

# ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



**2021**  
FISCAL YEAR

ALUM CREEK STATE PARK



The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has been entrusted with a diverse set of responsibilities around the state that impact the quality of life for Ohioans, including managing state parks, forests and natural areas, conserving habitats as well as fish and wildlife species, performing scientific research, and regulating areas of infrastructure and industry. We take pride in carrying out our mission to create a better Ohio for all citizens, and I'm excited to share a few of ODNR's accomplishments.

Water quality is a critical issue in Ohio, which is why Governor DeWine made it a priority with the H2Ohio initiative, focused on providing clean, accessible water for all Ohioans and ensuring the long-term health of our lakes and waterways. ODNR's portion of the H2Ohio program involves restoring wetlands, which can be one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to reduce excess nutrients in our waterways. By the time ODNR's current H2Ohio projects are complete, there will be over 104,000 acres of watershed filtered by wetland projects and more than 8,400 acres of wetlands created, restored, or enhanced.



Ohio is one of the few states in the country that doesn't charge entrance fees to state parks — providing our citizens with affordable recreation statewide. Our diverse park system has proven to be an invaluable asset as visitors flocked to parks in record numbers over the past year. Overnight bookings at Ohio State Parks topped 1 million nights – a 14% increase over FY20.

More visitors mean we need to keep pace with adding and updating public facilities. ODNR broke ground on the new Hocking Hills State Park Lodge in 2020, which is expected to open in 2022. The lodge will feature modern guest rooms, a full-service restaurant, gift shop, event spaces, indoor and outdoor pools, and more.

Public spaces are for everyone, and ODNR strives to make sure all visitors feel welcome, included, and safe. We have added staff to improve our customer service reach and have increased law enforcement coverage across the state. We also added ADA-accessible facilities and amenities, such as ramps and boat and kayak launches.

One of the best ways to explore Ohio at your own pace is through trails, and we have made providing trail facilities and tools a top priority. We launched the new DETOUR Ohio Trails app for desktop and mobile devices to help Ohioans find and navigate their next trail adventure. In partnership with the Governor's Imagination Library, ODNR also completed six new Storybook Trails at state parks, which present children's books and activities along trails.



Ohioans participated in outdoor sports in substantial numbers in 2020. Hunting and fishing license sales increased 7%, deer permits increased 4%, wild turkey permits increased 6%, and Ohio wetlands habitat stamps (required for waterfowl hunting) increased 7% from 2019. To improve customer service, the Division of Wildlife introduced its new mobile app, HuntFish OH, where Ohio's outdoors enthusiasts can purchase hunting and fishing licenses (enabling anglers to conveniently enjoy the Walleye Capital of the World), check game, and view wildlife area maps. The Division of Forestry continues to implement best management practices for state forests, monitor urban trees, battle invasive species, and assist private landowners to ensure the health of Ohio's forests. In addition to its management work, the Division distributed more than \$1.3 million in timber harvest revenue to rural school districts through the Trees to Textbooks program. State forests are also increasingly popular for backpacking — trail usage rose 24% last year — so the Division added more amenities to benefit hikers such as interpretive signs at Shawnee State Forest.

The Division of Natural Areas & Preserves substantially invested in state nature preserves to improve visitor amenities such as new boardwalks, footbridges, and

ADA accessible trails at these pristine natural wonders. Projects included installing a new 1.25-mile accessible boardwalk at Fowler Woods; replacing a decades-old boardwalk and adding an accessible platform at Clifton Gorge; and constructing a pedestrian bridge and improving the trail system and parking lot at Boch Hollow.

Some of the most important work our regulatory divisions do for community and environmental safety is restoring land back to health. The Division of Mineral Resources Management oversaw 2,399 acres of former coal and industrial mineral sites reclaimed, and the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management plugged 150 orphan gas wells.

ODNR strives to provide Ohioans with safe access to the state's unparalleled recreation opportunities. In the following pages, you will find highlights of ODNR's activities over the past year, and I encourage you to check out our new website at [ohiodnr.gov](http://ohiodnr.gov) to learn more.

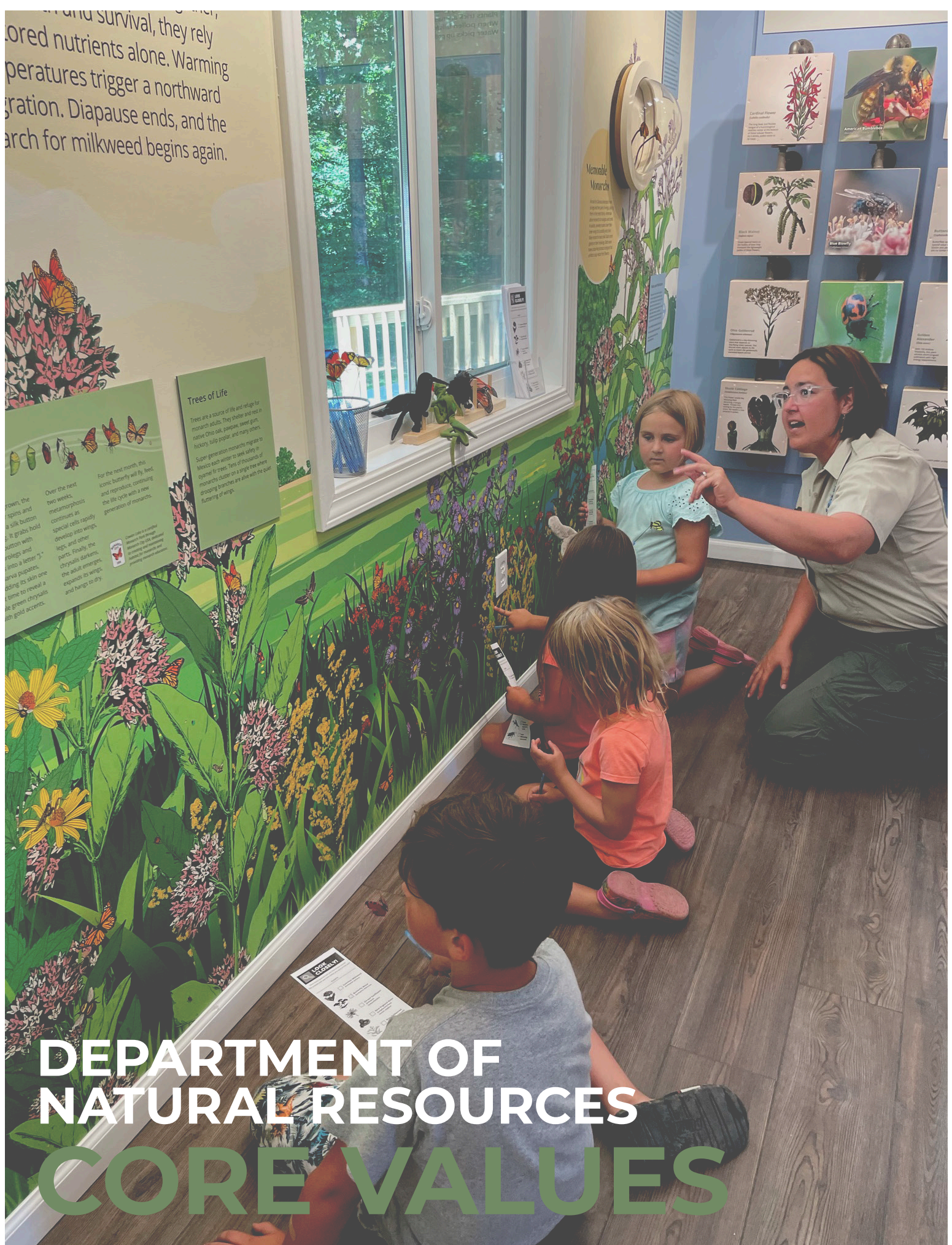
It is our privilege to serve Ohioans, and I look forward to seeing you in the great outdoors.

Sincerely,

*Mary Mertz*  
Mary Mertz, Director



Dedication of the Covid-19 Pandemic Memorial Grove at Great Seal State Park



...and survival, they rely  
...ored nutrients alone. Warming  
...peratures trigger a northward  
...migration. Diapause ends, and the  
...arch for milkweed begins again.

**Trees of Life**  
Trees are a source of life and refuge for monarch adults. They shelter and rear in native Ohio oak, papaw, sweet gum, hickory, tulip poplar, and many others. Super-generation monarchs migrate to Mexico each winter to seek safety in oaks. Tens of thousands of monarchs cluster on a single tree where growing branches are alive with the quiet fluttering of wings.

