

ANNUAL REPORT

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2022
FISCAL YEAR

LARGE FLOWERED TRILLIUM

FROM DIRECTOR MARY MERTZ

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is committed to providing Ohioans with the highest quality conservation of and access to the state's wildlife, forests, parks, natural areas, and waterways. We want the public to experience the outdoors at its best, and I'm excited to share a few of ODNR's accomplishments towards that aim over the last year.

Providing exceptional experiences has required significant investment in state park facilities, and I'm happy to report that these efforts are paying dividends. With more full-service hook-ups for RVs and campers, renovated amenities, and activities to enjoy than ever, Ohio State



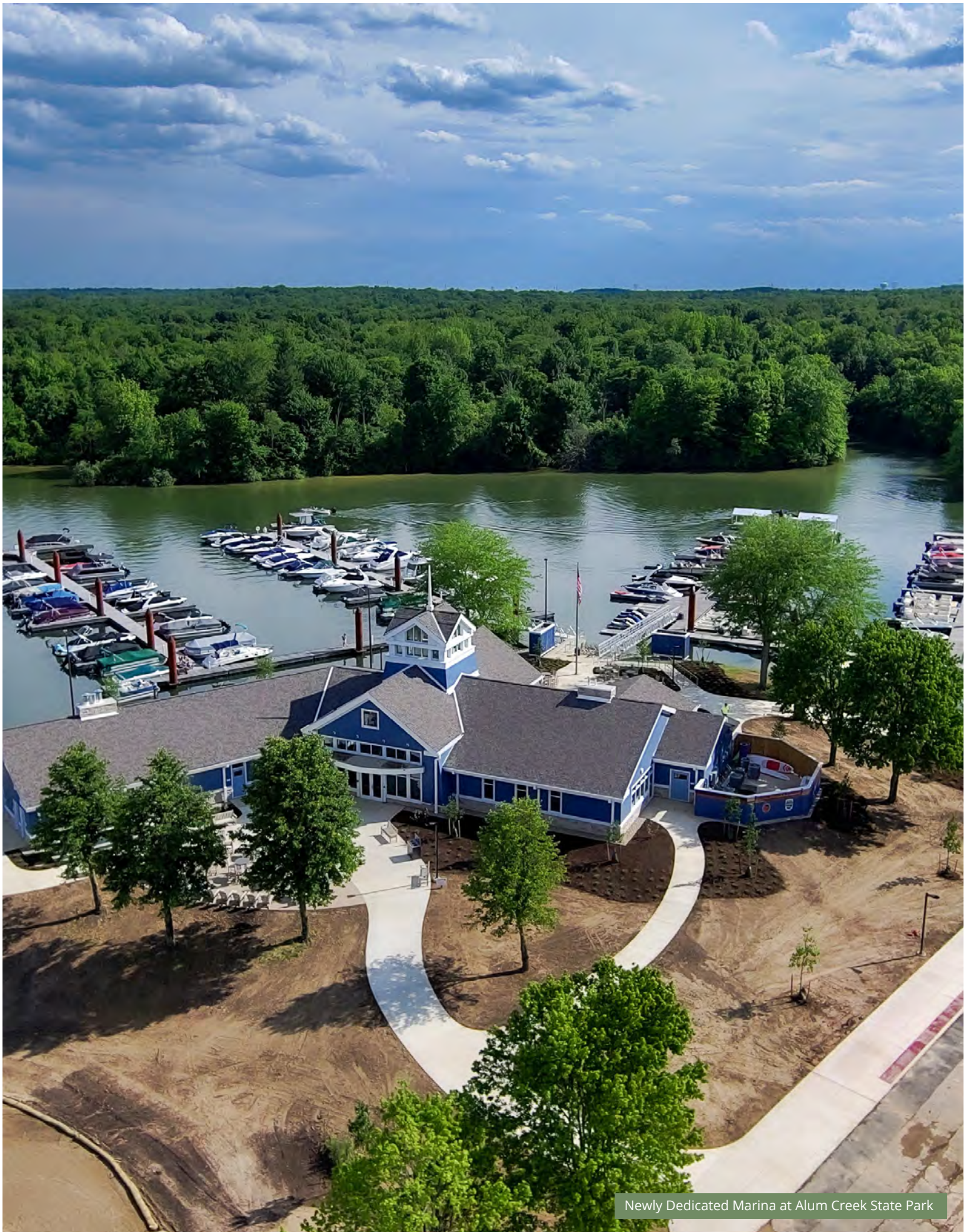
Dedication of the Hueston Woods Nature Center

Parks topped 1 million overnight visitors for the third straight year. Thanks to Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly's confidence in what ODNR is doing for outdoor recreation, we have funded improvements without ever charging entrance fees to state parks.

We want visitors to have fun and learn something along the way, which is why Ohio State Parks initiated major renovations and rebuilds

for multiple state park nature centers. These centers provide hands-on experiences and feature interactive, educational displays for visitors of all ages. In FY22, ODNR opened the renovated East Harbor and Wingfoot Lake nature centers and built the completely new Hueston Woods Nature Center. We also completed eight new Storybook Trails, which present children's books and activities along half-mile trails – promoting outdoor recreation, early childhood literacy, and an active, healthy lifestyle.

Not only can Ohioans experience unparalleled outdoor recreation at ODNR properties, but we have renewed our focus on sharing special historic locations and artifacts found on these public properties with visitors. This year, Ohio State Parks broke ground on the new Great Council State Park near Xenia, one of the largest-known Shawnee settlements in Ohio where many historians believe the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh spent time. The Cardinal Collection, ODNR's digital museum, launched in 2022 and provides users with a convenient way to view and learn about the historic treasures tucked away in our ODNR areas. The collection features hundreds of online photographs of historic artifacts for public viewing.



Newly Dedicated Marina at Alum Creek State Park



Public access to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation was expanded through the Division of Wildlife's acquisition of over 16,000 acres added to wildlife areas in FY22. These purchases will protect important habitats and provide public access to Ohio's incredible hunting, fishing, and birding. Species protection efforts have produced an estimated 806 pairs of bald eagles nesting in Ohio and the reappearance of the federally endangered piping plover nesting at Maumee Bay State Park for the first time in 80 years.

The Division of Forestry added a 1,252-acre tract in Scioto County to Shawnee State Forest using a federal partnership grant through the Forest Legacy Program. This purchase will allow ODNR to partner with the Buckeye Trail Association and reroute a section of the Buckeye Trail off the road and through the wooded area. The Division also provided \$1.5 million to rural school districts through the Trees to Textbooks program and \$469,000 in grants for 94 projects aiding rural fire departments, communities, and nonprofits in the state's wildfire protection region.

The Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP) added 444 acres to the state preserve system and dedicated the 140th preserve – Coyote Run in Fairfield County. DNAP also undertook a major effort to upgrade interpretive signage at preserves statewide, providing visitors with more information about these unique preserves and the plant and animal species they protect.

