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## **Ohio EPA Awards \$5,000 Environmental Education Mini Grant to TMACOG Watershed Project**

People will be able to learn about their watershed while enjoying the outdoors at five Toledo-area parks, thanks to the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and a \$5,000 environmental education mini grant from Ohio EPA. Ten projects throughout the state were funded for \$42,813.

Interpretive signs will be placed at strategic locations to inform residents and visitors about specific watersheds and watershed projects. Signs will cover topics including over-wide ditches, wetland restoration, sedimentation and dumping prevention and will describe actions that people can take to further protect wetlands.

Planned sign locations are Harroun Park (Tenmile Creek watershed), Independence Park (Maumee River watershed), Pearson Metropark (North Wetland Mitigation Bank), Olander Park System (Kimble and Palmer ditches) and Springfield Township (Harvest Ditch). Signs will be designed by local schools and universities.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini-grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini-grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on Jan. 15, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on Jan. 8, 2012.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).