Over the next two weeks, metamorphosis continues as special cells rapidly develop into wings, legs, and other parts. Finally, the chrysalis darkens, the adult emerges, and its wings expand to reveal the green chrysalis with gold accents.

**Look Closer**

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CORE VALUES

# 1

## DO THE RIGHT THING, THE RIGHT WAY

We must set the standard for ethics and integrity. Cutting corners and doing the wrong thing is never worth it. Essential to maintaining public trust is never compromising on character and following the rules and processes to achieve our mission.

# 2

## PROMOTE SCIENCE-BASED STEWARDSHIP

Conservation and responsible, sustainable use of our state resources requires action and education based in science. We must stay up to date on the latest research, constantly question, and use data to guide our decisions and actions.

# 3

## IF IT'S WORTH DOING, IT'S WORTH DOING NOW

Urgency is a compulsion to get things done in a timely, yet thoughtful manner. Ideas are great, but don't mean much if we do nothing with them. We act on good ideas! Every project and every initiative needs motivation and dedication to get it across the finish line. Imagine what is possible and make it happen!

# 4

## STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customers (internal and external) don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. If a customer reaches you, you own it. Public trust is earned through responsiveness.

# 5

## COMMIT TO GREAT COMMUNICATION

Moving from good to great communication requires knowledge and understanding of what we do and why, in addition to really listening to your audience to appreciate their motives and concerns. The message is not about the messenger; it is about meeting the needs of those you are communicating with.

# 6

## EMBRACE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Actively promote and encourage diversity, equity and inclusion of all individuals, both internally and externally. This must be reflective in our workforce and evident in the opportunities and programs we deliver to the public.

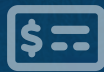
# H2Ohio



## H2OHIO BY NUMBERS



**59**  
H2OHIO PROJECTS  
IN PROGRESS



**150**  
WQIP PROJECTS  
FUNDED



**20K**  
TREES PLANTED  
IN WETLAND  
BUFFERS



**\$5M**  
DISTRIBUTED FOR  
WATER QUALITY  
INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM (WQIP)



**10**  
SITES WITH  
INTERACTIVE  
DISPLAYS TO  
INFORM THE PUBLIC  
ABOUT H2OHIO



**104K**  
ACRES OF  
WATERSHED  
FILTERED BY  
H2OHIO PROJECTS



## WETLAND CREATION & RESTORATION

Wetlands naturally improve water quality by trapping, filtering, and removing excess nutrients and other pollutants in surface water. ODNR's H2Ohio projects are focused on creating, restoring, and enhancing wetlands that are designed and strategically located to maximize nutrient reduction.

Not only are wetlands a cost-effective solution to reduce nutrient pollution, but wetlands also provide recreational opportunities for birdwatchers, waterfowl hunters, and boaters, as well as habitat for uniquely adapted plant and animal species.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

ODNR currently has 57 projects in progress and broke ground on its first inland wetland at Brooks Park in 2021. By the end of the 2021, 19 projects will be complete. ODNR also launched the Water Quality Incentive Program



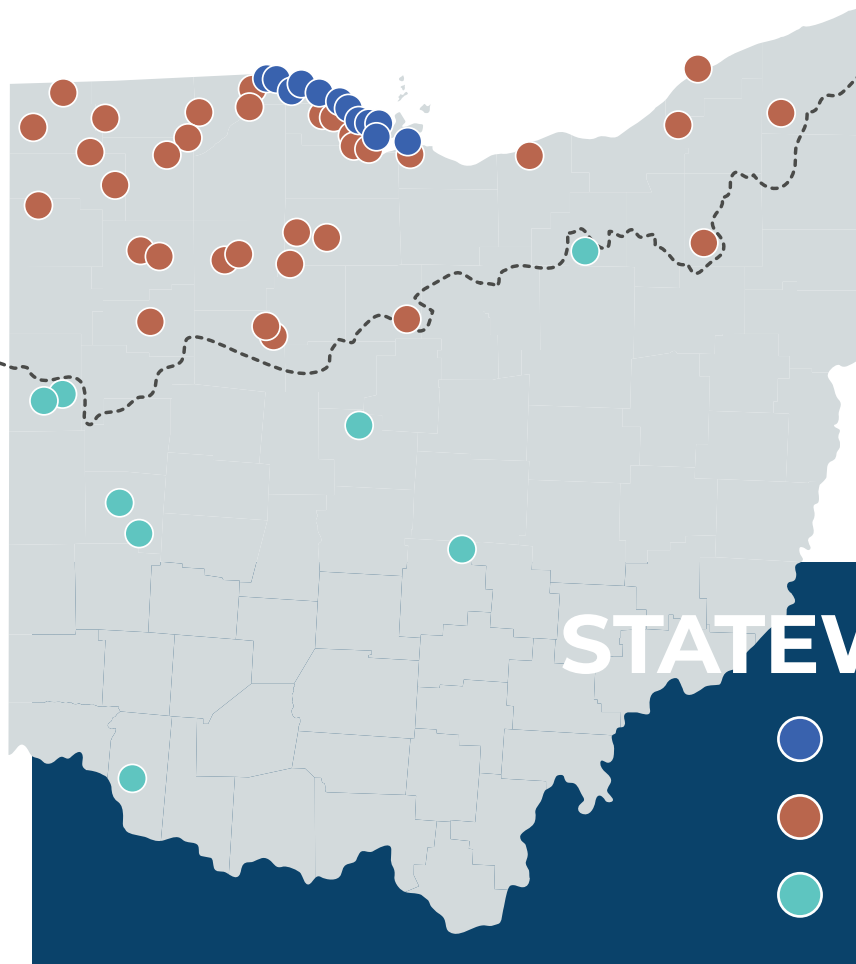
Unveiling of the Andreoff Wetland restoration project.

(WQIP), which awarded a total of \$5 million in onetime payments to private landowners to implement 150 projects building wetlands and riparian buffers.

ODNR has also installed interactive signs at 10 sites to help inform the public of its mission and the benefits of wetlands. The ODNR H2Ohio Program continues to identify future opportunities for strategic, targeted nutrient reduction wetlands to improve Ohio's water quality ■

## STATEWIDE PROJECTS

- LAKE ERIE COASTAL PROJECTS
- INLAND WESTERN BASIN PROJECTS
- OHIO RIVER BASIN PROJECTS



# COASTAL RESOURCES

A scenic view of a coastline. The top half of the image shows a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. Below the sky is a calm, blue sea. In the distance, a small sailboat with a white sail is visible on the horizon. To the left of the sailboat, there is a small, dark object that could be a boat or a structure. The bottom half of the image shows a rocky shoreline with some green vegetation. A large blue rectangular box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing white text.

**The ODNR Office of Coastal Management is at the forefront of helping communities plan and implement sustainable restoration and enhancement projects that support their local economy.**

# COASTAL BY THE NUMBERS



**\$5M**

OF EROSION EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS



**350**

REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



**52.7k**

CUBIC YARDS OF SAND REPLACED ON LAKE ERIE COAST



**102**

TEMPORARY SHORE STRUCTURE PERMITS ISSUED



**35**

SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE CONTRACT ACTIONS



**46.5**

ACRES OF WETLANDS AUTHORIZED FOR RESTORATION

## GRANTS FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

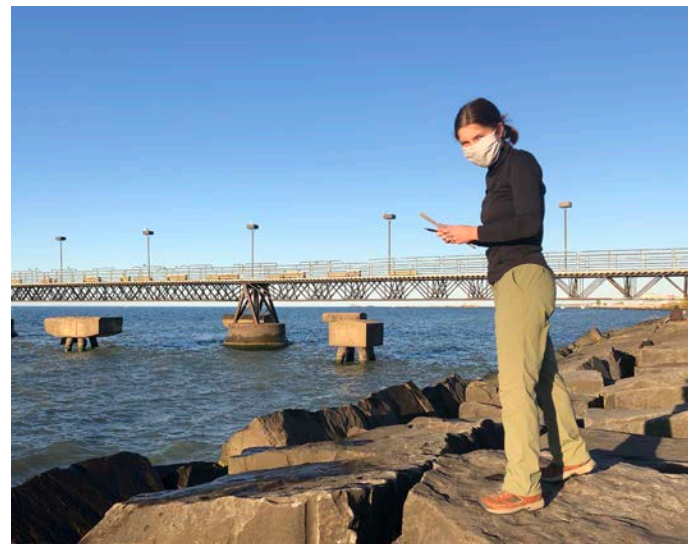
[Erosion Emergency Assistance Grants](#) assist with erosion control projects on Lake Erie that are necessary for the preservation of health, safety, and welfare. The Office of Coastal Management awarded \$5 million in grants for nine projects in Ashtabula, Lake, Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Ottawa counties. [The Coastal Management Assistance Grant](#) program is a competitive grant that communities can use for projects including water quality improvement, coastal planning, land acquisition, research, public access, and habitat restoration. In 2020, the Office of Coastal Management awarded more than \$400,000 in grants to five communities.