ODNR's regulatory divisions do critical work for community and environmental safety by not only rehabilitating land that was adversely affected by decades-old industrial operations but investing to transform them into community assets. The Division of Mineral Resources Management's Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program completed 25 projects in 2021 and reclaimed almost



Groundbreaking at Tipp City H2Ohio Wetland Restoration Project

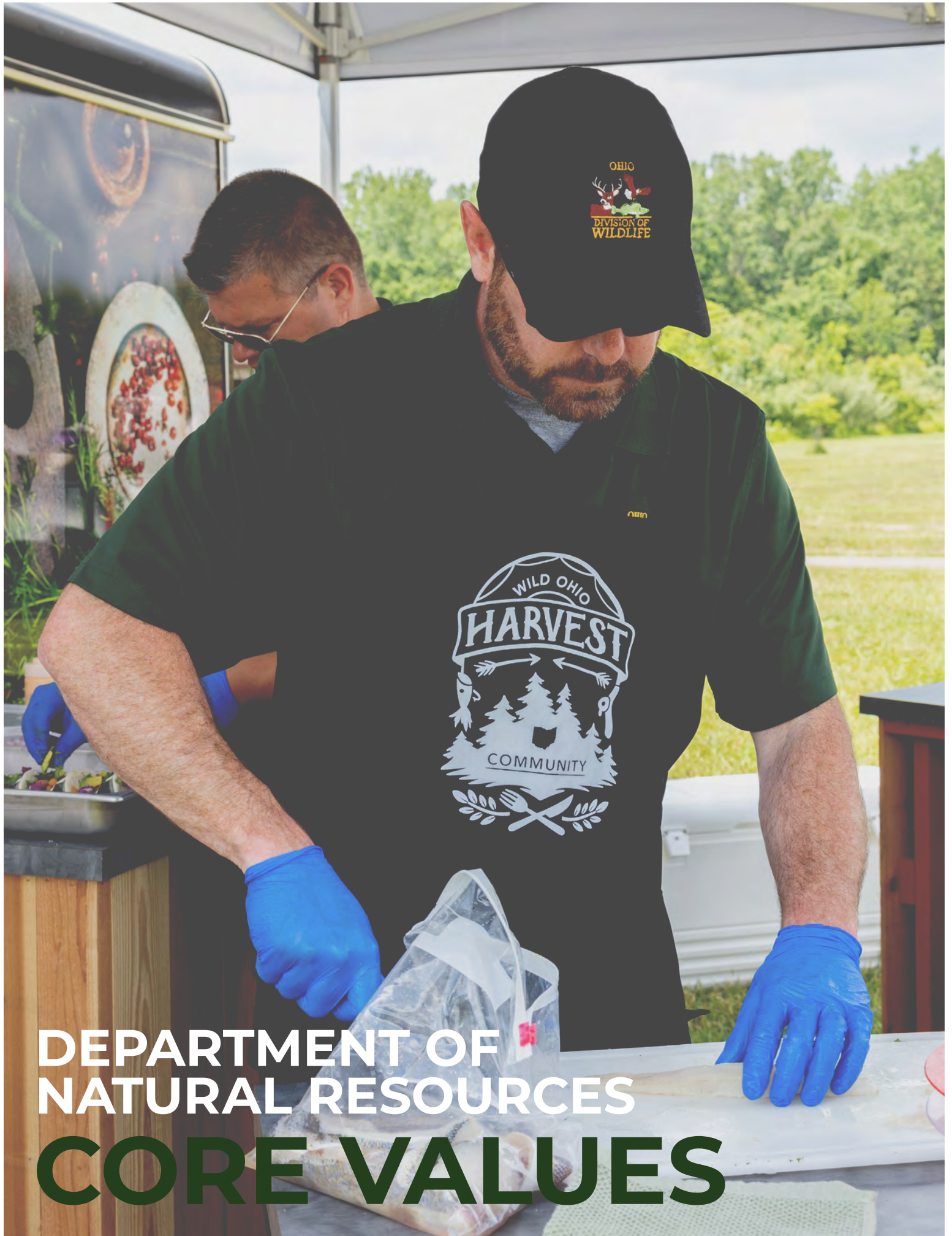
2,000 acres of former coal and industrial mineral sites. The Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management plugged 144 orphan gas wells – protecting public health and safety, conserving natural resources, and allowing the efficient development of Ohio’s oil and gas resources.

Governor DeWine’s H2Ohio initiative is providing clean, accessible water for Ohioans and ensuring the long-term health of our lakes and waterways. ODNR is focused on restoring wetlands, which naturally improve water quality by trapping, filtering, and removing excess nutrients and other pollutants in surface water. ODNR currently has 88 projects completed or in progress. Twenty-three projects have been completed, with 15 more expected to be finished by the end of the 2022. ODNR also awarded two rounds of grants in the Ohio River Basin, expanding the initiative’s reach beyond the Lake Erie basin.

ODNR strives to provide Ohioans with high-quality access to the state’s recreation opportunities and to conserve and protect our natural resources. In the following pages, you will find highlights of ODNR’s work over the past year. It is our privilege to serve Ohioans, and I hope you will join us in enjoying and protecting these natural treasures.

Sincerely,

Mary Mertz
Mary Mertz, Director



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.

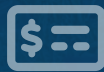
H2Ohio



H2OHIO BY NUMBERS



88
H2OHIO PROJECTS
COMPLETED/
IN PROGRESS



20
OHIO RIVER BASIN
PROJECTS FUNDED



40k
TREES PLANTED IN
WETLAND BUFFERS



\$8M
IN OHIO RIVER
BASIN GRANTS
(ORB)



18k
STUDENTS
REACHED THROUGH
H2OHIO STUDENTS
TAKE ACTION
PROGRAM



100k
ACRES OF
WATERSHED
FILTERED BY
H2OHIO PROJECTS

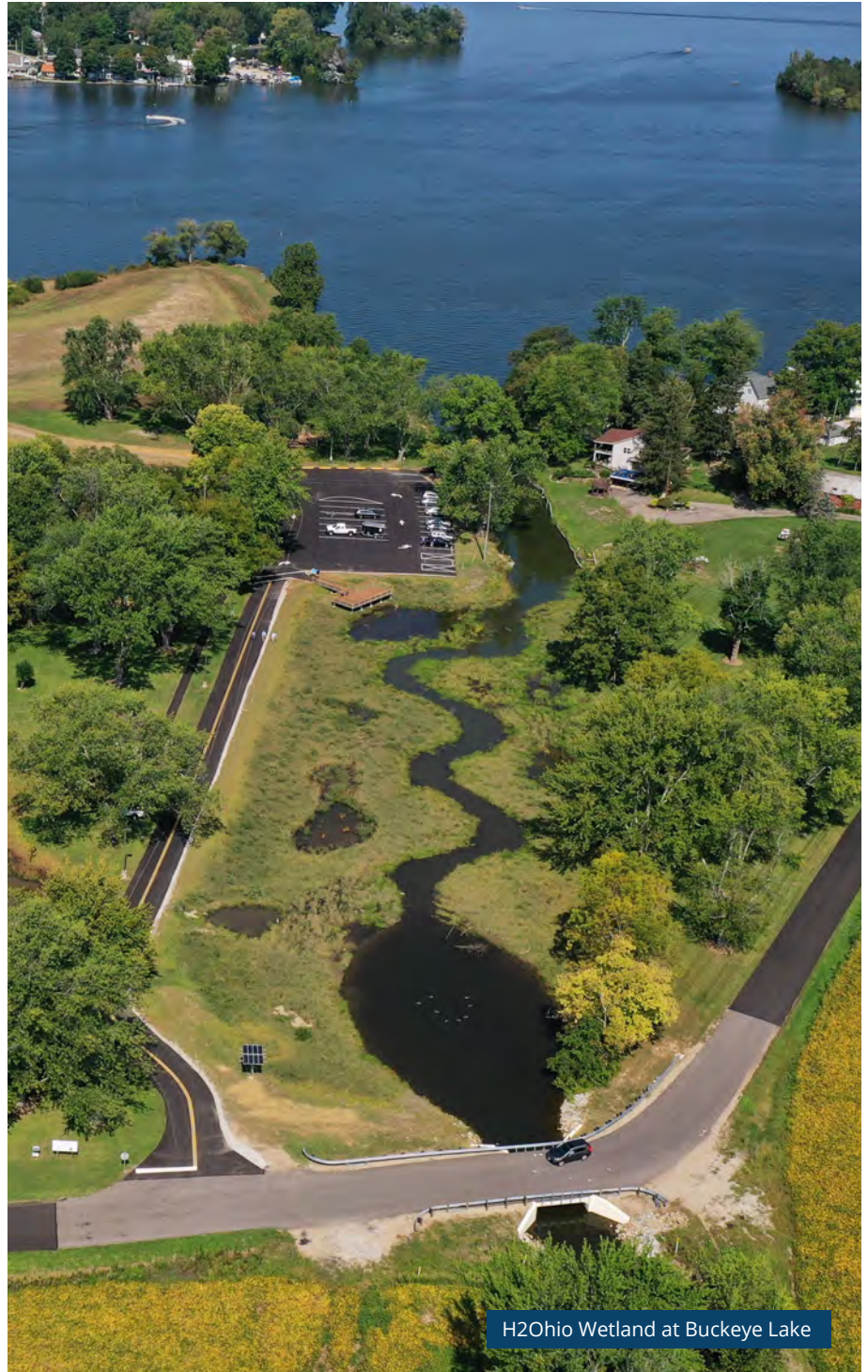
WETLAND CREATION & RESTORATION

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 88 projects complete or in progress. Twenty-three projects have been completed, with 15 more expected to be finished by the end of 2022. ODNR also awarded two rounds of grants in the Ohio River Basin, expanding the initiative's reach beyond the Lake Erie basin. Twenty projects were funded through the grants.

