

Ohio Environmental Education Fund

General Grant Awards October 2019

During the fall 2019 cycle, Ohio EPA awarded the following five general grants, for a total of \$150,000

Warren County Park District, “Solar Pollinator Habitat Discovery Trail,” F20G-003, \$8,731, Warren County, Audience: General Public, Contact: Shannon Russell Pennington, mothernaturesclassroom@gmail.com, (513) 695-1109

This project will create permanent education resources and programs at Warren County Armco Park for the general public and K-12 students. The park currently has a 50,000 square foot solar array accompanied with 1.5 acres of local pollinator habitat. Proposed new interactive trail exhibits, public programs and school programs will educate about solar power, improving air quality, pollinators, native plants, and simple solutions to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and encourage pollinator friendly gardens. The programs are grounded in Ohio Science Learning Standards and will encourage the exploration of environmental science careers. Proposed activities include installation of interactive trail/exhibits, local student field trips, a Project WILD educator workshop, OCVN-led nature programs, and Park District children's nature programs. This will be the only Warren County facility combining solar power with pollinator habitat.

Columbiana County Educational Service Center, “Rural Education to Advance Clean Habitats,” F20G-011, \$40,563, Columbiana County, Audience: Pre-School – University (Grades 2-6), Contact: John Dilling, jdilling@ccesc.k12.oh.us, (330) 424-9591

The Columbiana County Educational Service Center (ESC) will collaborate with the Columbiana County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Ohio State Extension Service and SilverApple Inc. to provide professional development to elementary teachers in four local school districts on the importance of clean water to the environment. The ESC will utilize the resources of Ohio Project WET and Project Wild to help teachers introduce STEM concepts to students. Teachers will focus on Ohio's Science Learning Standards to engage students in problem-based learning activities that consider the impact of healthy water on the Hellbender Salamander, an endangered species native to Northeast Ohio. At the end of the unit, students will participate in a symposium where they will present their understandings of the importance of healthy water, the challenges facing the future and solutions to the problems.

Holden Forests and Gardens, “Working Woods Landowner Outreach Project,” F20G-014, \$27,605, Statewide, Audience: Regulated Community, Contact: Courtney Blashka, cblashka@holdenfg.org, (440) 602-8010

Holden Forests and Gardens has developed a demonstration site for sustainable forestry and land management called Working Woods. The Working Woods Landowner Outreach Project will actuate the potential of this demonstration site through creating a workshop and training series, developing Woodland Restoration sites, and the distributing of a Small Woodland Management Manual. This Project will empower small (<10 acre) private landowners-who hold and therefore steward most of Ohio's forest (85%)-with the knowledge, skill, and professional resources they require to successfully take the step of implementing habitat restoration and good forest management.

North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, “Watershed Dynamics for 21st Century Learners: The Riparian Ecosystem,” F20G-016, \$45,166, Columbiana, Crawford, and Seneca Counties, Audience: Pre-School – University (Grades 3-6), Contact: Kathleen Mohr, kmohr@ncoesc.org, (419) 447-2927

The Watershed Dynamics for 21st Century Learners: The Riparian Ecosystem will take the 21st Century learners from the stream to the riparian zone of the watershed. Teachers and students will study the riparian environment, including how invasive species and humans impact the watershed. Our project will utilize the standards-aligned Project Learning Tree curriculum and i-Tree application for student learning activities and professional development.

Boardman Local School District - Boardman Center, Glenwood Junior High & High School, “Boardman Schools Environmental Education: Mill Creek Water Quality Monitoring,” F20G-019, \$27,935, Columbiana and Mahoning Counties, Audience: Pre-school to University (Grades K, 5, 7, and 8), Contact: Joshua Boyle, josh@envcollaborative.com, (330) 559-4961

This project is intended to 1) monitor the water quality of Mill Creek's watershed through school outreach and ongoing field trips to Mill Creek and its tributaries while also providing mentors in the environmental field for these programs, 2) develop an extensive environmental education (EE) program using Project WET and Project WILD curricula as models for place-based learning along with training for teachers and program educators in water quality monitoring, and 3) Create educational kits that will be used in EE programs with a plan to replicate the watershed programs, educator trainings and number of the educational kits to all grades at Boardman Schools.

For more information, contact:



Office of Environmental Education

<http://epa.ohio.gov/oeef>

oeef@epa.ohio.gov

(614) 644-2873