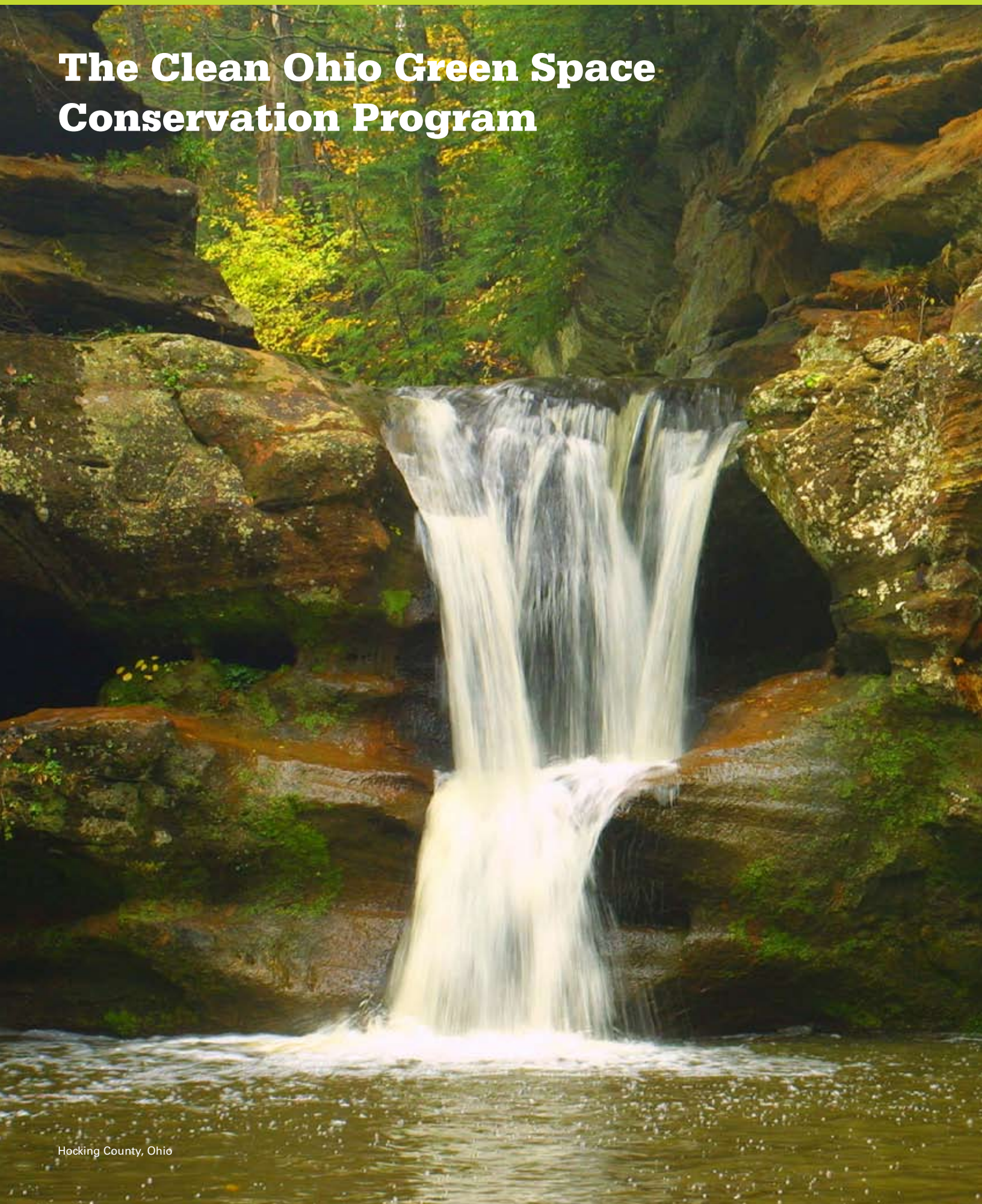
The easement will remain in place even when the land passes on to the next generation. The younger Berschets agree with their father's decision to participate in the easement program. They have no interest in seeing the land developed as anything but a productive farm.

"I'm hoping my grandkids will feel the same," says Marvin Berschet. "I'm going to try and induce that thought in their minds. This is a really good farm, has high fertility, and I've taken care of it. It's better now than it was when I came here, and that's the goal."

Improving and preserving Ohio's agricultural places is a goal the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program shares with Marvin Berschet.

The Berschet farm, located in Clark County, represents a real treasure for the Tecumseh Land Trust in Yellow Springs, Ohio, who co-holds the easement.

# The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program



Hocking County, Ohio

# THE TWO-FOLD MEANING OF GREEN:

Inside Cleveland city limits, there's the sound of a waterfall.