ODNR launched the H2Ohio Students Take Action program. The program has reached 1,800 students, connecting them with real-world learning opportunities, access to wetland sites, career exploration opportunities, and more. Projects in this program urge students to "take action" with their ideas and use what they learn to positively impact their watershed. The ODNR H2Ohio Program continues to identify future opportunities for strategic, targeted nutrient reduction wetlands to improve Ohio's water quality ■



H2Ohio Wetland at Buckeye Lake

COASTAL RESOURCES

An aerial photograph of a white lighthouse with a red top, situated on a rocky coastline. The lighthouse is surrounded by dense green trees and a blue sky with light clouds. A paved path leads to the lighthouse, and a few people can be seen walking. The water is visible in the foreground, showing some white foam from waves.

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



48

TEMPORARY SHORE
STRUCTURE PERMITS ISSUED



23

STANDARD SHORE STRUCTURE
PERMITS ISSUED



37

SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE
CONTRACT ACTIONS



3.5

MILES OF REPAIRS TO
OR NEW CONSTRUCTION
OF EROSION CONTROL
MEASURES AUTHORIZED



2,300

CUBIC YARDS OF SAND PLACED
ALONG THE LAKE ERIE COAST



250

RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND/
OR INFORMATION RELATED
TO LAKE ERIE EROSION
AND ODNR'S LAKE ERIE
REGULATORY PROGRAMS



3,500

VISITORS TO OLD WOMAN
CREEK NATIONAL ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE



\$269k

SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE
RENTAL PAYMENTS COLLECTED
AND DISBURSED TO LOCAL
LAKEFRONT COMMUNITIES

ASSISTING COASTAL COMMUNITIES

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 FY22, the office of Coastal Management awarded more than \$424,000 in grants to five communities.

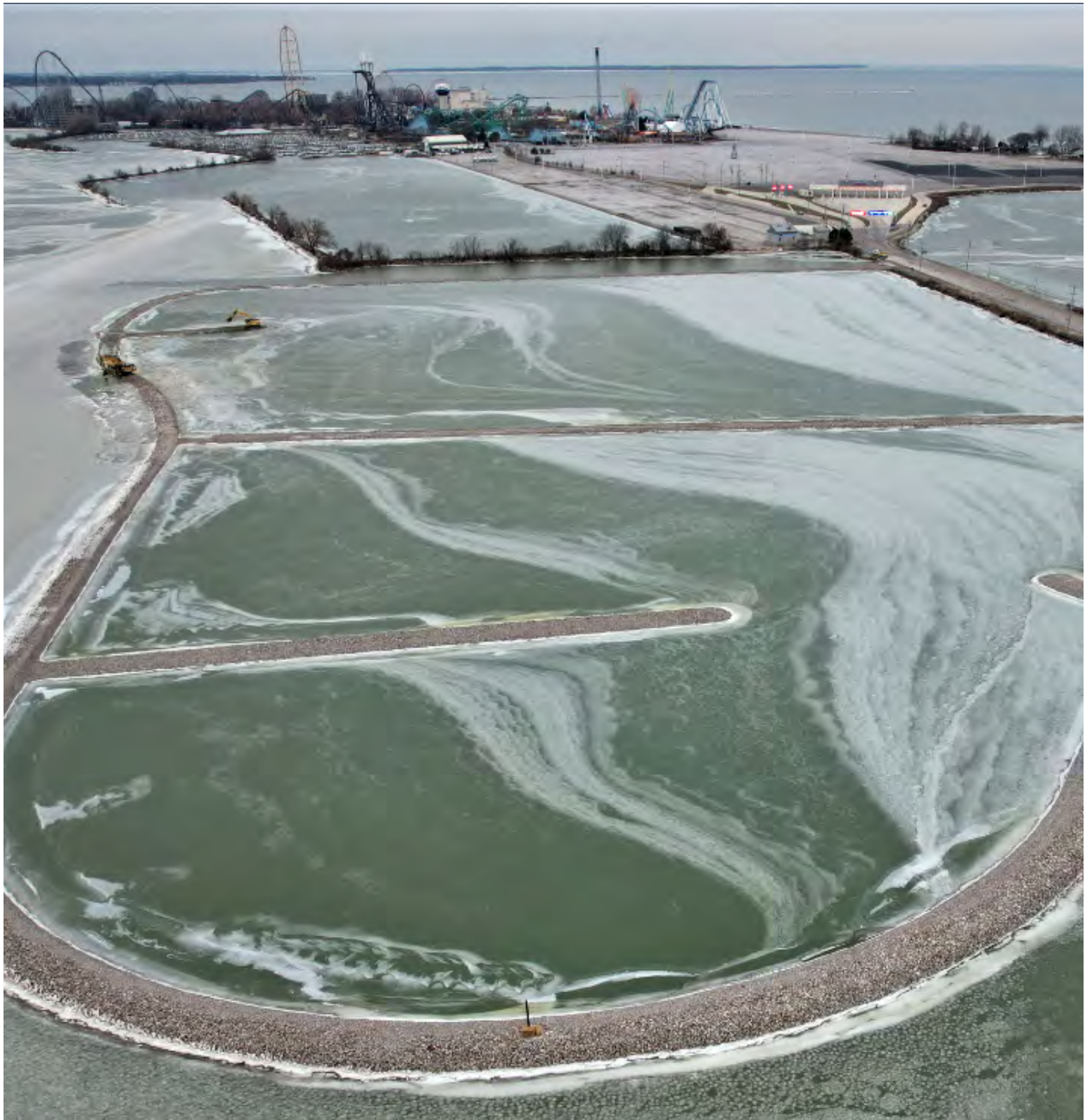
NATURE BASED SHORELINE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND PILOT PROJECT

The Ohio Coastal Management Program and the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve collaborated on the development and implementation of a Nature-based Shoreline Certification Program for contractors, engineers, and landscape architects. The training involved three days of instruction on techniques used to provide nature-based measures to mitigate erosion along Ohio's shoreline, a certification test, and hands-on installation of a nature-based pilot project along the Lake Erie shore at Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve.



OLD WOMAN CREEK OUTREACH

The Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve reached over 500 stakeholders through virtual and in-person training events in collaboration with partners on topics such as science communication, fostering behavior change, virtual conference presentations, economic assessment of research, wilderness first aid, and a stormwater learning series. Staff also offered teacher workshops, hosted the virtual Science Fridays series, and added five new online videos that highlight the Reserve's natural features.



CEDAR POINT CAUSEWAY WETLAND PROJECT

The Cedar Point Causeway wetland project will receive dredge material this fall to create a new coastal wetland, restore lost fish & wildlife habitat, and improve water quality in Sandusky Bay. ODNR Healthy Lake Erie funds were used to design and construct this innovative wetland restoration project, the first of its kind in the Great Lakes ■



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



New Lodge at Hocking Hills State Park



Muskingum River Lock Repairs

ENGINEERING BY THE NUMBERS



\$41.3
MILLION IN
IMPROVEMENTS



1
SHOOTING RANGE
UPGRADE



5
STATE PARK LODGE
PROJECTS



34
COMPLETED
PROJECTS



5
MARINA AND
BOATING ACCESS
PROJECTS



7
DAM/SPILLWAY
PROJECTS
COMPLETED

MANAGING FORESTS

The Division of Forestry operates and maintains 24 state forests, encompassing more than 203,250 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

1,284

ACRES OF WOODLAND
ADDED TO THE STATE
FOREST SYSTEM



\$1.5M

TREES TO TEXTBOOKS
FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS



249

TREE CITY USA
COMMUNITIES IN OHIO



15k+

EASTERN HEMLOCK TREES
PROTECTED FROM HEMLOCK
WOOLLY ADELGID



\$350k

IN TREE PLANTING
GRANTS AWARDED TO
OHIO COMMUNITIES
AND ORGANIZATIONS

EXPANDING OUR FORESTS

The Division of Forestry acquired a 1,252-acre tract in Scioto County as a new addition to Shawnee State Forest with a federal partnership grant through the Forest Legacy Program. This expansion significantly increases Ohio's largest contiguous block of forest and will enhance biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and other indirect and direct benefits to all Ohioans. In addition to the expansion, 118 acres of Shawnee State Forest were designated High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF). There are now 15,261 acres of HCVF in the state forest system.



PROMOTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN FORESTRY

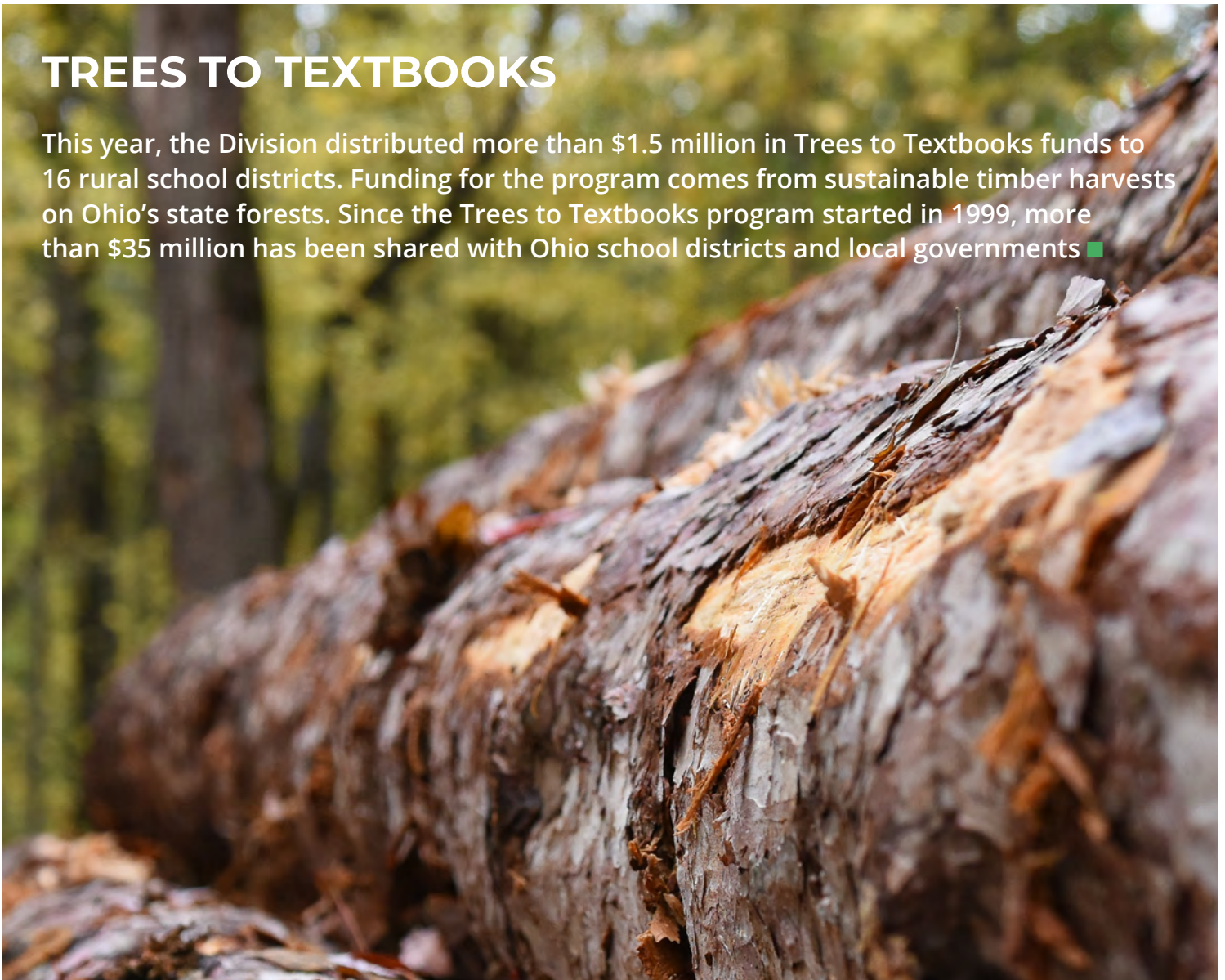
In 2022, the Division of Forestry created the Youth Outreach Committee, an offshoot of its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative. The committee develops partnerships with outside organizations to increase recruitment and interest in forestry and the life-sustaining benefits of forests. The effort has led to participation in more than 150 events this year.

SUPPRESSING WILDFIRE

The Division of Forestry provided \$469,000 in grants for 94 projects aiding rural fire departments, communities, and nonprofits in the wildfire protection region. The Division of Forestry's Interagency Fire Crew provided engines and 70 resources to assist suppression efforts throughout the United States.

TREES TO TEXTBOOKS

This year, the Division distributed more than \$1.5 million in Trees to Textbooks funds to 16 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 \$35 million has been shared with Ohio school districts and local governments ■



GEOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS



6.1k
WATER WELL
RECORDS
DOCUMENTED



3K Sq. Mi.
OF DETAILED
GEOLOGIC
MAPPING
COMPLETED



41k
FREE
HANDOUTS
AND MAPS
DISTRIBUTED



1.65k
INQUIRIES
ANSWERED BY
THE GEOLOGIC
RECORDS
CENTER



~2k
GEOPHYSICAL
LOGS ARCHIVED
AND PUBLICLY
RELEASED



38
COUNTY
GROUNDWATER
VULNERABILITY
MAPS REVISED

STATEWIDE GROUNDWATER VULNERABILITY MAPS

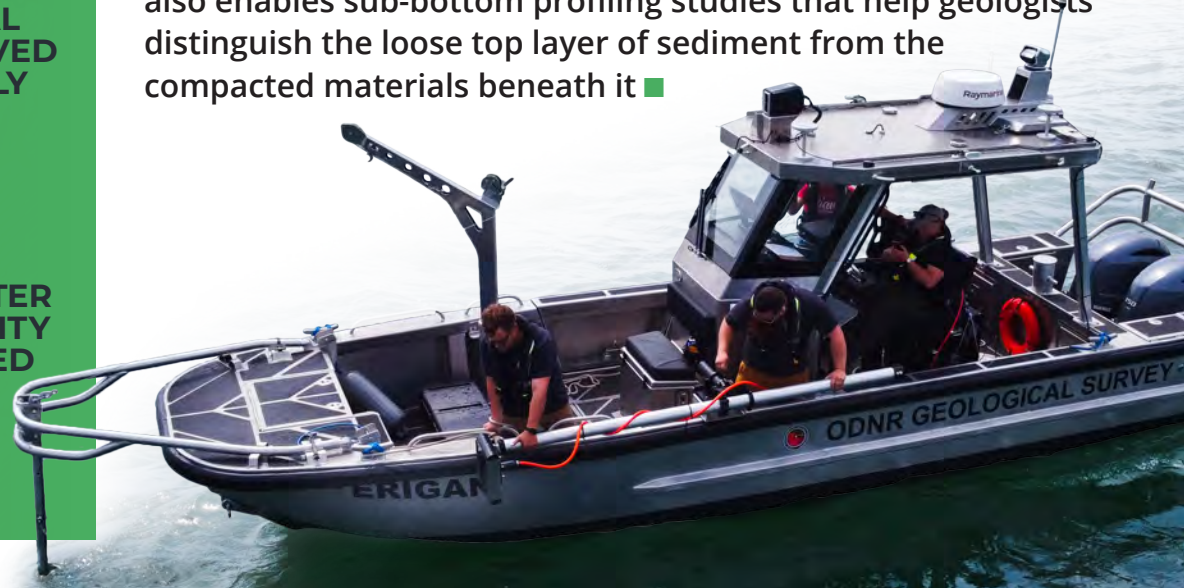
The Division released new groundwater maps that will serve as important tools for land-use planning and development. The maps offer a detailed assessment of Ohio's aquifers and how vulnerable they are to pollution. The maps depict an area's vulnerability to groundwater contamination based upon its hydrogeologic, topographic, and soil characteristics. The new maps also provide a systematic breakdown of Ohio's hydrogeologic settings.

