

*Helping communities and businesses access compliance, technical  
and financial assistance for their environmental needs*

## Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) - Wetland and Stream Preservation and Restoration

The **Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program** (WRRSP) uses interest monies from Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) loan sponsor projects to fund preservation and restoration of aquatic habitat. Since 2000, more than \$222 million has been awarded for 170 projects to protect and preserve some of Ohio's highest water quality resources. In 2020, Ohio EPA approved 12 projects for \$16,006,254 in WRRSP funding.

To learn more about the WRRSP, listen to our May 13, 2021, recorded webinar **Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program Year 2022 Updates and Highlights**. Questions? Please contact any WRRSP staff at [epa.ohio.gov/defa/wrrsp#185165271-contacts](http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/wrrsp#185165271-contacts).

### WRRSP Project Spotlight:

#### Tremper Mound and Scioto River Protection

As a long-time land conservation organization, but a first-time WRRSP implementer, the Arc of Appalachia was successful in receiving the \$2.3 million funding for its high-quality Scioto River protection proposal in 2020. This WRRSP project will protect, in perpetuity, 618 acres of habitat within the lower Scioto River watershed including 5,500 linear feet (LF) of Warmwater Habitat along the mainstem of the biologically diverse Scioto River, 6,500 LF of Exceptional Warmwater Habitat along Pond Creek, 5,500 LF of Class III Primary Headwater Habitat, and 12 acres of Category 3 wetlands.



Arc of Appalachia's Tremper Mound project was sponsored by a WPCLF loan awarded to the City of Warren's WWTP and Pump Station Refurbishment project.

The project will also protect a significant archaeological site called the Tremper Mound and Works, a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed Hopewell earthwork that's approximately 2,000 years old and is the largest remaining unprotected Hopewell mound in Ohio.

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[epa.ohio.gov/defa](http://epa.ohio.gov/defa)

Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted. As a courtesy, please contact Helen Miller at (614) 644-2817 or [helen.miller@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:helen.miller@epa.ohio.gov).

## Ohio EPA's Virtual Sustainability Conference Sept. 21-23, 2021



## WRRSP Project Spotlight:

### Secor Metropark Expansion and Wetland Restoration



**Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area's Secor Metropark Expansion and Wetland Restoration project was sponsored by a WPCLF loan awarded to the City of Akron's WRF Headworks Improvements project.**

remaining Oak Openings habitat in the region, which currently sustains more rare species of plants and animals than any other area of a similar size in Ohio.

As part of the on-going efforts to restore Oak Openings habitat in the former Great Black Swamp area of Northwest Ohio, the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area will acquire an approximately 186-acre former golf course property that contains four acres of existing Category 3 wetlands and 2,800 linear feet of stream (Prairie Ditch) and restore 163 acres of Oak Openings Category 3 wetland communities and 12 acres of upland oak savanna habitat, all adjacent to the 610 acre Secor Metropark.

Existing golf infrastructure will be removed, and the site will be regraded to restore native floodplain, topography, and hydrology. Approximately 7,000 LF of ditches will be plugged/removed, and vegetation will be restored to native, local plant populations. This restoration work will complement the

## How can I find a recycler in Ohio?

Today, Ohio residents and businesses have lots of options to return unwanted or extra materials back into use through re-use and recycling. This conserves natural resources and energy and supports recycling jobs throughout the state.

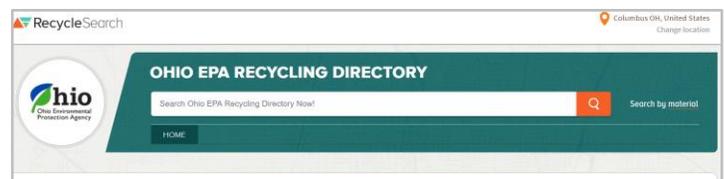
Ohio EPA maintains a searchable **directory** of nearby recycling service providers who have volunteered to be listed. You can find recycling opportunities near you by entering your city, state, and/or zip code and then a search term. You may also search for pre-set categories using the material search link. Search results may include curbside recycling programs, drop-off recycling locations, reuse stores, and other service providers. Contact the facility or organization listed in the search results for details or questions. If you have questions or need help with the directory, please contact Kelsey Heyob at [kelsey.heyob@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:kelsey.heyob@epa.ohio.gov) or (614) 705-1013.

