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Ursulines of Brown County to Receive \$380,777 Grant Solomon Creek Dam to be Removed, Little Miami to be Restored

Ohio EPA has awarded the Ursulines of Brown County \$380,777 to help remove a low head dam and restore approximately 2,400 linear feet of Solomon Run. The grant is one of 10 totaling \$2.8 million awarded by Ohio EPA to help communities restore Ohio waterways impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairment in Ohio. 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, the federal Clean Water Act created a national grant program to control nonpoint source pollution.

In addition to the dam removal, this project will:

- remove and apply to the land 17,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris from the dam pool;
- restore 2,400 feet of stream channel and bank using regrading, recontouring and bio-engineering;
- install two in-stream habitat structures;
- plant 10 acres of native grasses in the riparian area;
- plant five acres of trees, shrubs and or live stakes in the riparian area;
- acquire 40 acres of conservation easements; and
- conduct public outreach including website links, signage, display, news releases, public meetings, tours and newsletters.

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 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.