## OLD WOMAN CREEK

The Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) reached 800 coastal decision makers through virtual training events on topics such as project development and evaluation and a stormwater learning series hosted in collaboration with the Erie Conservation District. Staff also created 21 videos highlighting the reserve's natural features, continuing education offerings like the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program and teacher workshops, and recordings from guest speakers within OWC's Science Friday series.

## HEALTHY LAKE ERIE INITIATIVE

Healthy Lake Erie-supported upgrades at the Port of Toledo's Facility 3 Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) resulted in 645,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the Toledo Federal Navigation Channel to be placed in the facility. For the first time ever, no dredged materials from the Toledo Federal Navigation Channel were placed in Lake Erie's open waters — helping improve water quality in the Western Basin ■



A photograph of a suspension bridge under construction in a lush green forest. The bridge's wooden support pillars and steel cables are visible against the dense trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# **ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**The Division of Engineering provides professional and technical engineering and related support required by ODNR to help plan, implement, and manage capital improvement programs, construction and renovation projects, and coordinate road and facility maintenance.**

# STATEWIDE ENGINEERING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



## ENGINEERING BY THE NUMBERS



**\$99.3**  
MILLION IN IMPROVEMENTS



**3**  
SHOOTING RANGE RENOVATIONS



**10**  
STATE PARK LODGE PROJECTS



**73**  
COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



**6**  
MARINA AND BOATING ACCESS PROJECTS



**13**  
DAM/SPILLWAY PROJECTS COMPLETED

# MANAGING FORESTS

The Division of Forestry operates and maintains 24 state forests, encompassing more than 202,000 acres. The division creates recreation opportunities, improves the health of Ohio's public and private forests, and protects our state from forest fires, pollution and other threats. State foresters are experts at managing Ohio's largest renewable resource.



# FORESTRY BY THE NUMBERS



**5,236**

ACRES OF WOODLAND  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
ASSISTANCE ON  
PRIVATE PROPERTY



**2,689**

ACRES OF FOREST AND  
CONSERVATION PROJECTS ON  
STATE FOREST PROPERTY



**418**

ACRES ADDED TO THE  
STATE FOREST SYSTEM



**1400**

ATTENDEES TO OHIO URBAN  
FORESTRY PROGRAM'S 2020  
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SERIES



**\$1.3M**

TREES TO TEXTBOOKS  
FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND  
14 SCHOOL DISTRICTS



**15k+**

EASTERN HEMLOCK TREES  
PROTECTED FROM HEMLOCK  
WOOLLY ADELGID



**100k+**

TREES PLANTED ON  
ODNR, PUBLIC, AND  
PRIVATE PROPERTIES  
WITH DOF ASSISTANCE



**245**

ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION  
RECOGNIZED TREE CITY USA  
COMMUNITIES IN OHIO

## ENGAGING OHIOANS & COMMUNITIES



Project Learning Tree-Ohio (PLT), which the Division sponsors, hosted 21 virtual professional development workshops, training nearly 300 educators, youth leaders and natural resource professionals. PLT's hands-on, STEM-focused, creative learning experiences encourage youth to explore the environment and forest ecosystems, with an emphasis on how to think — not what to think — about the natural world.

The Division distributed more than \$1.3 million in Trees to Textbooks funds to 14 rural school districts. Funding

for the program comes from sustainable timber harvests on Ohio's state forests. Since the Trees to Textbooks program started in 1999, more than \$32 million has been shared with Ohio school districts and local governments.

The Division also provided 88 grants totaling more than \$456,000 to rural fire departments, communities, and non-profits in Ohio's forest fire protection region.

## PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

As part of the H2Ohio Program, the Division of Forestry planted 4,900 trees on the 31 acre Van Order Property, which was recently added to Maumee State Forest. This project includes wetland creation and forest restoration that will capture nutrient runoff and slow water flow into nearby streams to provide permanent water quality protection.





## EXPLAINING THE FOREST

31 interpretive signs were created and installed along both loops of the Shawnee State Forest Day Hike Trail. These new signs provide hikers with an interactive experience as they explore Ohio's largest state forest. While walking the trails through areas that were originally part of the Roosevelt Game Preserve, hikers can learn about the local history, ecology, wildfire suppression, and science behind the Division of Forestry's management techniques on display around them ■



# **GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



**Ohio's abundant natural resources depend, in large part, on the underlying geology. The topography and chemistry of Ohio's underlying rocks and soils help dictate what plants and animals live and thrive here. The Division's mission is to provide geologic information and services needed for responsible management of Ohio's natural resources.**

# GEOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS



**6.3K**  
WATER WELL  
RECORDS  
RECORDED



**5K Sq Mi.**  
OF DETAILED  
GEOLOGIC  
MAPPING  
COMPLETED



**4.3K**  
ABANDONED  
WATER WELL  
SEALING  
REPORTS



**1.4K**  
INQUIRES  
ANSWERED BY  
THE GEOLOGIC  
RECORDS  
CENTER



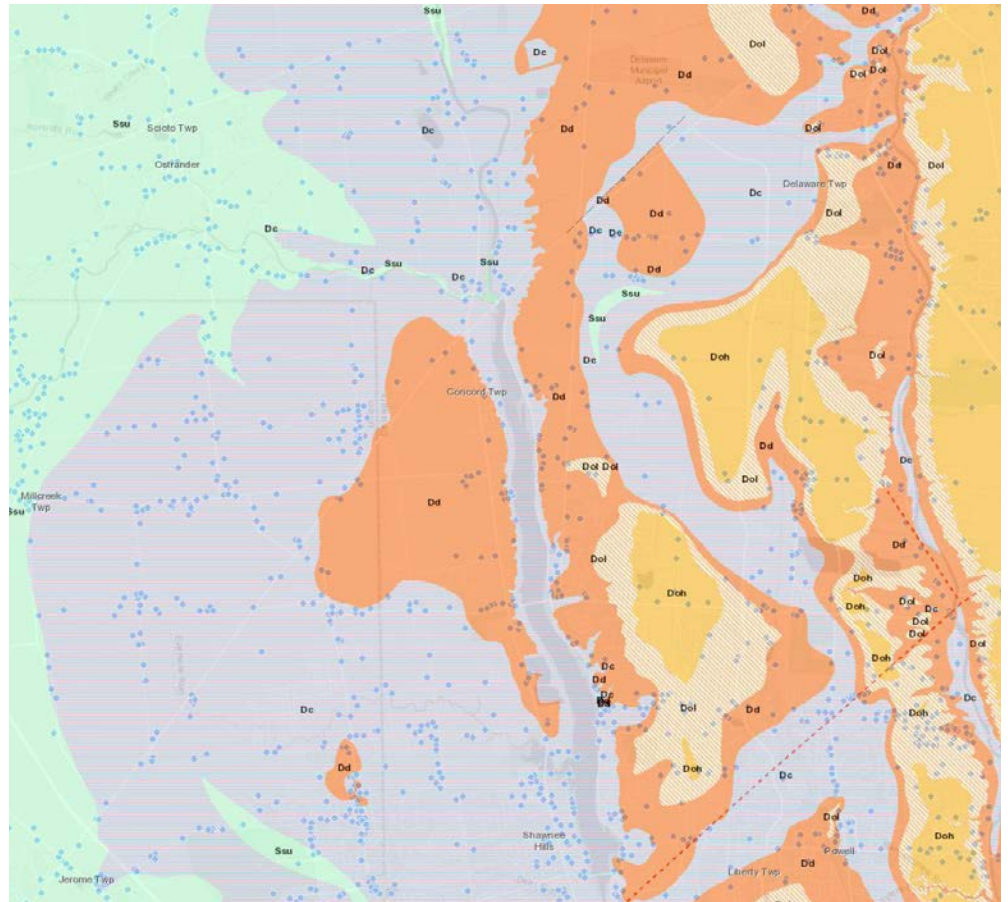
**285**  
GEOPHYSICAL  
LOGS ARCHIVED  
AND PUBLICLY  
RELEASED



**50**  
COUNTY  
GROUNDWATER  
VULNERABILITY  
MAPS REVISED

## OHIO GEOLOGY INTERACTIVE MAP

The Division launched a robust, new online map for researching the state's geologic history, structure, and materials. The Ohio Geology Interactive Map provides users with a convenient, self-service way to view and download datasets on bedrock geology, glacial materials, geologic hazards, groundwater, and industrial minerals. Users can also create custom maps and view information such as water well logs alongside geologic formation data.



