



CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

District 4 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC)

PY15 POLICY MANUAL

This document provides the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and NRAC District 4 policies. Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program Funding Applications will be evaluated in accordance with the requirements, terms, and conditions set down by the OPWC and the NRAC.

Visit Ohio Public Works Commission Website for more information. <https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/>

Questions? Contact Stacy Vallance, District 4 Liaison at 937-225-5402 or vallances@mcoho.org

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CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In 2000, the State of Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the state to sell bonds and other obligations for the Clean Ohio Program. This program provides grants for open space and watershed conservation, farmland preservation and recreational trails.

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program provides funds to preserve open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors. The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) is responsible for administering the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program through districts set up in the State Capital Improvement Program.

The District 4 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) is responsible for administering the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program for Montgomery County and is responsible for:

1. Promoting the development and improvement of Montgomery County's open spaces and the protection and enhancement of riparian corridors and watersheds; and
2. Evaluating and selecting applications from local jurisdictions within Montgomery County for financial assistance from the Clean Ohio Conservation Program.

DISTRICT 4 NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

The District 4 Public Works Integrating Committee (D4PWIC), as directed in the Ohio Revised Code Section 164.21 appoints the members of the Montgomery County Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC). The NRAC consists of eleven (11) members, with one (1) member being from the appointing integrating committee (D4PWIC) and one (1) member from the soil and water conservation district located in Montgomery County.

The other nine (9) members are appointed from categories of organizations, units of government or agencies as prescribed in ORC 164.21(A)(1), there must be at least one representative from each group:

Group 1: County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, regional or joint district or unit of government, or regional or joint political subdivision located in the geographical jurisdiction of the D4PWIC.

Group 2: Conservation or environmental advocacy organization, an organization with a primary interest in watershed protection and restoration, the Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, or the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Group 3: A city park system or metropolitan park system or a board of park commissioners located within the geographical jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee, a statewide parks and recreation organization, or the U.S. National Park Service.

Group 4: A statewide organization representing agriculture, an organization representing forestry interests, the Department of Agriculture, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Group 5: An organization representing business, local realtors, or a planning agency, including a port authority, located within the geographical jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee.

District 4 NRAC Members

Mr. Jeff Barnes

Representing Group 4: Natural Resources Conservation Services - USDA
Term End: 9/25/2022
Phone: 937-854-7646
Email: jeff.barnes@oh.usda.gov

Dr. Sarah Hippensteel Hall

Representing Group 1: Miami Conservancy District
Term End: 9/25/2020
Phone: 937-223-1271
Email: shippensteel@mcdwater.org

Mr. Matt Lindsay, Chair

Representing Group 5: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
Term End: 9/25/2021
Phone: 937-531-6548
Email: mlindsay@mvrpc.org

Ms. Carrie Scarff

Representing Group 3: Five Rivers MetroParks
Term End: 9/25/2022
Phone: 937-277-4109
Email: carrie.scarff@metroparks.org

Mr. Trent Weaver

Representing Group 2: ODNR – Division of Wildlife
Term End: 9/25/2020
Phone: 937-545-6768
Email: trent.weaver@dnr.state.oh.us

Mr. Ed Everman

Representing: Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation
Term End: 9/25/2020
Phone: 937-854-7645
Email: evermane@mcohio.org

Mr. Bert Kelsey

Representing Group 1: Office of the Montgomery County Engineer
Term End: 9/25/2021
Phone: 937-225-6375
Email: kelseyb@mcohio.org

Mr. Christian Mattingly

Representing Group 1: City of West Carrollton
Term End: 9/25/2022
Phone: 937-847-4660
Email: cmattingly@westcarrollton.org

Ms. Michele Simmons

Representing Group 1: City of Dayton, Department of Water
Term End: 9/25/2021
Phone: 937-333-3796
Email: Michele.simmons@daytonohio.gov

Mr. Steven Woolf

Representing: District 4 Integrating Committee
Term End: 9/25/2020
Phone: 937-833-4015
Email: swoolf@clayohio.org

NRAC Nominations

A Natural Resource Assistance Council is established in each of the nineteen districts. Each NRAC consists of 11 members of which one must be a member of the appointing integrating committee and one must represent a soil and water conservation district located within the geographical jurisdiction of the NRAC. Members' terms of office are three years, with each term ending on the same day of the same month as did the term before it, except that the term may not extend beyond their terms as an elected or appointed official.

Members may be reappointed and must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Any member filling a vacancy holds the position for the remainder of that term. A member continues in office after the expiration date of the term until the member's successor takes office or until 60 days has elapsed, whichever is first. Appointments and reappointments must be approved by the district integrating committee. District committees are responsible for coordinating the appointment process in their respective districts and informing the Commission of appointments. Appointing authorities are encouraged to make their appointments prior to the expiration of the term of the incumbent appointee(s).

For the appointment of each new member the district must provide a letter from the appointing authority, a nomination form, and a resume or summary of qualifications. For a reappointment only the letter from the appointing authority is required. For the district integrating committee appointment only meeting minutes are required, however, meeting minutes are also required to confirm all other appointments and reappointments.

