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**Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Grant Worth \$27,657 to Help Protect Olentangy River, Promote Conservation**

Ohio EPA is granting the Delaware Regional Planning Commission \$27,657 to help landowners, officials and developers in Delaware, Franklin, Marion and Morrow counties protect the Olentangy River, promote conservation and mitigate any adverse impacts of development on the streamside corridor. Nine grants were awarded statewide for a total of \$300,000.

The commission is also collaborating with multiple organizations, jurisdictions and agencies to: promote storm water best management practices and the use of conservation easements to minimize development in the most sensitive areas of the watershed; develop a resource manual and detailed GIS maps of waterway setbacks; coordinate a watershed tour and workshop for local officials and developers regarding compliance with a surface water permit issued by Ohio EPA; establish a database of landowners interested in selling land into conservation easements; and offer workshops to 2,700 landowners along the river.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund 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 application deadline is on July 15, 2011. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 8. For additional information, contact the [Ohio Environmental Education Fund](#) at (614) 644-2873.

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