## TEAYS RIVER VALLEY GEOLOGIC CORE

The Division completed a deep boring through the Teays River Valley in Willshire, Ohio. The collected core included 330 feet of Quaternary-aged unconsolidated sediment and 5 feet of the limestone bedrock. This project gives new insight into the history of glaciations in Ohio and groundwater resources in the region and is the only core of its kind available for study in Ohio ■

An aerial photograph of a coal processing plant. The scene shows several large, dark piles of coal, a network of metal conveyor belts, and various pieces of heavy machinery like trucks and excavators. The plant is situated in a landscape with green trees in the background under a cloudy sky.

# MINERAL RESOURCES

**The Division of Mineral Resources Management is charged with regulating coal and industrial mineral mining in Ohio while also protecting the public, miners, and the environment. The Division's mission is to provide for the safe and environmentally sound development and restoration of mineral and fossil fuel extraction sites.**

# MINERALS BY THE NUMBERS



**1.9k**  
INDUSTRIAL  
MINERAL  
INSPECTIONS  
COMPLETED



**2.4k**  
ACRES OF  
COAL AND  
INDUSTRIAL  
MINERALS  
MINE LAND  
RECLAIMED



**18**  
AML PROJECTS  
COMPLETED



**10**  
MINE  
SUBSIDENCE  
SINKHOLES  
STABILIZED



**2.85**  
ACRES OF  
LANDSLIDES  
AND SEEPAGE  
STABILIZED



**2**  
MINE PORTALS  
SEALED



**4.3k**  
MINERS  
TRAINED  
IN HEALTH  
& SAFETY  
PROGRAMS

## INDUSTRIAL MINERALS REGULATION

Ohio is a major producer of non-fuel minerals, also known as industrial minerals (IM), including: limestone and dolomite, sand and gravel, salt, sandstone and conglomerate, shale, and clay.

Inspection staff, assisted by expert environmental specialists, hydrogeologists, blasting specialists and engineering staff, performed 1,894 IM mine site inspections in 2020.

## MINE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Mine Safety Program promotes safe mining practices through four program services that include inspections of surface and underground mines with a focus on accident prevention; mine rescue support; certification examination; and safety training.

In 2020, Division inspectors conducted 110 IM safety audits, 440 regular IM and coal inspections, 31 re-inspections, and trained 4,338 miners in Annual Refresher Training (ART), First Aid/CPR, and New Miner safety programs.

## ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAM

The Division administers both a state abandoned mine land program (AML) and a federal AML program to address the highest priority problems resulting from coal mining that occurred prior to the enactment of today's stricter reclamation requirements. Both programs are funded by severance taxes levied on the mining of coal.

Ohio's AML program completed 18 projects in 2020. The program was also awarded \$10 million in AML Economic Revitalization (AMLER) funding in 2020 for projects AML and economic development projects ■

Trail and bridge construction of the Moonville Rail Trail at Ingham's Station in Vinton County, which is being completed through AMLER program funding.

# **NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVES**

**The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves protects some of the best remaining examples of Ohio's rich ecological history. These diverse areas of land contain remnants of Ohio's pre-settlement past, rare and endangered species, and remarkable geologic features. Today, 139 state nature preserves and natural areas protect more than 30,000 acres.**

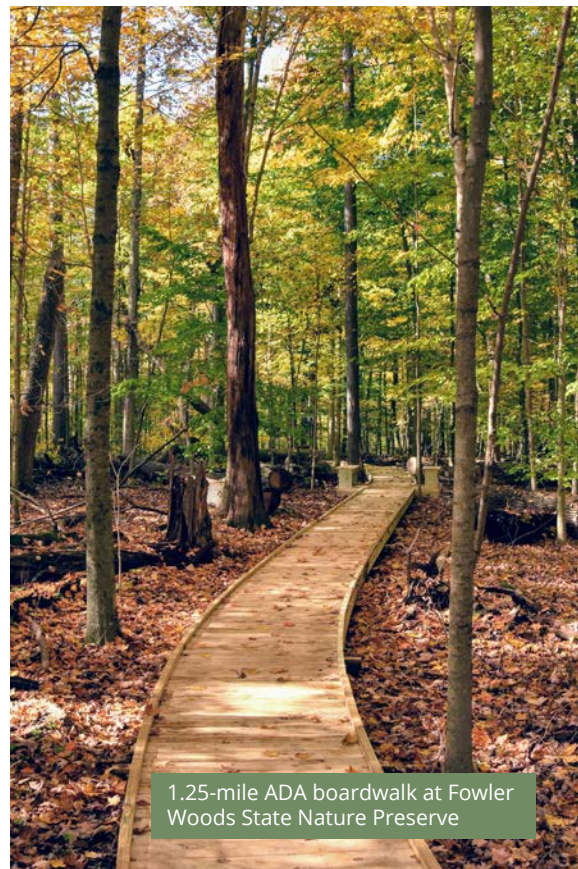
## LAND PROTECTION

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves continues to preserve Ohio's unique natural heritage by protecting and restoring our finest land and water resources. In 2020, the Division added another new preserve to the system with the dedication of Miriam Walter Barrens in Meigs County. This 46-acre dry limestone prairie was donated to the state and dedicated as the 139th state nature preserve in Ohio.

Other additions include the purchase of 29 acres of land protecting nearly 1 mile of river corridor along the Little Beaver Creek State Scenic River in Columbiana County, and the purchase of five acres of headwater stream habitat at Eagle Creek Nature Preserve in Portage County. Land dedications included 121 acres at Gallagher Fen, 49 acres adjacent to the existing Hach-Otis preserve in Lake County, 208 acres at Johnson Ridge in Adams County, and 20 acres at Swamp Cottonwood preserve in Medina County.

## VISITOR FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS

State nature preserves provide access to some of the most scenic locations in Ohio for outdoor enthusiasts, and 2020 was the year of trail improvements making access safer and easier. More than 25 new or refurbished bridges, staircases, boardwalks and trail projects were completed. Highlights include the 1.25-mile ADA boardwalk at Fowler Woods, a new trailhead access with pedestrian bridge at Boch Hollow, and an extensive boardwalk and overlook reconstruction at Clifton Gorge. Other sites that saw extensive upgrades includes Miller Nature Sanctuary, Lake Katharine, Cranberry Bog, Conkles Hollow and Saltpetre Cave ■



1.25-mile ADA boardwalk at Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve

## NATURAL AREAS BY THE NUMBERS



**30.3k**

TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED BY 139 STATE NATURE PRESERVES



**500**

ACRES ADDED TO THE STATE PRESERVE SYSTEM THIS YEAR



**1**

NEW STATE NATURE PRESERVE DEDICATED



**6.5k**

ACRES PROTECTED IN 15 STATE SCENIC RIVERS



**25**

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS COMPLETED



**1**

PRESUMED EXTIRPATED PLANT REDISCOVERED



# **OIL & GAS RESOURCES**

**The Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management regulates Ohio's oil and natural gas industry by protecting Ohioans and the environment while ensuring that the state's natural resources are managed and developed responsibly.**



