Background
Jackson Center Schools (JCS) is located in the village of Jackson Center in northeast Shelby County. Jackson Center is a small community with a population of 1,456 and the JCS complex is situated in the heart of the town. Before the grant project, the JCS complex included a school building for the 600 students in grades pre-K-12, baseball and softball diamonds and an old stone dust track.

Challenge
The village and JCS had a vision of building a new running track in the complex and creating walking paths connecting the school complex to a nearby community park to give students and residents easy access to these facilities. Before the project, the running track and walking paths were stone surfaced and needed new pavement. The village and JCS partnered to find a sustainable and environmentally friendly way to pave the new surfaces.

Outcome
The scrap tire grant from Ohio EPA’s Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, along with matching funds from JCS, were used to pay for ground tire rubber (GTR) paving of three separate areas: the running track; JCS walking paths; and village walking paths. JCS contracted with Freisthler Paving Inc. and they were able to complete the paving project less than a month after the grant money was awarded and just in time for the start of the new school year. By connecting all the walkways, JCS was able to give the community more than three miles of ADA-accessible walking and exercise paths. The new running track will allow JCS to host track meets once they are able to add the rubberized surface and it also provides an area for JCS to have their own soccer field and host home soccer games.

Resources
Through the Recycling and Litter Prevention scrap tire grant program, Ohio EPA offers manufacturers and material processors grants of up to $300,000 per applicant to create or expand processing capacity and product manufacturing. There are also funds available for beneficial use projects that incorporate the use of GTR and recycled asphalt shingles. A 100 percent match from the applicant is required and business applicants must have a governmental sponsor.

For more information about Ohio EPA’s scrap tire grant, visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants or contact Dave Foulkes at (614) 644-3118.

Project Specifics
Location
Jackson Center Schools
204 South Linden Street
Jackson Center, OH 45334

Details
A GTR paving project to create a new running track and walking paths to connect the athletic facilities and community park.

Cost
$251,881 ($125,941 from the school district and $125,941 from Ohio EPA’s scrap tire grant).

Environmental Impacts
Recycled 9.3 tons of scrap tires for the GTR.

Education/Outreach Impacts
JCS posted informative signs at entry points to areas where GTR paving was completed to educate the community about the project and bring awareness about scrap tires.