NEW BOREHOLE SEISMOMETERS

The Division installed nine new borehole seismic stations. These improve upon the traditional shallow vault seismometers that comprised the majority of the OhioSeis Network. These new seismic stations can both more accurately record earthquakes and detect them at a lower threshold.

NEW RESEARCH VESSEL ERIGAN LAUNCHES

The Division launched its new research vessel, Erigan, in 2021. The vessel will be used to help geologists better understand the sediments and rocks found on the bottom of Lake Erie. Research includes analyzing the distribution of offshore sediments, measuring bathymetry (lake depth), and using side-scan sonar to identify patterns in sediments. The new boat also enables sub-bottom profiling studies that help geologists distinguish the loose top layer of sediment from the compacted materials beneath it ■



MINERAL RESOURCES

A photograph of a construction or mining site. In the foreground, a worker wearing a blue shirt and a white hard hat is seen from the side, looking towards the site. In the background, another worker in a dark shirt and white hard hat is visible. The site is cordoned off with orange and white safety barriers and yellow caution tape. The sky is overcast and grey.

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



1.7k
INDUSTRIAL
MINERAL
INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED



2k
ACRES OF
COAL AND
INDUSTRIAL
MINERALS
MINE LAND
RECLAIMED



25
AML PROJECTS
COMPLETED



15
MINE
SUBSIDENCE
SINKHOLES
STABILIZED



2.9
ACRES OF
LANDSLIDES
AND SEEPAGE
STABILIZED



6
MINE PORTALS
SEALED



4.6k
MINERS
TRAINED
IN HEALTH
& SAFETY
PROGRAMS

ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAM

The Division administers both a state and federal abandoned mine land program (AML) 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 25 projects in 2021. The program was also awarded \$25 million in AML Economic Revitalization (AMLER) funding for economic development projects.

INDUSTRIAL MINERALS REGULATION

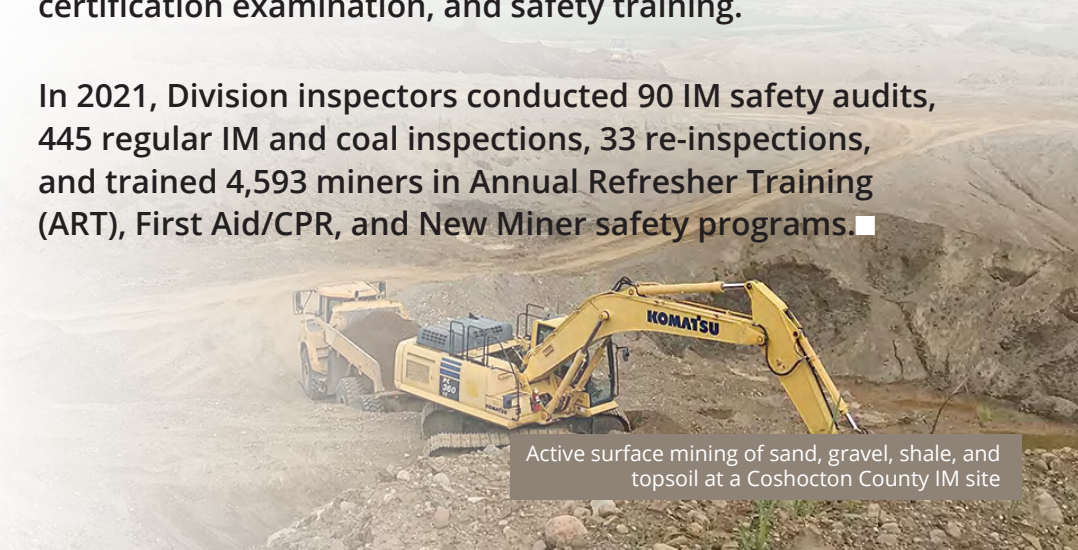
Ohio is a major producer of non-fuel minerals, also known as industrial minerals (IM), including: limestone and dolomite, sand and gravel, salt, sandstone and conglomerate, shale, and clay.

Inspection staff, assisted by expert environmental specialists, hydrogeologists, blasting specialists, and engineering staff, performed 1,657 IM mine site inspections in 2021.

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 2021, Division inspectors conducted 90 IM safety audits, 445 regular IM and coal inspections, 33 re-inspections, and trained 4,593 miners in Annual Refresher Training (ART), First Aid/CPR, and New Miner safety programs. ■



Active surface mining of sand, gravel, shale, and topsoil at a Coshocton County IM site

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, 140 state nature preserves and natural areas protect more than 30,000 acres.



NATURAL AREAS BY THE NUMBERS



1,382

ACRES ADDED TO STATE
PRESERVES & STATE
SCENIC RIVERS



920

RARE SPECIES RECORDS
UPDATED/ENTERED IN
THE OHIO NATURAL
HERITAGE DATABASE



6

NEW NATIVE SPECIES
DISCOVERED



1

PRESUMED EXTIRPATED
PLANT REDISCOVERED



43

NEW INTERPRETIVE
SIGNS INSTALLED



1,699

HOURS OF STREAM QUALITY
MONITORING ON OHIO'S
15 STATE SCENIC RIVERS



1,498

ACCESS PERMITS ISSUED

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 2021, the Division added another new preserve to the system with the dedication of Coyote Run in Fairfield County. The 230-acre preserve was dedicated as the 140th state nature preserve and protects forested wetlands that are home to an incredible diversity of amphibian species.

Other additions include 18 acres protected as Scenic River lands adjacent to the Olentangy Scenic River in Delaware County, 39 acres added to Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve in Portage County, 15 acres added to Goll Woods State Nature Preserve in Fulton County, 72 acres adjacent to Little Darby Creek in Madison County, 46 acres added to Miriam Walters Barrens State Nature preserve in Meigs County, and 22 acres added to Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve in Lake County.



Dedication of Coyote Run, Ohio's 140th State Nature Preserve

SIGNAGE ENHANCEMENTS

State nature preserves provide access to some of the most scenic locations in Ohio for outdoor enthusiasts, and in 2021, the Division initiated a statewide interpretive signage project to better educate visitors about the unique attributes of preserves across the state. Signage topics include the impact of invasive species and detailed ecologic and geologic interpretive panels so that visitors will have the opportunity to discover the unique aspects of each preserve. ■



New signs at Boch Hollow and Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserves

A photograph showing two workers in high-visibility safety vests and hard hats working on a wellhead. One worker is using a red pipe wrench on a red valve. The background shows a muddy area with some debris.