The Mill Creek Waterfall and Park Project, funded by the **Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program**, is a model for natural resource preservation in a dense urban neighborhood. Now, with the help of Clean Ohio, Cleveland residents can reap the benefits of a natural area without traveling beyond the distant sprawl of their home city. Their views of the Mill Creek Waterfall are no longer blighted by a junk car operation, construction yard, or the fallow property that served as a billboard site. This urban treasure is once again green, helping improve residents' quality of life by providing them opportunities to enjoy the outdoors without having to leave the city.

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission, helps to fund the preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors with $150 million in grant funding during the first four rounds. With Clean Ohio funding, habitats for rare or threatened species are protected; high-quality wetlands are preserved; streamside forests and natural stream channels are cared for; invasive species are reduced or removed; and Ohioans are provided with safe areas for fishing, hunting, and trapping in an ecologically balanced manner.

## The Process

District Integrating Committees from each of the districts appoint 11 members to Natural Resources Assistance Councils. These councils then score the projects according to the needs within their local regions. Political subdivisions and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

The Mill Creek Waterfall and Park Project represents an effort to preserve natural resources within a dense urban neighborhood.

**Summary – Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program**

| | Applications Funded | Total Amount Awarded | Average Amount of Each Grant |
|---|---|---|---|
| Round 1 | 114 | $29,727,735 | $260,770 |
| Round 2 | 147 | $38,739,082 | $263,531 |
| Round 3 | 118 | $38,193,600 | $323,675 |
| Round 4 | 120 | $43,065,025 | $358,875 |
| **Total** | **499** | **$149,725,442** | **$300,051** |

Such environmental efforts also pack an economic punch. Protecting Ohio's open spaces generates eco-tourism dollars, both from Ohioans enjoying the resources of their home state and from residents of surrounding areas, drawn to Ohio's rich diversity of natural environments. New development also occurs as a result of an increase in the number of outdoor recreational opportunities, especially in economically challenged areas. Added green space in underserved communities helps create a sense of vitality and well-being, and enriches community identities. By focusing on the preservation of green areas, this Clean Ohio program helps protect what is most precious, indispensable, and vulnerable about Ohio's places.

A large part of the Green Space Program's tremendous success is due to its flexibility and capacity to fund a massive list of projects. This is not a centralized decision-making process. Instead, 11-member Natural Resources Assistance Councils, appointed by the District Integrating Committees, evaluate and select the projects that best meet their specific local needs.

## Did you know?

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation fund has leveraged an additional $119 million in conservation investments.

According to Michael Miller, director of the Ohio Public Works Commission, the Program's job is to function largely as a public bank. "One of the successes of the program," he says, "is the ability of local committees to select projects that are important to their respective regions."

Such flexibility allows the program to precisely target those projects that offer the most bang for the buck, such as the Mill Creek Waterfall and Park Project. This project benefits the city's residents, its economy, and its environment. When complete, the *green* in Green Space Conservation can mean the green of generated revenues just as much as the green of ecological protection, both of which improve the character and vitality of Ohio's places.

Fall colors at Southgate Farm go beyond vivid. This Clean Ohio project resulted in the opening of 205 acres of greenspace to the public.

Southgate Farm – Summit County, Ohio

# Featured Place

## Creek Bend Farm

The Creek Bend Farm Park Project, made possible in part by a $422,000 Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation grant, has been described as the signature project of the Sandusky County Park District. Clean Ohio funding went towards the purchase of 312 acres of parkland. Visitors to the park can tour a renovated barn with wooden floors made of ash trees harvested on the farm's property. They can take wagon rides or view the historic home or fish in the waters of Muddy Creek.

A 190-plus acre farm, open daily until sunset, offers a rich variety of recreational opportunities to the area's residents. Visitors to the farm, or to the 310-acre park of which it is now a part, will have access to two miles of Muddy Creek; 150 acres of floodplain; a 30-acre Ohio Certified tree farm; a century-old farm listed on the National Register of Historic places; and 2 miles of nature trails.

The farm has been operational for more than a century and will now be preserved as a family-farm showplace, keeping alive antiquated agricultural practices for educational purposes. It also serves as the site of a multitude of educational, scientific, and conservationist efforts, including a combined effort between the Green Creek Wildlife Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study the fish population in Muddy Creek. Sampling points within park property have revealed a diverse and thriving fish population that uses Muddy Creek as a migratory run coming out of Lake Erie.

Most important, the Clean Ohio funding for the purchase of this park has added a valuable economic and environmental resource to Sandusky County and has helped make 312 acres of greenspace available to the public.

Muddy Creek serves as a migratory run for a diverse population of fish heading out of Lake Erie.