# OIL & GAS BY THE NUMBERS



**28K**  
SITE  
INSPECTIONS  
COMPLETED



**150**  
ORPHAN WELLS  
PLUGGED



**268**  
DRILLING  
PERMITS  
ISSUED



**242**  
HORIZONTAL  
WELL PERMITS  
ISSUED



**202**  
PLUG PERMITS  
ISSUED

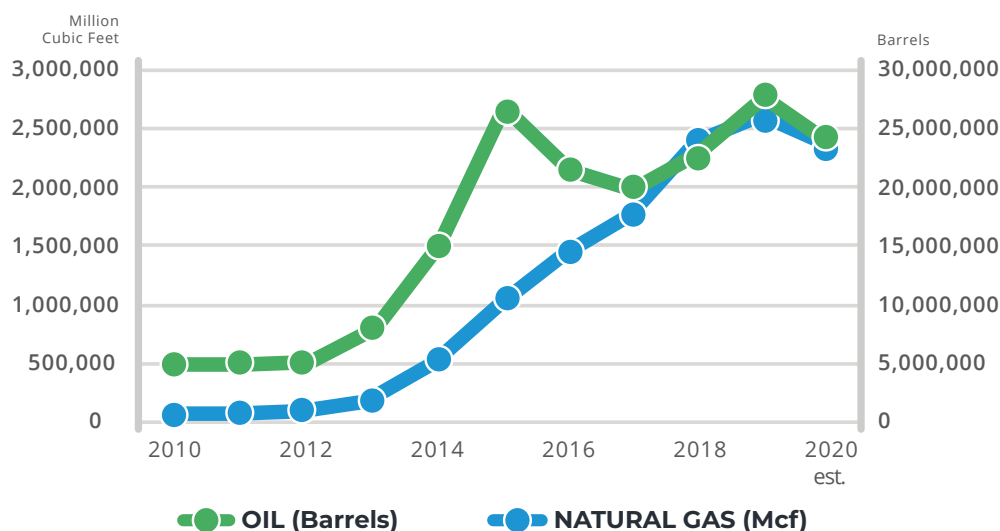


**28**  
WELL PAD  
CONSTRUCTION  
PERMITS  
ISSUED

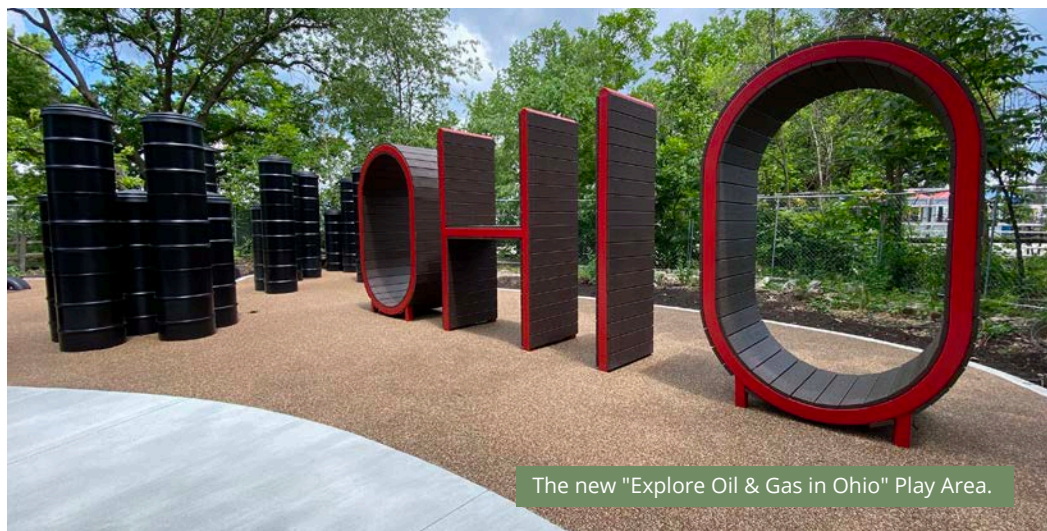
## ORPHAN WELL PROGRAM

The Orphan Well Program plugs improperly abandoned oil and natural gas wells. Proper plugging of orphan wells is necessary to protect public health and safety, conserve natural resources, and allow the efficient development of Ohio's oil and gas resources. In 2020, the Division plugged 150 orphan wells — an all-time high.

## OIL & NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION



## OIL AND GAS PLAYGROUND



The new "Explore Oil & Gas in Ohio" Play Area.

The Division completed construction of the "Explore Oil and Gas in Ohio Play Area" at the Ohio Expo Center that gives families an accessible place to play while learning about Ohio's oil and gas resources ■

# STATE PARKS & WATERCRAFT

The Division of Parks and Watercraft serves as the state's primary provider of outdoor recreational experiences, with 75 parks located in 59 counties. The division's mission is to provide exceptional outdoor recreational and boating opportunities by balancing outstanding customer service, education, and protection and conservation of Ohio's state parks and waterways.



# PARKS & WATERCRAFT BY THE NUMBERS

## 1,035,000

NIGHTS BOOKED AT OHIO STATE PARKS

**14% INCREASE**   
OVER PREVIOUS YEAR



**50K**  
INCREASE IN WATERCRAFT  
REGISTRATIONS



**+14K**  
STATE PARKS  
PASSPORTS SOLD



**6**  
NEW STORYBOOK  
TRAILS OPENED



**+350**  
VIRTUAL PROGRAMS  
HOSTED BY STAFF

## NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD FINALIST

The division has continued to see a large year-over-year rise in canoe and kayak registrations. Enthusiasts in paddle sports are taking advantage of the numerous opportunities available to them in Ohio State Parks. Ohio State Parks was named a 2021 National Gold Medal Award Finalist by The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The Gold Medal honors park systems across the country that demonstrate excellence, innovation, and a strong sense of community.



## DETOUR TRAILS APP LAUNCHED

In Ohio, hiking is the most popular outdoor activity. State Parks offer over 5,000 miles of free state park trails, which provide physical and mental health benefits for all ages and abilities. Recent trail enhancements include Working with the Ohio Trails Partnership, a comprehensive trails website and mobile app called DeTOUR helps achieve our goal of providing a trail within 5 miles of every Ohioan.

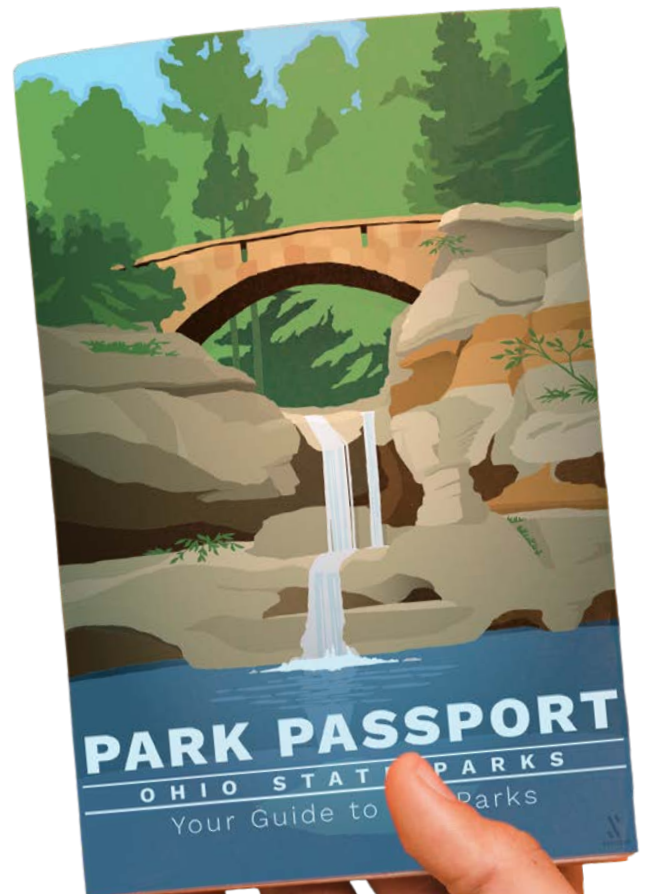
## STORYBOOK TRAIL PROGRAM EXPANDS

Ohio State Parks launched its Storybook Trail program in 2019, in partnership with the Governor's Imagination Library, to promote literacy, a healthy lifestyle, and a love of nature. The response from Ohio families was overwhelmingly positive, so the Division opened six more Storybook Trails in 2021. Each trail is approximately a half-mile long with 15-20 child-height panels featuring pages of a children's book and an activity to accompany the text on the page.



## STATE PARK PASSPORTS

The Ohio State Parks Passport offers visitors a focused goal and encourages Ohioans to explore new parks. Visitors can have their passport stamped or use a custom decal sticker to avoid personal interaction. More than 14,000 passports have sold since June 2020.



## RECORD VISITATION

Ohio State Parks accommodated a record number of overnight guests in 2020 (despite being closed for 2 months), thanks to infrastructure improvements which provided new and renovated flush restrooms, shower houses along with 544 new full-service campsites. From June 2020 to May 2021, Ohio State Parks recorded 1,035,000 overnight bookings — a 14% increase over 2019.