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



21k
SITE
INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED



21
ORPHAN WELL
PROGRAM
FUNDS
AWARDED



144
ORPHAN WELLS
PLUGGED



354
DRILLING
PERMITS
ISSUED



201
HORIZONTAL
WELL PERMITS
ISSUED



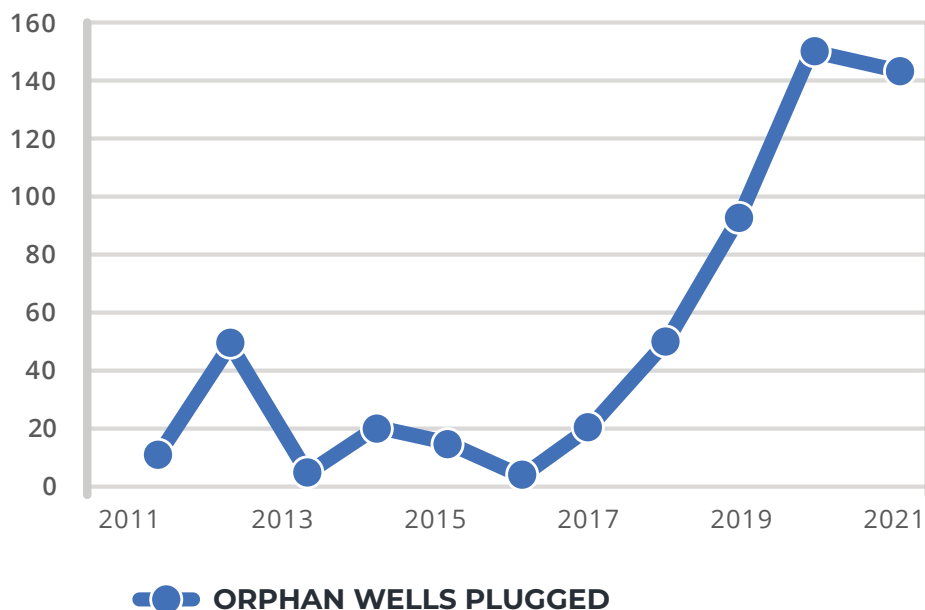
269
PLUG PERMITS
ISSUED



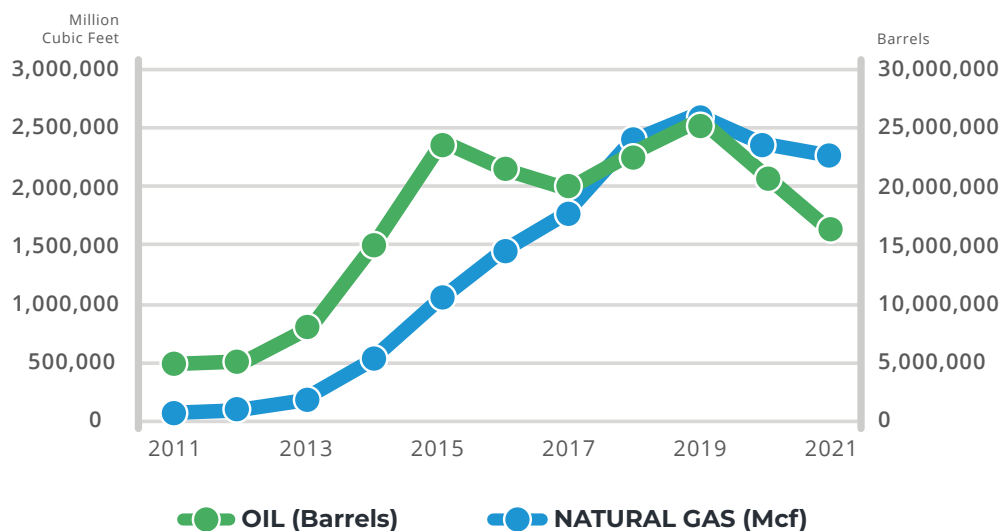
29
WELL PAD
CONSTRUCTION
PERMITS
ISSUED

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 2021, the Division plugged 144 orphan wells.



OIL & NATURAL GAS SHALE PRODUCTION



An aerial photograph of a campsite or park area. In the foreground, there are several buildings with grey roofs and a paved area. A dark-colored car is parked on the right side, and a smaller vehicle is parked below it. The background shows a grassy field with some trees and a rocky area in the top left corner.

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

1.1 MILLION

NIGHTS BOOKED AT OHIO STATE PARKS

22% INCREASE
OVER PREVIOUS YEAR



644K

WATERCRAFT REGISTRATIONS



14K

OHIO BOATERS EDUCATION COURSES TAKEN



8

NEW STORYBOOK TRAILS OPENED



3

NEW/RENOVATED NATURE CENTERS OPENED

CAMPING AND VISITATION CONTINUES TO CLIMB

For the third straight year, visitation to Ohio State Parks continues to skyrocket. From June 2021 to May 2022, Ohio State Parks recorded nearly 1.1 million overnight reservations—a 22% increase year over year.

OHIO NOW FIFTH NATIONALLY IN WATERCRAFT REGISTRATIONS

Watercraft registrations continued to climb in 2021 to more than 640,000, resulting in Ohio moving from sixth to fifth place nationally for boat registrations. Registrations increased for all types of watercraft, but particularly for paddlecraft.

8%

INCREASE IN WATERCRAFT REGISTRATIONS OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR



NEW ALUM CREEK MARINA

The new marina building at Alum Creek State Park opened to the public in June 2022. The new 7,866 sq. ft. complex features indoor retail and boat rental areas, as well as a café. Outside, an open plaza and covered back porch provides casual seating for more than a hundred visitors. Situated near a popular boat ramp, the marina will be a popular amenity for both dock holders and day-use visitors.



NATURE CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

In 2020, ODNR launched an initiative to improve the more than two dozen nature centers currently found in state parks. Nature centers provide hands-on experiences and feature interactive, educational displays for visitors of all ages. In FY22, ODNR opened the newly renovated East Harbor and Wingfoot Lake nature centers and built the completely new Hueston Woods Nature Center.



STORYBOOK TRAIL PROGRAM GROWS

Ohio State Parks launched its Storybook Trail program in 2019 to promote literacy, a healthy lifestyle, and a love of nature. 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. The response from Ohio families has been overwhelmingly positive, so the Division opened eight more Storybook Trails in FY22 ■

REAL ESTATE AND LAND MANAGEMENT

The office of Real Estate and 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



19.1k
ACRES OF NEW
LAND ACQUIRED



20
REAL ESTATE
ACQUISITIONS
COMPLETED



166
GRANTS AWARDED



\$24.6M
GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

\$5.28M
NATUREWORKS
GRANT

\$6.23M
CLEAN OHIO
TRAILS FUND

\$1.5M
RECREATIONAL
TRAILS PROGRAM

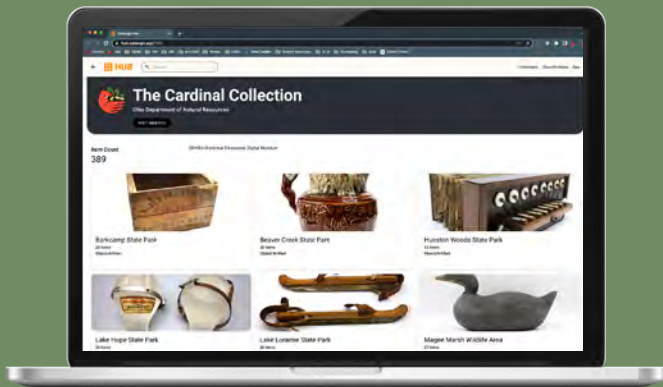
\$11.6M
LAND & WATER
CONSERVATION FUND

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 FY22, REALM collaborated with the Division of Parks & Watercraft to acquire and dedicate Great Council State Park near Xenia, one of the largest-known Shawnee settlements in Ohio and where many historians believe the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh spent time.



THE CARDINAL COLLECTION



REALM launched the Cardinal Collection, ODNR's digital museum, in 2022. The Cardinal Collection provides users with a convenient way to view and learn about the historic treasures tucked away in our natural areas. The collection features hundreds of photographs of historic artifacts available for public viewing.

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

State program providing outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans by funding the construction of trails for outdoor pursuits of all kinds. This program typically funds long distance trails that provide critical links to statewide and regional trails.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

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

An aerial photograph showing a long, narrow dam structure spanning a river. The dam has a circular structure at one end. To the right of the river is a lush green field, and to the left is a wooded area with some autumn-colored trees. The sky is dark, suggesting a shadow or a dark background for the text.

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



281
DAM SAFETY
INSPECTIONS



37
EMERGENCY
ACTION PLANS
REVIEWED AND
APPROVED



44
DAM REPAIR
PROJECTS
APPROVED



50+
COMMUNITIES
ASSISTED WITH
FLOODPLAIN
MANAGEMENT
REGULATIONS



\$218K
IN FEDERAL
GRANTS FOR
FLOODPLAIN
MANAGEMENT



500+
RESPONSES TO
FLOODPLAIN
ASSISTANCE
REQUESTS



410
WATER
WITHDRAWAL
DATA
REQUESTS

DAM SAFETY

ODNR is responsible for inspecting and regulating about 1,400 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. The Dam Safety Program was awarded over \$1 million in federal funds through FEMA's High Hazard Potential Dams grant to assist in bringing deficient dams into compliance with Ohio's dam safety standards. The Dam Safety Program also received the Association of State Dam Safety official's Regional Award of Merit for its work developing a dam safety enforcement program.

