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### **Ohio EPA Awards \$2,000 Environmental Education Mini Grant to Ohio State Parks for Middle Bass Island Project**

A \$2,000 Ohio EPA environmental education mini-grant will support installation of a series of interpretive signs about environmental issues and natural history of Middle Bass Island. Thirteen projects throughout the state were funded for \$50,000.

The signs will be placed along a nature trail in a new campground and marina area being developed on the island as part of Middle Bass Island State Park. The Middle Bass Island Interpretive Trail will be used by island residents, visitors and transient boaters.

Sign information will include the geologic history of the islands and the exposed glacial grooves, the importance of protecting the island's existing high-quality wetlands and the importance of the island's natural areas to migrating songbirds and resident wildlife.

The Lake Erie Island Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy is collaborating with the state parks on the project.

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 July 16, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 9.

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](#).

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