Reference: [ORC 164.21](#)

Meeting Attendance

Any District committee member who fails to attend at least three-fifths of meetings for any two-year period forfeits their position on the committee.

Reference: [ORC 3.17](#)

Administrative Expenses

NRAC District 4 has set an amount not to exceed 1 percent (1%) of District 4 allocations to be used for reimbursement of administrative expenses. Administrative expenses will be disbursed from District 4's funding allocations. The committee will approve an Administrative Work Plan for each program year.

Audit Requirements

OPWC-funded projects are subject to state audit requirements. A copy of any audit in connection with and specific to an approved project must be provided to the OPWC. Any negative or adverse findings pertaining to the project must be addressed. If findings are not addressed or satisfactorily resolved, the OPWC may bar the applicant from further financial assistance until the applicant complies with or resolves such findings.

Reference: [OAC 164-1-24](#)

NRAC Methodologies

NRACs are required to allow a minimum of sixty days from OPWC's approval of their respective project selection methodologies to accept applications. If methodologies remain unchanged, the Commission must be notified accordingly. Information should be submitted with the annual program schedule.

Open Meeting Requirements

NRACs are public bodies and therefore subject to Open Meeting laws as defined by [section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code](#) (as part of Ohio's "Sunshine Laws"). All meetings must always be open to the public. Teleconferencing and videoconferencing are prohibited as a member must be present in person to vote, deliberate, or to be counted in a quorum. Quorums are district specific.

The NRAC must make public notice of the meeting at least 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. Public notice consists of the day, time, place and purpose of the meeting and must be made orally, or in writing, to all members of the public body and to any person, or the news media, requesting notification. Full and accurate meeting minutes which permit the public to understand and appreciate the rationale behind the public body's decisions must be promptly prepared, filed, and maintained and be open to public inspection.

Reference: [ORC Sections 121.22 and 164.04](#); [OAC 164-1-10](#)

More Information: AG website, Ohio's Sunshine Laws Manual

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/yellowbook>

Public Records

It is the policy of the OPWC to strictly adhere to the State's Public Records Act. All exemptions to openness are to be construed in their narrowest sense and any denial of public records in response to a valid request must be accompanied by an explanation, including legal authority, as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code. If the request for public records is written, the explanation of denial must also be written.

Records are defined as including the following: any document - paper, electronic (including but not limited to e-mail), or other format - that is created or received by, or comes under the jurisdiction of a public office that documents the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of this office. All records of the OPWC are public unless they are specifically exempt from disclosure under the Ohio Revised Code. Records will be organized and maintained so that they are readily available for inspection and copying, and available according to OPWC's record retention policy.

Requests & Responses

Each request for public records should be evaluated for a response using the following guidelines:

Identification of Public Records Requested - The requester must identify the records requested with sufficient clarity to allow the OPWC to identify, retrieve, and review the records. If it is not clear what records are being sought, the OPWC will contact the requester for clarification, and should assist the requester in revising the request by informing the requester of the manner in which the Commission keeps its records.

Method of Request & Identity of Requester - The requester does not have to put a records request in writing and does not have to provide his or her identity or the intended use of the requested public record.

Availability of Public Records for Inspection & Production of Copies - Public records are to be available for inspection during regular business hours, except for published holidays. Public records must be made available for inspection promptly. Copies of public records must be made available within a reasonable time period. "Prompt" and "reasonable" take into account the volume of records requested, the proximity of the location where the records are stored, and the necessity for any legal review of the records requested.

Time Constraints for Satisfying Public Records Request - Each request should be evaluated for an estimated length of time required to gather the records. If feasible, routine requests for records should be satisfied immediately. Routine requests included, but are not limited to, meeting minutes (both in draft and final form), budgets, salary information, forms and applications, personnel rosters, etc. If fewer than 20 pages of copies are requested or if the records are readily available in an electronic format that can be e-mailed or downloaded easily, these should be made as quickly as the equipment allows.

All requests for public records must either be satisfied or be acknowledged in writing within three business days following receipt of the request. If a request will not be satisfied within three business days, the acknowledgement must include at least a request for clarification, if necessary, and an estimated cost if copies are requested.

Denial of Public Records Request - Any denial of public records requested must include an explanation, including legal authority. If portions of a record are public and portions are exempt, the exempt portions are to be redacted and the rest released. If there are redactions, each redaction must be accompanied by a supporting explanation, including legal authority.

Cost of Obtaining Copies of Public Records

Charges for public records are for the actual cost of making copies as follows:

- Paper copies are 5 cents per page
- Downloaded computer files to a compact disc (CD) are \$1 per disc
- No charge for e-mailed documents
- If the requester asks that the documents be mailed there is a charge for the actual cost of postage and mailing supplies

E-Mail as Public Records

E-mail is to be treated in the same fashion as records in other formats and should follow the same retention schedule. Records in private e-mail accounts used to conduct public business are subject to disclosure, and all employees or representatives of the OPWC are instructed to retain their e-mails that relate to public business and to copy them to the business e-mail accounts.