## WATERCRAFT REGISTRATIONS SKYROCKET

Watercraft registrations are up by almost 50,000 over the previous year. The largest growth was seen in hand-powered craft like kayaks. To better accommodate the rising popularity in watercraft recreation, the Division launched a new online system that registered 218,000 watercraft in 2020 ■



# REAL ESTATE AND LAND MANAGEMENT

The Office of Real Estate & Land Management (REALM) provides real estate services and solutions to ODNR's landholding and natural resource based programs and canal programs.

## REALM BY THE NUMBERS



**1,100+**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
REVIEWS COMPLETED



**30.4k**  
ACRES OF NEW  
LAND ACQUIRED



**17**  
REAL ESTATE  
ACQUISITIONS  
COMPLETED



**30**  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE VISITS

**\$13.29M**

IN GRANTS  
DISTRIBUTED

**\$6.3M**

CLEAN OHIO  
TRAILS FUND

**\$1.5M**

RECREATIONAL  
TRAILS PROGRAM

**\$5.4M**

LAND & WATER  
CONSERVATION FUND



Road repair survey work being done at Tar Hollow

## STATEWIDE GRANT PROGRAMS

### LAND & WATER CONSERVATION

Federal program which provides up to 50% reimbursement assistance for state and local government for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.

### CLEAN OHIO TRAILS FUND

works to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans by funding trails for outdoor pursuits of all kinds.

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

Federal program providing up to 80% of funding for projects such as new trails, trail maintenance, facilities, equipment, and acquisitions.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ODNR manages more than 800,000 acres across Ohio, and those lands are home to many areas of cultural and historical significance, which REALM is tasked with recording and preserving. In FY21, the Division collaborated with the Division of Parks and Watercraft on the acquisition of Oldtown near Xenia, Ohio – one of the largest-known Shawnee settlements in Ohio. This property will become a new state park.

ODNR plans to engage with the three sovereign and federally recognized Shawnee Tribes – the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Absentee Shawnee – to preserve and highlight this important historical site. The state park will include an interpretive center, and several markers memorializing historical events at Oldtown ■

# OHIO'S WATER RESOURCES



**The Division of Water Resources ensures the wise management of Ohio's water resources and infrastructure through three primary programs: Dam Safety, Floodplain Management, and Water Inventory and Planning.**



# WATER BY THE NUMBERS



**264**  
DAM SAFETY  
INSPECTIONS



**33**  
EMERGENCY  
ACTION PLANS  
REVIEWED AND  
APPROVED



**40**  
DAM REPAIR  
PROJECTS  
APPROVED



**10**  
VIOLATIONS  
ISSUED FOR  
DEFICIENT  
DAMS



**\$182K**  
IN FEDERAL  
GRANTS FOR  
FLOODPLAIN  
MANAGEMENT



**600**  
RESPONSES TO  
FLOODPLAIN  
ASSISTANCE  
REQUESTS



**235**  
WATER  
WITHDRAWAL  
DATA  
REQUESTS

## DAM SAFETY

ODNR is responsible for inspecting and regulating more than 1,500 public and privately owned dams statewide. ODNR's mission is to ensure that dam systems are properly maintained and operated for the public's safety. In FY21, the Division issued 10 Notice of Violations (NOVs) and/or administrative Chief's Orders to owners of severely deficient dams, and six dilapidated dams were breached or modified to reduce the risk to public safety.

## WATER WITHDRAWALS

ODNR collects information on water withdrawals from facilities around the state, as required by law. In FY21, ODNR received more than 2,100 annual water withdrawal reporting forms and processed 42 new water withdrawal facility registration forms — required for any facility that has the capability to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day. There were 235 requests for state-wide water withdrawal data from engineering consultants; hydrogeological consultants; planners; federal; state and local agencies; and citizens for multiple uses — primarily for planning and designing important projects.

## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Floodplain management involves corrective and preventive actions to reduce the damage caused by flooding and to promote the natural benefit of floodplains. In FY21, ODNR responded to more than 600 requests for floodplain-related technical assistance from communities, citizens, and the private sector. The Floodplain Management Program delivered 31 webinars to community officials and professional organizations and co-hosted the 2020 Virtual Ohio Statewide Floodplain Management Conference in coordination with the Ohio Floodplain Management Association ■

A person is working on a wooden structure, possibly a trap or enclosure, with wire mesh. The person is wearing a dark cap and is focused on their work. The structure is made of light-colored wood and has a large section of wire mesh. The background shows a glimpse of an outdoor area with green grass and a building.

# **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

**Ohio offers world-class opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping, bird watching, wildlife viewing and other forms of fish and wildlife recreation in 150 state wildlife areas, encompassing 251,000 acres of public land.**



# WILDLIFE BY THE NUMBERS



**45M**  
FISH STOCKED IN  
PUBLIC WATERS



**410K**  
DEER PERMITS ISSUED



**198K**  
DEER HARVESTED



**90K**  
USERS ON THE HUNTFISH  
OH MOBILE APP



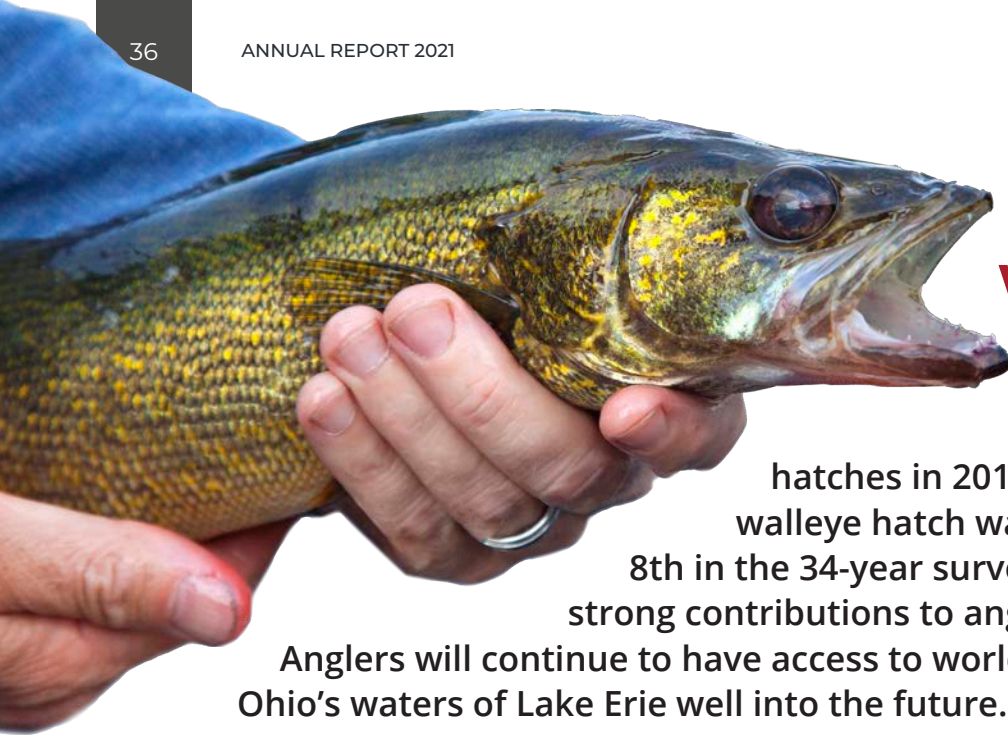
**12**  
NEW WILDLIFE  
OFFICERS DEPLOYED



**2**  
NEWLY RENOVATED  
SHOOTING RANGES  
OPENED

## HUNTFISH OH MOBILE APP RELEASED

The Division introduced HuntFish OH, a mobile application, to provide Ohio's hunters, anglers, and shooters with license purchasing options, game check means, and other resources through their mobile devices. The mobile app was first available on August 8, 2021, and had nearly 90,000 users within the first eight months. To date, users have purchased \$1,950,000 in licenses and permits through the app and used it to check 10% of last year's deer harvest.



## LAKE ERIE WALLEYE SURGE CONTINUES

After tremendous walleye hatches in 2015, 2018, and 2019, the 2020 walleye hatch was well above average. Ranking 8th in the 34-year survey, the 2020 year class will make strong contributions to angler harvest in coming years.