# The Clean Ohio Trail Fund

Yellow Springs, Ohio

# GETTING AROUND:

Throughout Ohio, people are walking. They're walking along the portion of the Ohio-to-Erie Trail that now connects Coshocton to the Village of West Lafayette. They're walking from Wesleyan Park to "Adventure Central" and through the historic Cascade Locks and alongside Alum Creek from Casto Park to the Easton Soccer Complex. They're riding bicycles where trains once ran, and riding horses along a buggy trail from Millersburg to Fredericksburg.

Why are people walking throughout Ohio? Because programs such as the **Clean Ohio Trail Fund** are helping realize the vision for an interconnected, statewide network of trails. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the state agency responsible for administering the Trail Fund, is committed to the goal of one day making it possible for Ohioans to walk from one side of the state to the other.

The Clean Ohio Trail Fund works to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans by devoting $25 million in the first four rounds to funding trails for outdoor pursuits of all kinds. Special emphasis is given to projects that 1) are consistent with the statewide trail plan; 2) complete regional trail systems and offer links to the statewide trail plan; 3) link population centers with outdoor recreation areas; 4) involve the purchase of rail lines linked to the statewide trail plan; 5) preserve natural corridors; and 6) provide links in urban areas to support commuter access and provide economic benefit.

## Did you know?

The Clean Ohio Trail Fund has helped create more than 200 miles of multi-purpose trails.

**Summary – Clean Ohio Trails Program**

| | Applications Funded | Total Amount Awarded | Average Amount of Each Grant |
|---|---|---|---|
| Round 1 | 24 | $6.25 million | $260,417 |
| Round 2 | 22 | $6.25 million | $284,091 |
| Round 3 | 21 | $6.25 million | $297,619 |
| Round 4 | 30 | $6.25 million | $208,333 |
| **Total** | **97** | **$25.0 million** | **$257,732** |

## The Process

Any political subdivision or non-profit organization in the State of Ohio is eligible to receive grant money from the Clean Ohio Trail Fund. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources selects eligible projects, advised by the nine-member Clean Ohio Trail Fund Advisory Board comprised of representatives of local governments, statewide nonprofit organizations dedicated to the creation of recreational trails, developers, planners, and environmental interests. The Clean Ohio Trail Fund will provide up to 75 percent of project costs for successful applicants. Items of value, such as in-kind contributions and donations, may be considered as contributing toward the local 25 percent match.

Local governments, park and joint recreation districts, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive Clean Ohio grants for conservation projects. Project activities may include land acquisition, trail development, trailhead facilities, engineering, and design. These grants reach a maximum of $500,000 and recipients are required to complete grant activities within 18 months. Applicants must also provide a 25 percent local match, which can include contributions of land, labor, or materials.

These trails are helping to better connect places throughout the State of Ohio and to make various resources, from historical sites to natural areas to urban centers, more readily accessible to Ohioans traveling by a means other than automobile. This focus on connecting places complements the other programs in the Clean Ohio family by putting dormant properties, such as abandoned railroads, to productive use. This strategy not only generates economic activity, especially in the form of tourism, but also enriches the many Ohio places touched by these trails.

# Featured Places

## The Holmes County Trail

The Holmes County Trail is the nation's first to be designed for Amish buggies.

In September 2002, during the program's first round of funding, the Holmes County Trail was selected as one of 24 community projects to receive a Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant. The $410,000 grant was used to help fund the development of 15 miles of the planned 29-mile trail, which will span the entire length of Holmes County.