WATER INVENTORY AND PLANNING

ODNR collects information on high-capacity water withdrawals, represents Ohio on the Great Lakes Compact, and regulates inter-basin water diversions and consumptive use. In FY22, ODNR received more than 2,100 annual water withdrawal reports and processed 61 new Water Withdrawal Facility Registrations — a requirement for any facility that has the capability to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day. Withdrawal data by county and basin can now be viewed on the Division webpage using the new Water Withdrawal Atlas. In March 2022, the Division issued its first Water Withdrawal and Consumptive Use Permit for a planned aquaculture facility in the Lake Erie Basin.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Floodplain management involves corrective and preventive actions to reduce the damage caused by flooding and to promote the natural benefit of floodplains. Last year, ODNR responded to more than 500 requests for floodplain-related technical assistance from communities, citizens, and the private sector. The Floodplain Management Program delivered 12 webinars to community officials and professional organizations and co-hosted the 2021 Ohio Statewide Floodplain Management Conference in coordination with the Ohio Floodplain Management Association ■

A man in a green jacket is releasing a fish into a pond. A large crowd of children and adults is gathered around the pond, watching the fish being released. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a public event or educational activity.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Ohio offers world-class fishing, hunting, trapping, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and other forms of fish and wildlife recreation in 150 state wildlife areas, encompassing 267,000 acres of public land.



WILDLIFE BY THE NUMBERS



16.8k
ACRES ADDED TO
WILDLIFE AREAS



806
ESTIMATED PAIRS
OF BALD EAGLES



197k
DEER HARVESTED



9k
FISH OHIO SUBMISSIONS



2.3k
ACRES OF H2OHIO
WETLANDS IMPROVED

PIPING PLOVERS NEST IN OHIO

A pair of federally endangered piping plovers successfully nested at Maumee Bay State Park in 2021, the first time in over 80 years the species has bred in the state. The Division of Wildlife partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Black Swamp Bird Observatory to protect an area of beach near the nest and monitor the pair throughout the summer. The captivating pair raised four chicks. Additional nesting areas for piping plovers were protected at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve for 2022.

BALD EAGLE POPULATION STILL SOARING



An estimated 806 pairs of bald eagles nested in Ohio in 2021. That estimate represents a positive leap from the 707 nests counted in an extensive nest survey in 2020. Once nearly extirpated from the state, conservation measures and the nesting success of the bald eagle have led to its removal from state and federal endangered species lists. Bald eagles can be found in nearly all of Ohio's counties along lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

MAGEE MARSH PROJECTS

Extensive repairs and improvements were made to the popular birding boardwalk at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area after storm damage in August 2021. Wooden rails

were replaced with cable in some areas to improve viewing for those in wheelchairs and scooters and an observation deck was lowered to create a better viewing area. A complete renovation of the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center is coming in 2023.

PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITIONS

Public access to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation was expanded through major land acquisitions to wildlife areas in FY22. The 415-acre Mallett Family Tract — in partnership with Pheasants Forever — was added to Big Island Wildlife Area, and an additional 182 acres were added to Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area. These purchases will protect important habitats and provide public access to Ohio's incredible hunting, fishing, and birding. The Division of Wildlife also closed on the final acquisition for Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area, which now encompasses more than 50,000 acres.

H2OHIO CONTINUES TO HELP OHIO'S WILDLIFE

The Division of Wildlife led several H2Ohio wetland restoration projects that have multi-faceted benefits of habitat creation, pollutant and sediment filtration, erosion reduction, and flood control.

Mallard Club Wildlife Area, Turtle Creek, Grand Lake St. Marys, and Mercer Wildlife Area were among the 2,300 acres improved. The creation, restoration, and conservation of wetlands through H2Ohio will benefit 90 threatened and endangered species, as well as provide birding, waterfowl hunting, boating, and angling opportunities.



OHIO LANDOWNER-HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM

The Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Program debuted in September 2021, providing hunters access to enrolled private land. The program is partially funded by the federal Farm Bill through a \$1.8 million competitive grant and incentivizes landowners to allow hunting access on their property. In the first three months of the program, more than 2,700 daily permits were issued, and hunters were overwhelmingly satisfied with the ease of access and lack of crowding. This program looks to expand its footprint in the coming years.

EXCELLENT DEER HARVEST IN 2021-22

The 2021-22 deer hunting season closed with 196,988 deer harvested across Ohio. That total represents deer harvested during youth, archery, gun, and muzzleloader seasons. This past season's increased harvest is evidence of a robust deer population and abundant hunting opportunities.

LAKE ERIE WALLEYE FISHING KEEPS GETTING BETTER

Fisheries biologists found an amazing 90 fish per hectare in Lake Erie during the summer 2021 walleye hatch survey. The number is well above the rapidly increasing 20-year average of 34 fish per hectare. This hatch will reach harvestable size during the 2023 fishing season. In the meantime, with an incredible run of strong hatches beginning in 2015 there has never been a better time to fish Lake Erie. Anglers can find an abundance of walleye averaging 20 inches, with some reaching 26 inches or more.

ANGLERS CATCH TROPHY FISH STATEWIDE IN 2021

The Fish Ohio program, which now recognizes trophy fish of 25 popular species began in 1980 and saw 8,943 submissions in 2021. Anglers with qualifying catches were awarded a pin featuring the black crappie. Submissions were high for Lake Erie walleye, as well as saugeye, crappie, and largemouth bass from Ohio's inland lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area was a hotspot for trophy largemouth bass, Buckeye Lake and the Ohio River were top spots to reel in huge saugeye, and Mosquito Creek Lake was host to fantastic crappie fishing ■



ANNUAL DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT



For Fiscal Year 2022
(July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)

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

ODNR's operating budget for FY 2022 was \$552.9 million. FY22 expenditures (capital and operating) totaled \$736.2 million. Total revenue deposited was \$295.2 million.

QUICK FISCAL NUMBERS



\$128.1M
GENERAL REVENUE (GRF)
OPERATING EXPENSES



\$736.2M
TOTAL OF
ALL EXPENSES



\$608.1M
NON-GRF
EXPENSES



\$295.2M
IN TOTAL
REVENUE

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES – FISCAL YEAR 2022

By Appropriation Line Item

FUND	ALI	APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM	EXPENDITURES
GRF	725401	Division of Wildlife-Operating	\$1,595,700
GRF	725413	OPFC Rental Payments	\$45,754,873
GRF	725456	Canal Lands	\$117,855
GRF	725505	Healthy Lake Erie Fund	\$904,003
GRF	725507	Coal and Mine Safety Program	\$2,800,000
GRF	725520	Special Projects	\$642,561
GRF	725903	Natural Res. General Oblig Debt Service	\$20,479,650
GRF	727321	Division of Forestry	\$6,984,501
GRF	729321	Computer Info Services/Communications	\$181,774
GRF	730321	Parks and Recreation	\$40,386,825
GRF	736321	Division of Chief Engineer	\$2,080,236
GRF	737321	Division of Water Resources	\$1,714,089
GRF	738321	Office of Real Estate & Land Management	\$735,414
GRF	741321	Division of Natural Areas	\$3,737,568
		Total GRF	\$128,115,048