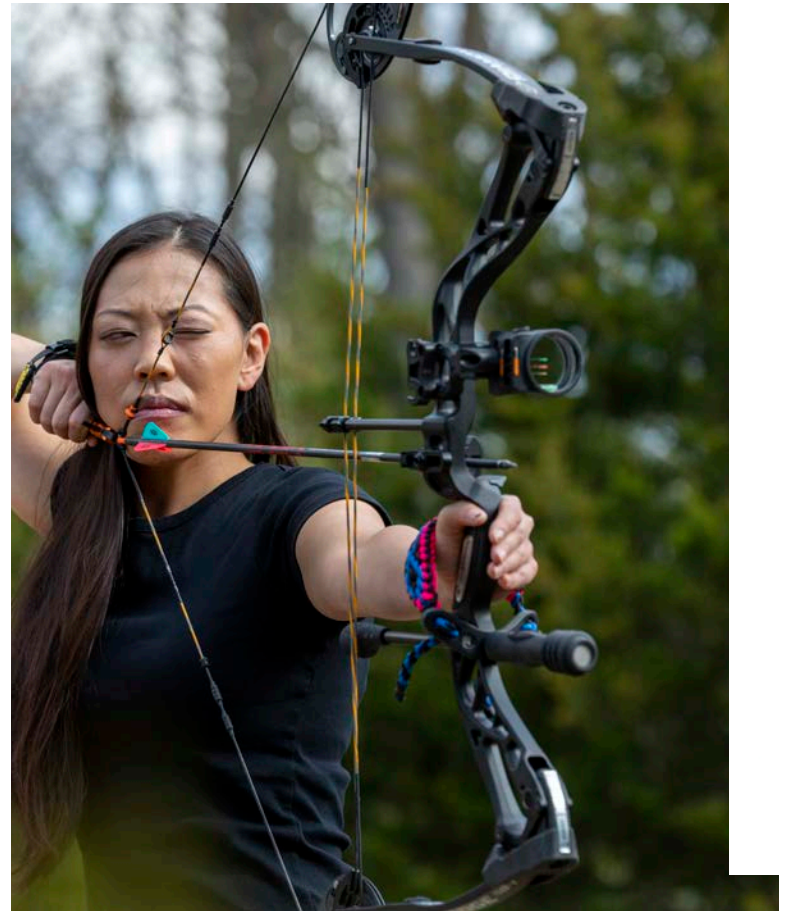
Anglers will continue to have access to world class fishing opportunities in Ohio's waters of Lake Erie well into the future.



Newly renovated Spring Valley Shooting Center

## SHOOTING RANGES RENOVATED

The Division of Wildlife opened the Delaware and Spring Valley Shooting Ranges this past winter after nearly \$16 million in construction renovations. These ranges offer rifle, handgun and shotgun ranges, static and walk-through archery ranges and state of the art outdoor education buildings designed to engage new audiences with division and partner courses, classes and events. Since opening, both of these ranges receive several hundred shooters a week and will continue to grow in popularity when the Division resumes its full complement of programs.



## EASTERN HELLBENDER

Through a partnership with the Toledo Zoo, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Penta Career Center, the Wilds, Ohio EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jefferson, Belmont, and Columbiana County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, over 1,500 Eastern Hellbenders have been released into 26 sites in ten watersheds since 2012. Together with efforts to restore stream habitats, the hellbender head-start program is working to reverse the precipitous decline of this rare amphibian by

Hellbender photo copyright Brian Gratwicke. Used under Creative Commons License.

establishing multiple self-sustaining populations in Ohio. Researchers with The Ohio State University and Ohio University are continuing to monitor populations and identify factors responsible for the low levels of recruitment ■



**INTRODUCTION OF 12 NEW WILDLIFE OFFICERS**

# **ANNUAL DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT**



**For Fiscal Year 2021  
(July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)**

**The Annual Report of the  
Department of Natural Resources  
covering the receipts and  
expenditures of all moneys.**

**ODNR's operating budget for  
FY 2021 was \$480.6 million. FY21  
expenditures (capital and operating)  
totaled \$509.8 million. Total revenue  
deposited was \$312.8 million.**

# QUICK FISCAL NUMBERS



**\$122.4M**  
GENERAL REVENUE (GRF)  
OPERATING EXPENSES



**\$509.8M**  
TOTAL OF  
ALL EXPENSES



**\$387.5M**  
NON-GRF  
EXPENSES



**\$312.8M**  
IN TOTAL  
REVENUE

## ANNUAL EXPENDITURES – FISCAL YEAR 2021

### By Appropriation Line Item

FUND	ALI	APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM	EXPENDITURES
GRF	725401	Division of Wildlife-Operating	\$1,773,000
GRF	725413	OPFC Rental Payments	\$47,703,972
GRF	725456	Canal Lands	\$130,950
GRF	725505	Healthy Lake Erie Fund	\$999,705
GRF	725507	Coal and Mine Safety Program	\$2,795,706
GRF	725903	Natural Res. Gen. Obligation Debt Service	\$20,292,055
GRF	727321	Division of Forestry	\$4,965,022
GRF	729321	Computer Info Systems/Communications	\$181,028
GRF	730321	Parks and Recreation	\$34,829,357
GRF	736321	Division of Chief Engineer	\$2,035,643
GRF	737321	Division of Water Resources	\$1,683,986
GRF	738321	Office of Real Estate & Land Management	\$728,208
GRF	741321	Division of Natural Areas & Preserves	\$4,246,132
		Total GRF	\$122,364,764

<b>FUND</b>	<b>ALI</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>
1550	725601	Departmental Projects	<b>\$566,741</b>
1550	725676	Hocking Hills State Park Lodge	<b>\$472,000</b>
1570	725651	Central Support Indirect	<b>\$5,218,364</b>
2040	725687	Information Services	<b>\$4,900,701</b>
2050	725696	Human Resource Direct Service	<b>\$2,677,748</b>
2230	725665	Law Enforcement Administration	<b>\$3,083,322</b>
2270	725406	Parks Projects Personnel	<b>\$1,667,315</b>
3320	725669	Federal Mine Safety Grant	<b>\$272,458</b>
3B30	725640	Federal Forest Passthrough	<b>\$784,250</b>
3B40	725641	Federal Flood Passthrough	<b>\$100,477</b>
3B50	725645	Federal Abandoned Mine Lands	<b>\$11,319,820</b>
3B60	725653	Federal Land & Water Conservation	<b>\$8,112,304</b>
3B70	725654	Reclamation-Regulatory	<b>\$1,410,768</b>
3P10	725632	Geological Survey-Federal	<b>\$259,108</b>
3P20	725642	Oil And Gas-Federal	<b>\$145,633</b>
3P30	725650	Real Estate & Land Management-Federal	<b>\$2,334,570</b>
3P40	725660	Water-Federal	<b>\$135,774</b>
3R50	725673	Acid Mine Drainage Abate/Trtmnt	<b>\$689,095</b>
3Z50	725657	REALM Federal	<b>\$2,647,024</b>
4300	725671	Canal Lands	<b>\$627,098</b>
4S90	725622	Natureworks Personnel	<b>\$268,875</b>
4U60	725668	Scenic Rivers Protection	<b>\$33,371</b>
5090	725602	State Forest	<b>\$8,384,051</b>
5100	725631	Maintenance-State-Owned Residences	<b>\$127,578</b>
5110	725646	Ohio Geological Mapping	<b>\$6,664,890</b>
5110	725679	GIS Centralized Services	<b>\$509,881</b>



<b>FUND</b>	<b>ALI</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>
5120	725605	State Parks Operations	<b>\$36,986,865</b>
5140	725606	Lake Erie Shoreline	<b>\$1,888,089</b>
5160	725620	Water Management	<b>\$2,985,995</b>
5180	725643	Oil And Gas Permit Fees	<b>\$22,206,470</b>
5180	725677	Oil & Gas Well Plugging	<b>\$17,083,491</b>
5180	C725U6	Oil And Gas Facilities	<b>\$9,901</b>
5210	725627	Off-Road Vehicle Trails	<b>\$293,018</b>
5220	725656	Natural Areas Checkoff Funds	<b>\$261,896</b>
5290	725639	Unreclaimed Lands	<b>\$3,651,686</b>
5310	725648	Reclamation Supplemental Forfeiture	<b>\$78,835</b>
5CV1	725697	Coronavirus Relief/DNR COVID Safety	<b>\$5,000,000</b>
5EL0	725612	Wildlife Law Enforcement	<b>\$27</b>
5EM0	725613	Natural Resources Law Enforcement	<b>\$1,183</b>
5HK0	725625	Ohio Nature Preserves	<b>\$843</b>
5MW0	725604	Natural Resources Special Purpose	<b>\$232,492</b>
5P20	725634	Wildlife Boater Angler Administration	<b>\$4,150,431</b>
5TD0	725514	Park Maintenance	<b>\$1,561,474</b>
6150	725661	Dam Safety	<b>\$1,050,029</b>
6350	725664	Fountain Square Facilities Management	<b>\$4,115,891</b>
6970	725670	Submerged Lands	<b>\$461,853</b>
6H20	725681	H2Ohio	<b>\$27,685,760</b>
7015	740401	Division Of Wildlife Conservation	<b>\$58,047,259</b>
7015	C725B0	Access Development	<b>\$2,095</b>
7015	C725B6	Upgrade Underground Fuel Tanks	<b>\$63,743</b>
7015	C725K9	Wildlife Area Building Development/Renov.	<b>\$3,453,976</b>
7015	C725L9	Dam Rehabilitation	<b>\$147,888</b>

