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Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Grant To Promote Healthy Streams in Northeast Ohio

Community leaders throughout the Cuyahoga River watershed will have the opportunity to learn about forest canopies and their unique ability to help watershed health thanks to a \$49,508 grant from [Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund](#) (OEEF). The grant was awarded to the Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO) – one of nine Ohio communities and organizations to receive a total of \$300,000 to support environmental education programs.

CRCPO will use the grant to provide hands-on training and support to dozens of Cuyahoga River watershed communities interested in establishing and maintaining urban forests, riparian setbacks and other forms of nonstructural storm water controls.

Forest canopies shade streams, prevent soil erosion, store rain and snow, and shed leaves that decay and become new soil. Urban forests and riparian setbacks are essential elements in a healthy watershed, but are at risk or in decline due to commercial and residential development, disease, pests and exotic species. CRCPO's efforts are designed to increase community interest in these important environmental assets.

The OEEF is administered by Ohio EPA. Grants up to \$50,000 are funded from one-half of the civil penalties collected by the Agency for air and water pollution control violations. Eligible grant recipients include environmental groups, public and private schools, colleges and universities, trade or professional organizations, businesses and state and local governments. Approximately \$1 million is given each year.

The next OEEF grant application deadline is July 15, 2011. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due by July 8. Additional information is available [online](#) or by calling (614) 644-2873.

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