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## **Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Grant To Promote Rain Gardens in Columbiana County**

Columbiana County residents will soon have an opportunity to see how rain gardens can effectively control storm water runoff and protect the Little Beaver Creek thanks to a \$10,680 grant from [Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund](#) (OEEF). The grant was awarded to the [Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation](#) (LBCLF) – one of 10 Ohio organizations and communities to receive nearly \$340,000 to support environmental education programs.

LBCLF will use the grant to construct two demonstration rain gardens. One will be located in the northern part of the watershed on Kent State University's (KSU's) Salem campus. The second will be in the southern portion of the watershed at the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center in East Liverpool. Students from KSU's horticulture program will design the rain gardens as part of their curriculum.

Once the rain gardens are in place, LBCLF will conduct tours and workshops for the general public and local officials, so they can see how this natural, inexpensive form of storm water control can be replicated in their communities.

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 Jan. 17, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due by Jan. 10, 2012. Additional information is available at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=2251> or by calling (614) 644-2873.

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