

Litter Prevention Grant Success Story

Supporting the 2017 Ohio River Sweep

Each day, five million people rely on the Ohio River for their drinking water. The river also serves many other uses — industry, transportation, agriculture, energy and recreation.

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) was created in 1948 to help protect and restore the river. Since then, ORSANCO and its member states have cooperated to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin and help ensure that the river can be used for drinking, industrial supplies and recreational purposes while also supporting a healthy and diverse aquatic community. ORSANCO operates monitoring programs to check for pollutants and toxins that may interfere with specific uses of the river. From its origin in Pittsburgh, PA to its end in Cairo, IL, the river includes nearly 3,000 miles of shoreline and many tributaries. The shoreline along Ohio alone spans about 450 miles.

Challenge

Illegal trash dumping and litter accumulation has been an ongoing problem along the Ohio River.

Solution

Since 1989, ORSANCO and its member states (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Pennsylvania) have conducted an annual river cleanup that encompasses the entire length of the river.

In 2017, Ohio EPA awarded a \$20,000 special assistance grant to ORSANCO's foundation to help pay for gloves, trash bags, marketing materials and t-shirts for the 2017 Ohio River Sweep on June 17. Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler and Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection's Deputy Commissioner Aaron Keatley participated in the event which removed about 500 tons of trash and litter from the Ohio River and its banks.

Resources

Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant program offers grants of up to \$50,000 per applicant for the purchase of equipment, materials and supplies for on-going litter collection efforts conducted on public lands and waterways. For more information, please visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants.aspx or contact Chet Chaney at (614) 728-0043.



Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection's Deputy Commissioner Aaron Keatley and Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler took a "hands on" approach at the 2017 Ohio River Sweep.

Project Specifics

Location

Ohio River and Lower Muskingum River, Ohio

Details

Purchased gloves, trash bags, marketing materials and t-shirts.

Cost

\$40,000 (\$20,000 from ORSANCO and \$20,000 from an Ohio EPA grant)

Environmental Impacts

About 500 tons of trash and litter removed from the river and its banks.

Education/Outreach Impacts

In conjunction with the Ohio River Sweep, ORSANCO hosts the Ohio River Sweep Poster Contest which provides educational outreach, promoting litter awareness and volunteerism. Artwork from contest winners is included on promotional materials and advertisements for the event.