Many recycling and litter prevention activities across the state are controlled locally. Use our **recycling and litter prevention map** to quickly find information for your county and local **solid waste management district**. If you still can't find a recycling opportunity for your material, check our **recycling** webpage, there are many organizations listed that accept donations.

If you are a business looking to find re-use and recycling solutions for waste and by-product materials, visit the **Ohio Materials Marketplace** (OMM). OMM is a free online service where Ohio businesses, not-for-profits, and government organizations can advertise and acquire useful products and materials that may be destined for a landfill. The mobile option platform connects organizations seeking material reuse and recycling options.

Ohio EPA manages and markets OMM, with support from partners including the United States Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Ohio By-Product Synergy Network, and Ohio's Solid Waste Management Districts. OMM has seen steady growth in participation and material transactions have saved virgin material substitution costs and avoided landfill costs.

Please visit [ohio.materialsmarketplace.org](http://ohio.materialsmarketplace.org) for more information or to participate.



**Go to our Recycling web page and our Recycling Directory or visit the Ohio Materials Marketplace.**



## Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community

The most frequently reported complaints to Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) are for open burning, odor, and dust. Ohio EPA also receives numerous questions about the regulation and management of asbestos during demolition.

### What is open burning?

Open burning is any set outdoor fire that does not vent to a chimney or stack. Some studies indicate that even small campfires burning clean wood can emit harmful chemicals. Burning unclean materials can be even more hazardous. For example, when you burn refuse in burn barrels or open piles, the potential cost to your health, your home, your neighbors, and your environment far exceeds the price of adequate collection services. Protect yourself, your neighbors, and your wallet by knowing what you can burn and where.

Some information resources on open burning are:

- [Before You Light It: Know Ohio's Open Burning Regulations](#)
- [What You Can Burn in the Neighborhood](#)
- Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control website: [epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning](http://epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning).

### How is asbestos regulated?

The asbestos program regulates two primary areas: emissions control, and licensing and certification of companies and persons directly involved in the abatement industry. They also ensure the safety and quality of asbestos services by requiring approved training specific to asbestos related activities and by inspecting/auditing the activities of program participants. The regulations require that contractors do several things, such as provide a notification, conduct thorough inspections to determine the presence of asbestos, follow specific work practices, and ensure proper disposal of asbestos-containing material. More details on the asbestos program can be found at [epa.ohio.gov/dapc/atul/asbestos](http://epa.ohio.gov/dapc/atul/asbestos).

### Do you have odors and dust in your community?

Remember, all cities have odors and dust; the expectation of zero dust/odor is not a realistic expectation. Ohio EPA should get involved when you observe a business that has excessive dust generated on their property or a strong odor. Just because there is an odor does not always mean harm – for example mulching and wastewater facilities may smell bad but aren't harmful.

Who should you call? Each Ohio EPA district office has a contact for open burning, asbestos, and complaints. Find out who to call/contact on our district office map at [epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/dolaa](http://epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/dolaa) or use our online complaint form by clicking on the blue button on [Ohio EPA's home page](#).

### Submit a Complaint

Complete our Online Form 

Notify us about  
Non-emergency Issues



Listen to our March 11, 2021, *Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community* recorded webinar on Ohio EPA's YouTube Channel to learn more. Presenters: Jeff Gerdes and John Paulian, Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC).

## Deadlines

- Aug. 13, 2021 - [Ohio Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund](#) applications due.
- Aug. 1- 15, 2021 - [Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program](#) (WRRSP) nomination period.

## Training Opportunities

- July 1, 2021 - [The Compliance Assistance Unit: Troubleshooting Noncompliance for Smaller Mechanical Wastewater Treatment Plants](#)
- July 20, 2021 - [What's New for '22 in Ohio's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program](#).
- July 29, 2021 - [Air Pollution Risk Management Program for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Plan Superintendents/Operators](#).