<b>FUND</b>	<b>ALI</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>
7015	C725W0	MARCS Equipment	<b>\$8,312</b>
7026	C725D5	Fountain Square Telephone Improvements	<b>\$807,399</b>
7026	C725D7	MARCS Equipment	<b>\$2,010</b>
7026	C725E0	ODNR Fairgrounds Areas-Upgrading	<b>\$2,975</b>
7026	C725N7	District Office Revovations	<b>\$1,947,348</b>
7031	C72544	Buck Creek State Park	<b>\$1,723</b>
7031	C72549	ODNR Facilities Development	<b>\$3,264,012</b>
7031	C725C2	Canals Hydro Work Support Facs	<b>\$12,187</b>
7031	C725C5	Grand Lake St Marys State Park	<b>\$25,000</b>
7031	C725E1	Local Parks Projects-Statewide	<b>\$4,281,340</b>
7031	C725E5	Project Planning	<b>\$931,698</b>
7031	C725J0	Natural Areas & Pres. Maintenance Facility	<b>\$5,622</b>
7031	C725K0	State Park Renovations/Upgrades	<b>\$1,250,305</b>
7031	C725M0	Dam Rehabilitation	<b>\$1,906,408</b>
7031	C725N5	Wastewater/Water Systems Upgrd	<b>\$201,922</b>
7031	C725N8	Forestry Equipment	<b>\$281,450</b>
7031	C725T3	Healthy Lake Erie Initiative	<b>\$14,255,709</b>
7035	C725A0	Park Campgrounds/Lodges/Cabins	<b>\$54,127,869</b>
7035	C725B2	Parks Equipment	<b>\$2,249,237</b>
7035	C725B5	Buckeye Lake Dam Rehabilitation	<b>\$274,976</b>
7035	C725C4	Muskingum River Lock & Dam	<b>\$6,793,480</b>
7035	C725E2	Local Parks Projects	<b>\$27,456,321</b>
7035	C725E6	Project Planning	<b>\$7,582,909</b>
7035	C725L8	Statewide Trails Program	<b>\$146,467</b>
7035	C725N6	Wastewater & Water Systems Upgrades	<b>\$6,740,996</b>
7035	C725R3	State Parks Renovations/Upgrade	<b>\$1,907,931</b>

FUND	ALI	APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM	EXPENDITURES
7035	C725R4	Dam Rehabilitation-Parks	\$34,087,215
7035	C725R5	Lake White State Park-Dam Rehabilitation	\$1,613,457
7035	C725U4	Water Quality Equipment & Projects	\$1,604
7035	C725U5	The Banks	\$600,000
7035	C725U7	Eagle Creek Watershed Flood Mitigation	\$2,674,187
7035	C725U8	Erosion Emergency Assistance	\$5,000,000
7061	725405	Clean Ohio Operating	\$200,408
7061	C72514	Clean Ohio Trail Fund	\$23,779,287
7086	725414	Waterways Improvement	\$6,140,770
7086	739401	Watercraft Operations	\$27,797,106
7086	C725A7	Cooperative Funding For Boating Facilities	\$5,697,167
7086	C725N9	Operations Facilities	\$2,050,491
7086	C725Q6	ODNR Facilities Development	\$64,621
8150	725636	Cooperative Management Projects	\$650,000
8160	725649	Wetlands Habitat	\$1,935,976
8170	725655	Wildlife Conservation Checkoff	\$1,898,948
8180	725629	Cooperative Fisheries Research	\$1,400,000
8190	725685	Ohio River Management	\$43,878
81B0	725688	Wildlife Habitat	\$1,200,000
R017	725659	Performance Cash Bond Refunds	\$342,280
R043	725624	Forestry	\$1,338,745
<b>Total Non-GRF</b>			<b>\$387,451,387</b>
<b>Total GRF</b>			<b>\$122,364,764</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>			<b>\$509,816,151</b>

# ANNUAL REVENUE – FISCAL YEAR 2021

## By Fund

FUND CODE	FUND DESCRIPTION	YTD REVENUE
1550	Departmental Services-Intrastate	\$9,069,678
1570	Central Support Indirect Chargeback	\$5,641,606
2040	Information Services	\$1,694,993
2050	Human Resources Direct Services	\$2,857,594
2230	Law Enforcement Administration	\$3,458,322
2270	Parks Capital Expenses	\$1,657,204
3320	Mine Grant	\$272,458
3B30	Forest Products	\$451,283
3B40	Flood Control	\$88,692
3B50	Abandoned Mine Reclamation	\$8,804,012
3B60	Land Water Conservation	\$2,380,576
3B70	Regulatory	\$1,416,585
3P10	Geological Survey-Federal	\$318,422
3P20	Oil And Gas-Federal	\$142,000
3P30	Real Estate/Land Management	\$2,409,717
3P40	Water-Federal	\$152,467
3R50	Acid Mine Drainage/Abatement/Treatment	\$92,675
3Z50	REALM Federal	\$2,559,897
4300	Canal Lands	\$842,939
4M80	FOP Contract	\$9,500
4S90	Capital Expenses	\$268,540
4U60	Scenic Rivers Protection	\$52,425
5090	State Forest	\$7,426,382

<b>FUND CODE</b>	<b>FUND DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>YTD REVENUE</b>
5100	Property Management	\$57,597
5110	Geological Mapping	\$6,219,800
5120	State Park	\$39,874,397
5140	Permit And Lease	\$1,584,365
5160	Water Management	\$4,483,960
5180	Oil & Gas Well	\$72,362,095
5210	State Recreational Vehicle	\$549,029
5220	Natural Areas & Preserves	\$886,201
5290	Mining Regulation Safety	\$3,999,277
5310	Reclamation Forfeiture	\$306,129
5ELO	Wildlife Law Enforcement	\$2,906
5EMO	Parks & Recreation Law Enforcement	\$8,634
5HK0	Ohio Nature Preserves	\$42,570
5MW0	Natural Resources Special Purpose	\$13,854
5P20	Wildlife Boater Angler	\$4,465,428
5TD0	State Park Maintenance Fund	\$4,430
5UV0	Multi-Year Lifetime License	\$5,779,159
6150	Dam Safety	\$1,745,145
6350	Fountain Square Management	\$3,560,888
6970	Lake Erie Submerged Lands	\$616,971
7015	Wildlife	\$65,438,756
7086	Waterways Safety	\$34,412,085
8150	Cooperative Management	\$265,714
8160	Wetlands Habitat	\$516,345
8170	Nongame & Endangered Wildlife	\$2,660,191
8180	Cooperative Fish Research Unit	\$954,269

<b>FUND CODE</b>	<b>FUND DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>YTD REVENUE</b>
8190	Ohio River Management	<b>\$11,219</b>
81B0	Wildlife Habitat	<b>\$246,985</b>
GRF	General Revenue	<b>\$172,474</b>
R017	Bond Refunds	<b>\$584,354</b>
R043	Timber Sales Redistribution	<b>\$1,732,268</b>
R063	Wildlife Holding	<b>\$13,946</b>
R064	Parks And Watercraft Holding	<b>\$277,851</b>
X061	Clean Ohio Trail 2020b	<b>\$6,842,837</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$312,760,098</b>





## ANNUAL REPORT

2045 MORSE RD  
COLUMBUS, OH 43229

[ohiodnr.gov](http://ohiodnr.gov)

**2021**  
FISCAL YEAR

FORDER BRIDGE H2OHIO WETLAND PROJECT SITE

GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE | DIRECTOR MARY MERTZ