FUND	ALI	APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM	EXPENDITURES
1550	725601	Departmental Projects	\$1,275,831
1570	725651	Program Support	\$20,232,221
2270	725406	Parks Projects Personnel	\$2,282,485
3320	725669	Federal Mine Safety Grant	\$260,854
3B30	725640	Federal Forest Pass-Thru	\$747,474
3B40	725641	Federal Flood Pass-Thru	\$105,291
3B50	725645	Federal Abandoned Mine Lands	\$12,228,931
3B60	725653	Federal Land & Water Conservation	\$10,331,514
3B70	725654	Reclamation-Regulatory	\$1,430,258
3P10	725632	Geological Survey-Federal	\$221,971
3P20	725642	Oil and Gas-Federal	\$144,581
3P30	725650	Real Estate & Land Management-Fed	\$3,139,236
3P40	725660	Water-Federal	\$201,640
3R50	725673	Acid Mine Drainage Abate/Treatment	\$473,453
3Z50	725657	REALM Federal	\$1,682,394
4300	725671	Canal Lands	\$723,125
5090	725602	State Forest	\$9,139,565
5100	725631	Maintenance-State-Owned Residence	\$36,849
5110	725646	Ohio Geological Mapping	\$9,955,654
5110	725679	GIS Centralized Services	\$645,942
5120	725605	State Parks Operations	\$41,406,700
5140	725606	Lake Erie Shoreline	\$2,008,115
5160	725620	Water Management	\$2,984,409
5180	725643	Oil and Gas Permit Fees	\$24,108,350
5180	725677	Oil & Gas Well Plugging	\$27,160,651
5210	725627	Off-Road Vehicle Trails	\$285,609
5220	725656	Natural Areas Checkoff Funds	\$680,156
5290	725639	Unreclaimed Lands	\$3,946,433

FUND	ALI	APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM	EXPENDITURES
5310	725648	Reclamation Supplemental Forfeiture	\$285
6150	725661	Dam Safety	\$1,122,595
6970	725670	Submerged Lands	\$299,084
7015	725607	Appalachian Hills	\$28,600,000
7015	740401	Division of Wildlife Conservation	\$65,689,790
7015	C725K9	Wildlife Area Bldg Dev/Renovation	\$3,783,836
7026	C725N7	Dis ofc Renovation Dev	\$368,394
7026	C725E0	ODNR Fairgrounds Areas-Upgrading	\$724,002
7026	C725D5	Fountain Sq Bldg/Telephone Improvements	\$1,173,317
7031	C725K0	State Park Renovations/Upgrading	\$1,034,932
7031	C725M0	Dam Rehabilitation	\$1,143,418
7031	C725N8	Forestry Equipment	\$1,384,703
7031	C725E5	Project Planning	\$1,733,000
7031	C725T3	Healthy Lake Erie Initiative	\$2,000,000
7031	C72549	ODNR Facilities Development	\$2,676,000
7031	C725E1	Local Parks Projects-Statewide	\$5,246,968
7035	C725L8	Statewide Trails Program	\$896,893
7035	C725B2	Parks Equipment	\$4,909,071
7035	C725U8	Erosion Emergency Assistance	\$5,000,000
7035	C725R3	State Parks Renovations/Upgrade	\$6,097,746
7035	C725E6	Project Planning	\$8,034,152
7035	C725N6	Wastewater & Water Systems Upgrade	\$9,615,041
7035	C725C4	Muskingum River Lock & Dam	\$9,661,791
7035	C725R4	Dam Rehabilitation-Parks	\$12,400,497
7035	C725U7	Eagle Creek Watershed Flood Mitigation	\$15,000,000
7035	C725E2	Local Parks Projects	\$44,708,108
7035	C725A0	State Parks Campgrounds/Lodges/Cabins	\$81,324,800
7061	C72514	Clean Ohio Trail Fund	\$12,569,000

FUND	ALI	APPROPRIATION LINE ITEM	EXPENDITURES
7061	725405	Clean Ohio Operating	\$220,801
7086	C725N9	Operations Facilities Dvnt	\$2,233,406
7086	C725A7	Coop Funding For Boating Facilities	\$12,109,434
7086	725414	Waterways Improvement	\$5,879,647
7086	739401	Watercraft Operations	\$35,033,208
8150	725636	Cooperative Management Projects	\$606,520
8160	725649	Wetlands Habitat	\$1,228,869
8170	725655	Wildlife Conservation Checkoff	\$2,213,738
8180	725629	Cooperative Fisheries Research	\$1,500,000
8190	725685	Ohio River Management	\$35,970
4M80	725675	FOP Contract	\$0
4S90	725622	NatureWorks Personnel	\$314,330
4U60	725668	Scenic Rivers Protection	\$74,952
5CV1	725697	Coronavirus Rlf ODNR Covid Safety	\$5,984,703
5ELO	725612	Wildlife Law Enforcement	\$0
5EM0	725613	Natural Resources Law Enforcement	\$28,701
5HK0	725625	Ohio Nature Preserves	\$89,734
5P20	725634	Wildlife Boater Angler Admin	\$4,796,177
5TD0	725514	Park Maintenance	\$1,642,712
6H20	725681	H2Ohio	\$24,972,855
81B0	725688	Wildlife Habitat	\$1,962,783
R017	725659	Performance Cash Bond Refunds	\$538,576
R043	725624	Forestry	\$1,579,112

Total Non-GRF \$608,083,343

Total GRF \$128,115,048

Total All Funds \$736,198,391

ANNUAL REVENUE – FISCAL YEAR 2022

FUND CODE	FUND DESCRIPTION	YTD REVENUE
1550	Departmental Services-intrastate	\$1,449,453
1570	Central support ind Chargeback	\$19,175,396
2270	Parks Capital Expenses	\$2,287,657
3320	Mine Grant	\$196,583
3B30	Forest Products	\$845,075
3B40	Flood Control	\$167,075
3B50	Abandoned Mine Reclamation	\$9,224,894
3B60	Land Water Conservation	\$3,824,044
3B70	Regulatory	\$1,443,713
3P10	Geological Survey-Federal	\$215,695
3P20	Oil and Gas-Federal	\$158,000
3P30	Real Estate/Land Management	\$2,715,949
3P40	Water-Federal	\$205,414
3R50	Acid Mine Drainage/Abate/Treat	\$208,477
3Z50	REALM Federal	\$1,219,466
4300	Canal Lands	\$803,847
4S90	Capital Expenses	\$311,721
4U60	Scenic Rivers Protection	\$49,894
5090	State Forest	\$9,434,314
5100	Property Management	\$65,094
5110	Geological Mapping	\$6,041,089
5120	State Park	\$38,289,293
5140	Permit and Lease	\$995,657
5160	Water Management	\$2,983,739
5180	Oil & Gas Well	\$70,161,303
5210	State Recreational Vehicle	\$581,645

FUND CODE	FUND DESCRIPTION	YTD REVENUE
5220	Natural Areas & Preserves	\$421,124
5290	Mining Regulation Safety	\$4,010,758
5310	Reclamation Forfeiture	\$259,263
5ELO	Wildlife Law Enforcement	\$1,444
5EM0	Parks & Rec Law Enforcement	\$9,684
5HK0	Ohio Nature Preserves	\$44,160
5P20	Wildlife Boater Angler	\$3,316,634
5UV0	Multi-Year Lifetime License	\$4,288,418
6150	Dam Safety	\$1,078,617
6970	Lake Erie Submerged Lands	\$976,040
6H20	H2Ohio	\$44,273
7015	Wildlife	\$55,149,649
7035	Parks & Recreation Improvement	\$1,312,500
7086	Waterways Safety	\$34,672,224
8150	Cooperative Management	\$540,499
8160	Wetlands Habitat	\$1,368,940
8170	Nongame & Endangered Wildlife	\$3,331,835
8180	Cooperative Fish Research Unit	\$1,505,268
8190	Ohio River Management	\$10,486
81B0	Wildlife Habitat	\$861,902
GRF	General Revenue	\$132,413
R017	Bond Refunds	\$626,806
R043	Timber Sales Redistribution	\$1,655,183
R063	Wildlife Holding	\$(2,921)
R064	Parks and Watercraft Holding	\$319,560
Y061	Clean Ohio Trail 2021A	\$6,250,000
Total		\$295,239,247



ANNUAL REPORT

2045 MORSE RD
COLUMBUS, OH 43229

ohiodnr.gov

2022

FISCAL YEAR

FORDER BRIDGE H2OHIO WETLAND PROJECT SITE

GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE | DIRECTOR MARY MERTZ