## Learn the Lingo

[Ohio EPA's Ohio Materials Marketplace](#) (OMM) is a free online platform that allows businesses and organizations to connect and find reuse and recycling solutions for waste and by-product materials.

## New Publications

- [May 2021, Small Biz@EPA](#), U.S. EPA.

## Construction Stormwater Resources

It's summer in Ohio, and lots of construction is happening. Construction sites can impact Ohio's waters by:

- adding pollutants, especially sediment, to rainwater running off construction sites; and
- making long-term land use changes that alter the hydrology and pollutant loading of local streams.

To limit the negative impacts of construction projects on Ohio's waters, Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water (DSW) administers a permitting program designed to document construction activity in the state and require practices that keep pollutants out of the streams. The permitting program is mandated in the Clean Water Act and is part of the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) program.

### Who needs a permit?

As of March 10, 2003, if your project disturbs one or more acres of ground, you must get a permit to discharge stormwater from your site. If your project disturbs less than one acre but is part of a larger plan of development or sale, you also need a permit to discharge stormwater from the site.

### How do I get a permit?

Most sites may get permit coverage under the general permit for discharge of stormwater associated with construction activity.

To get permit coverage, follow these steps, in order:

- Develop a **storm water pollution prevention plan (SWP3)** for the construction site;
- Submit a **notice of intent (NOI)** requesting coverage for your discharges under the general permit;
- Wait until you receive the Ohio EPA approval letter stating that you are covered under the general permit;
- Ensure that contractors, subcontractors, and staff understand their roles in carrying out the SWP3;
- Implement the SWP3;
- Proceed with construction, including regular maintenance and **inspection** of sediment and erosion controls and stormwater management facilities.

For more information go to the DSW webpage at [epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/index#189482493-construction-activities](http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/index#189482493-construction-activities) or see **Ohio EPA's storm water program fact sheet**. If you have more questions, contact one of DSW's staff members found online at [epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/index#189482498-contacts](http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/storm/index#189482498-contacts).



To learn more about construction stormwater, go to **Ohio EPA's YouTube Channel** and listen to our **March 25, 2021 webinar, NPDES Construction Storm Water 101**. This webinar provided an overview of Ohio's construction stormwater requirements and the construction general permit. Topics included permit coverage, notice of intent and notice of termination applications, basic stormwater pollution prevention plans, and both active and post-construction requirements.



**The Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Achievement Silver, Gold, and Platinum Awards** recognize an organization's exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Any business, industry, trade association, professional organization, or local government of Ohio can be recognized for their commitment to environmental excellence. **Apply today!**

## Are you trying to purchase greener products?

If you answered yes, you might find U.S. EPA's [Sustainable Marketplace: Greener Products and Services](#) website helpful. They have information for consumers, manufacturers, and institutional purchasers. By looking for greener products when you shop, you will be joining millions of Americans in helping protect human health and the environment.

To help you buy greener, below are some links you might find helpful:

- [Identify greener products and services](#). Categories such as cleaners, carpet, electronics, and more.
- [Make sense of ecolabels and marketing claims](#). Ecolabels are marks placed on product packaging or in e-catalogs that can help consumers and institutional purchasers quickly and easily identify those products that meet specific environmental performance criteria and are therefore deemed environmentally preferable. Ecolabels can be owned or managed by government agencies, nonprofit environmental advocacy organizations, or private sector entities.
- [Understand the benefits of buying green](#). These impacts may occur at one, or at many places throughout the product's life cycle: for example, extracting raw materials, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, retailing, and product use, repair or maintenance, and disposal.

If you are a business or manufacturer, you may find these links helpful:

- [Institutional Purchasers of Greener Products and Services](#)
- [Manufacturer Information on Greener Products](#)



## Meet the DEFA Staff

**Peter Dittrich** joined DEFA this spring in the environmental engineering unit. Peter earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering from The Ohio State University with a minor in environmental sciences.