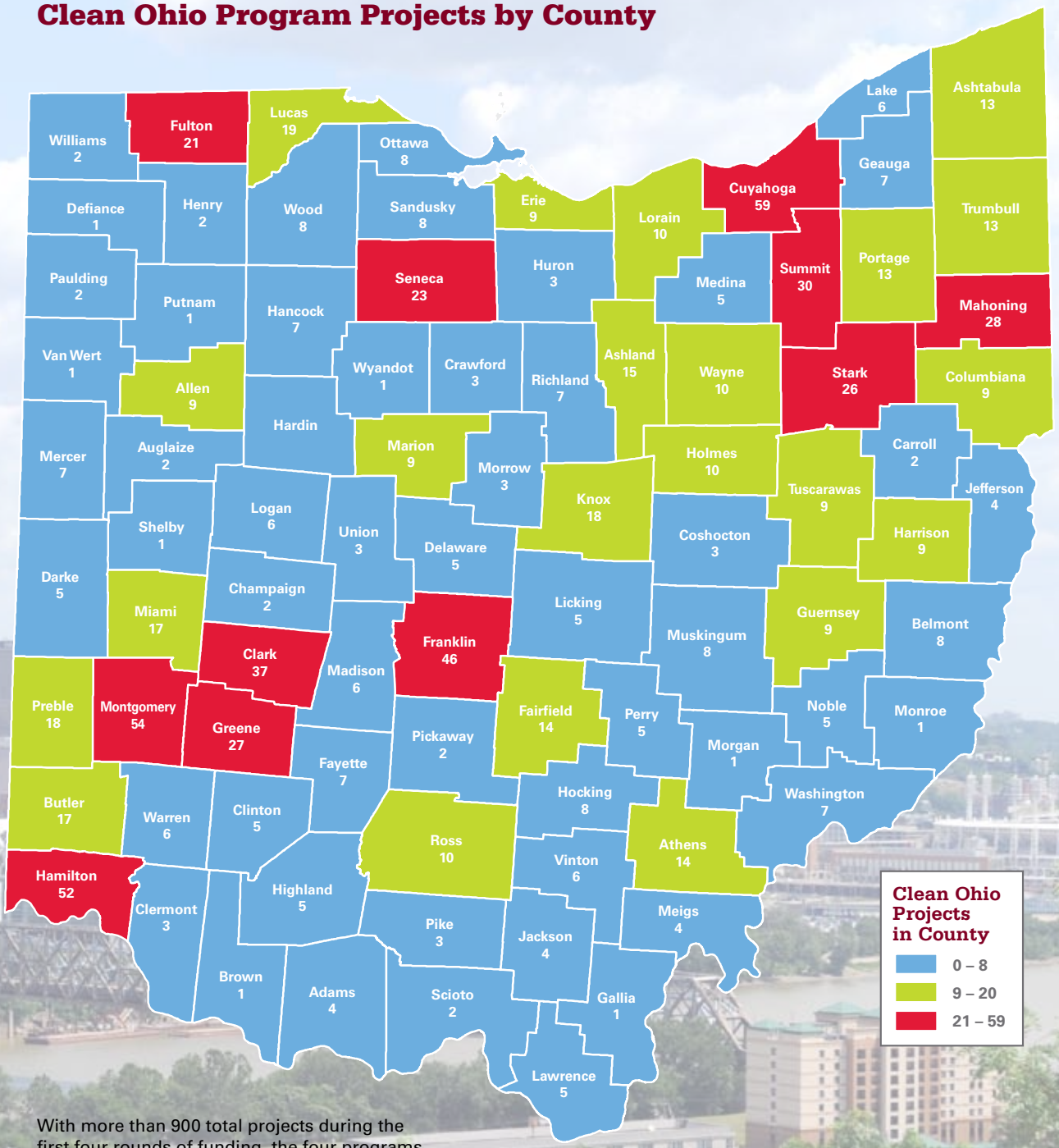
As is often the case in these projects, this trail makes use of former railroad property that has stood unused since the early 1980s. The Cleveland, Akron & Columbus Railway entered its golden era in 1885. It was part of the Pennsylvania Railroad, referred to by early employees as the "Hook and Eye" Division because of the large number of Mennonites it employed (Mennonites commonly wore a kind of clothing known as "Hook and Eye"). Following a number of takeovers and mergers, partial abandonment took place in the second half of the 20th century until finally the railroad ceased to operate altogether.

Thanks to the Clean Ohio Trails Fund, this property once again benefits Ohioans – though instead of by rail, they visit it by foot, bike, and even by buggy. The Holmes County Trail is the nation's first to be designed for Amish buggies. An eight-foot "chip and seal" path for the buggies joins the eight-foot asphalt trail for all other forms of non-motorized transportation. The trail now provides access to a variety of historical, cultural, and natural features, including a railroad museum, a wetland area, and the Brinkhaven Oak Barrens Preserve, purchased in 2004 by the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust – a transaction also made possible by Clean Ohio funding.

Without the Clean Ohio Trail Fund, this project would have stalled. "In 2001, at the most critical time of our funding needs," says Joan Miller of the Holmes County Park District, "the Clean Ohio grant was used to match federal funding in order to start trail development."

Now this trail, which runs just beyond Miller's office, teems with life. "I can sit in my office and have 20 buggies pass by between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m." says Miller. "And that doesn't include the weekends."

# Clean Ohio Program Projects by County




With more than 900 total projects during the first four rounds of funding, the four programs in the Clean Ohio family of funds have benefited constituents throughout the state, from urban core communities to outlying farms.

Cincinnati, Ohio

CleanOhioFund

**Ted Strickland**, Governor • **Lee Fisher**, Lt. Governor

**www.clean.ohio.gov**

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## Clean Ohio Brownfield Revitalization Program

http://clean.ohio.gov/BrownfieldRevitalization/

**Ohio Department of Development**
Urban Development Division
614 | 995 2292

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**
614 | 644 2924

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## Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program

http://clean.ohio.gov/FarmlandPreservation/

**Ohio Department of Agriculture**
614 | 728 6210

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## Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program

http://clean.ohio.gov/GreenSpaceConservation/

**Ohio Public Works Commission**
614 | 466 0880

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## Clean Ohio Trails Fund

http://clean.ohio.gov/RecreationalTrails/

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources**
614 | 265 6825

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