

Clean Ohio Fund

An Investment In Economic Development, Family Farms & Environmental Health



Smith Farm, located in Fairfield County, was preserved with a Clean Ohio agricultural easement.
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Development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Cleveland was supported by Clean Ohio.
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REQUEST

In spring 2018, appropriate \$100 million over two years in conservation bonds for the Clean Ohio Fund. The bonds would be allocated to open space conservation (\$75 million), farmland preservation (\$12.5 million) and multi-use trail construction (\$12.5 million). This request is supported by a broad coalition of representatives from business, hunting and fishing clubs, community development, local government, parks, land trusts, environmental groups, and Ohioans from all communities across the state.

BENEFITS OF CLEAN OHIO FUND

- The Clean Ohio Fund is a \$400 million state bond initiative first approved by Ohio voters in 2000. It was overwhelmingly renewed in all 88 counties in 2008 with strong bipartisan support from the executive and legislative leadership.
- A public-private partnership, Clean Ohio restores, protects and connects Ohio's natural and urban places by preserving open space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation through a network of parks and trails, and attracting investment and economic development.
- Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program: Agriculture is Ohio's number one industry, contributing more than \$93 billion to our state economy and supporting one in six jobs. Ohio has lost more farmland than almost every other state. This program preserves farmland for future generations of farmers.
- Clean Ohio Open Space Conservation Program: Based on data from the outdoor industry, 58 percent of Ohioans engage in outdoor recreation every year, generating \$24.3 billion in consumer spending and creating 215,000 jobs in the state.
- Clean Ohio Trails Fund: Trail networks provide opportunities to walk, run, bike, hike and paddle in both urban and natural areas.
- Previous iterations of the Clean Ohio Fund included a very successful brownfield remediation program.

CLEAN OHIO PROJECTS



More than 85,500 acres of natural areas



More than 57,000 acres of family farms



More than 600 miles of multi-purpose, recreational trails



The Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Nature Preserve in Northwest Ohio is supported in part by Clean Ohio funding.

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Nine miles of Buckeye Trail / North Country Trail / American Discovery Trail is being developed in 2016 with Clean Ohio funding.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All 88 Ohio counties have received funding and benefitted from the Clean Ohio Fund. This critical state investment has:

- Cleaned up nearly 400 abandoned, polluted sites (2000-2013).
- Preserved over 85,500 acres of natural areas.
- Protected over 57,000 acres of family farms, with 22,000 more acres in progress.
- Created over 600 miles of multi-purpose, recreational trails.
- Leveraged additional investments to create a total economic impact of approximately \$3.1 billion in public and private investments to date.

REASONS TO SUPPORT CLEAN OHIO FUNDING

- Economic Development: Maximizes additional investments and operates without raising taxes.
- Jobs: Catalyzes economic activity in Ohio by securing jobs in agriculture, construction, goods, services, recreation, and eco-tourism.
- Water: Safeguards our water supplies by conserving the wetlands and natural vegetation that help to filter pollutants and prevent flooding.
- Public Health: Creates free and convenient protected natural areas and multi-use trails for people to enjoy and utilize for exercise, thereby improving public health and lowering medical costs.

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