### How long have you worked for Ohio EPA?

I was a college intern in DSW at CDO in the summer of 2019 and excited to come back as a full-time employee for DEFA in March 2021.

### What excites you the most about the work that you do or your field of study?

I have always been drawn to working with water, so getting to work on stormwater, wastewater, green infrastructure, wetland, and stream projects is a dream come true.

### Favorite memory or accomplishment with the agency or related to your field?

My most cherished accomplishment to date is getting my research paper published after completing field work and editing it for two years. The field work was conducted when I was an intern at The Wilds, and I was studying whether or not series of beaver ponds had any effect on acid mine drainage. It was published in 2020 in the Journal of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation.

### What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

Outside of work, I enjoy trying out new recipes in the kitchen as well as going to new restaurants. I also like to go on hikes and visit the metro parks within Columbus. I try to be outside as much as possible when the weather is nice. Biking to work was such a great experience when I was an intern at the Ohio EPA, and I plan to continue that when we return to the office.

### Who inspires you?

This might sound like a cliché, but nature itself inspired me to choose this career path. Ever since I was a kid, I was outside whenever I wasn't in school, and it just gave me such an appreciation of our natural surroundings.



**Peter Dittrich**

**Tom Harcarik** is an environmental planner in the WRRSP program. Tom received a Bachelor of Science in conservation from Kent State University with a specialization in aquatic ecology and has completed graduate level courses at The Ohio State University in the schools of Public Policy and Natural Resources.

### How long have you worked for Ohio EPA?

I've worked for Ohio EPA for 36 years. I started out as a summer intern picking bugs off rocks then moved into permitting and enforcement positions before landing in DEFA. While enforcement was not the ultimate path I wanted, those jobs taught me a lot about the inner workings of an administrative agency and how decision-making works at different levels of management from the intern to the governor and everything in-between.

### What excites you the most about the work that you do or your field of study?

I knew since I was a child that the environment was my passion. That never changed, but I was never sure how it would manifest itself. And now I get to work in the field of stream and wetland protection and restoration. Even now, I still get a thrill from finding salamanders in a stream or wetland and knowing that I've done something to make the environment better.

### Favorite memory or accomplishment with the agency or related to your field?

There really are too many to mention. I remember as a summer intern working in the Ohio EPA booth my first Ohio State Fair and everyone telling me how much fun it would be. On a site visit, I remember the mink that walked up to me sniffed my feet then casually ambled off. I'll never forget when Steve Malone I and rode a helicopter across the state examining the path of a proposed large pipeline. And I learned I get nauseous in helicopters! But most recently it has been the opportunity to speak to national audiences of state, local, federal, and tribal representatives about the work DEFA performs and having states look to emulate our programs.

### What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

Spending time in the woods hiking, backpacking, kayaking, or just being. The woods are my cathedral where I find peace. I've been on many wonderful adventures back packing, kayak-camping, and a multi-day back country ski trip in Michigan's Pictured Rocks National Shoreline. Many more adventures are being planned.

### Who inspires you?

My favorite book is Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac. The book inspired me in so many ways and cemented my love and commitment to the environment and environmental causes. Most of my reading these days is about the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars.



**Tom Harcarik**

## Do you need assistance with utility bills during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Many Ohioans have struggled to make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of Ohio has developed a program to provide \$465 million in federal funding to help low-income Ohioans who do not own their own homes pay their rent and utility bills. House Bill 167 builds on the **Home Relief Grant** program that the DeWine Administration created last fall with a \$111 million allocation in federal coronavirus relief funding.

Eligible households have incomes below 80 percent Area Median Income (AMI), although the program places priority for those below 50 percent AMI who are unemployed. The Ohio Development Services Agency is distributing the funds through Ohio's Community Action Agencies. For more information and to determine eligibility for the program, Ohio residents should reach out to the **Community Action Agency** serving their county. If you have additional questions, please contact [EnergyHelp@Development.Ohio.Gov](mailto:EnergyHelp@Development.Ohio.Gov) or call 800-282-0880.

### **Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)**

Helping communities and businesses access technical and financial assistance for their environmental needs.

**Contact Us**  
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