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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

## **Ohio EPA Awards Grant for Innovative Storm Water Improvement Project in Mayfield Village**

Efforts to reduce urban water runoff impacting the [Chagrin River watershed](#) will receive a big boost thanks to a \$184,429 grant awarded by Ohio EPA. The grant to Mayfield Village is one of 10 grants Ohio EPA issued statewide totaling \$2.8 million to help communities restore waterways impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

With the grant and a local match of \$46,108, Mayfield Village will implement a parking lot retrofit project at Wiley Park. The village will convert 0.3-acre of impervious pavement to grass cover and retrofit the remaining parking area with a passive storm water treatment system including an 800-square-foot bio-retention island. The restoration effort is expected to reduce stream flashiness that causes streambank erosion, the amount of pollutants entering Fosters Run (a tributary to the Chagrin River) and improve overall water quality in the watershed.

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairment in Ohio's streams and lakes. It is caused by rain or snowmelt moving over and through the ground, picking up natural and human-made pollutants and depositing them in lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Other forms of nonpoint source pollution include modifications to natural stream flow, habitat alteration and nutrients. Polluted runoff can have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.

In 1987, [Section 319](#) of the federal Clean Water Act created a national program to control nonpoint source pollution. Ohio EPA administers the program for U.S. EPA and distributes millions of federal dollars to projects proposed by local governments and community organizations such as watershed groups. To be eligible, grant recipients must contribute at least a 20 percent match consisting of cash or in-kind contributions or services. Grants of up to \$350,000 are awarded for three-year periods. More information on Section 319 grants is available [online](#).

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