Records Retention

For every project approved by the Commission, a “project folder” is created for project management purposes. This folder is in a paper format and contains such items including the original project application, Project Agreement, disbursement records, Requests to Proceed, and general correspondence. Project related information that is stored electronically includes the Project Agreement, a list of all approved vendors or each project and their respective contract amounts, a list of all vendors paid by the Commission, and the dollar amount paid. The Commission will maintain completed project folders and information in perpetuity.

It is strongly recommended that Natural Resource Assistance Councils retain those documents pertaining to a specific program year’s slate of projects for a period of two years after the recommendations are forwarded to OPWC. This includes unfunded applications, meeting minutes, and any other documentation related to a particular program year.

Reference: [ORC 149.33](#), DAS Directive [GS-D-04](#)

NRAC DISTRICT 4 PRINCIPLES

The District 4 NRAC considers the CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM a unique opportunity for advancing environmental conservation and improving the quality of life in Montgomery County. The principles listed below reflect the essential needs of Montgomery County.

1. **Preserve** natural areas or open space.
2. **Restore** and enhance landscapes that have been degraded or destroyed.
3. **Link** natural areas to each other or to cultural and civic heritage areas.
4. **Provide** public access to natural areas and/or cultural and civic heritage areas.

Open space is an important and vital part of daily life in urban areas – it can improve social health of our communities, the environmental quality of our ecosystems, and the economic viability of our region. Protecting and restoring natural systems – their biodiversity, habitats, and aesthetics will result in a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment for everyone to enjoy.

PROCESS FOR AWARDED PROJECTS

Project Agreement

Once a project agreement is released by the OPWC, it must be signed and returned within 45 calendar days. An executed project agreement is required prior to the disbursement of funds.

Reference: [OAC 164-1-21](#)

Prevailing Wage and Other Bidding Requirements

The OPWC requires that all state and local bidding laws and requirements be followed including the payment of state prevailing wages. If the project is jointly funded with federal money, federal laws may override state requirements, so it is imperative for the project owners to discuss with the federal funding source. The OPWC has provided bid proposal notes (see link below) which contain the necessary state requirements. Questions should be directed to the local subdivision's legal counsel.

Disbursements

The Commission will pay eligible project costs at its percentage rate per the Project Agreement up to the total amount of grant assistance. Applicants should be prepared to meet their local share requirements at all stages of the project. At the discretion of the Commission, the percentage rate can be adjusted during the disbursement process but must be met prior to or by project close-out. Disbursement documentation must include detailed invoices. Payment may be made directly to the vendor or as reimbursement to the subdivision if the invoice is accompanied by proof of payment.

The Commission can only disburse funds for eligible project costs that are included in the project's scope of work as defined in the Project Agreement. Changes to the scope of work, including significant change orders, are the sole responsibility of the subdivision unless the District has approved a request to amend the scope.

The final disbursement request also serves as the project completion report. A separate statement of completion is not necessary if the final disbursement request indicates project completion. After the Commission is notified that a project is completed it will provide a summary of all disbursement activity.

Land Acquisition Disbursement

Applicants have two options for payment for property. Applicants may either choose to have funds released to the title agency prior to closing (pre-closing option) or be reimbursed after closing. However, neither option can take place without the submission and approval of the Request to Proceed (RTP), and the release of the Notice to Proceed.

- **Pre-Closing Option:** The Appendix E (Disbursement Request Form and Certification) must indicate the name of the Title Agency and be provided **at least 30 days prior to closing**. Funds will then be released to the escrow account to be held for closing. Any interest that accrues is to be used for settlement costs or, if in excess, will be applied to the cost of the project. If the closing is not held within 30 days of the disbursement, then the OPWC should be contacted immediately. Within 60 days of closing, the applicant, or the Title Agency on behalf of the applicant, must provide to the OPWC copies of the recorded deed/conveyance instrument, recorded deed restrictions, and executed settlement statement.
- **Reimbursement Option:** After the RTP has been approved and a Notice to Proceed has been issued, the applicant may submit a disbursement request/Appendix E requesting reimbursement for acquisition and other eligible costs. The submission should include copies of the recorded deed / conveyance instrument, recorded deed restrictions, and executed settlement statement.

OPWC Project Signs

A local subdivision is not required to post signage on an OPWC funded project but if it does it must follow a standardized layout designed to increase public awareness through signage repetition. OPWC will participate in the cost of the signage and reimburse the local subdivision on the project's applicable disbursement ratio based on a photo of the sign and invoice. OPWC projects jointly funded with other state or federal funding agencies which have other signage requirements are exempt from the standardized layout.

Riparian Corridor

Riparian Corridor projects must protect or enhance riparian corridors or watersheds including the protection and enhancement of streams, rivers and other waters of the state. Applications for riparian corridor projects that do not include land acquisition must include a draft of the OPWC restrictions and the recorded deed or conservation easement in order to be recommended for funding.

Post-Acquisition Activity / Site Improvements

Site improvements may be included with the application for acquisition of a property. All post-acquisition activities must be concluded within a two-year period from the date of acquisition.

Project Cost Overruns / Changes in Scope

All project cost overruns are the sole responsibility of the project applicant. However, a project applicant may request additional funds from its NRAC for completing a project. NRAC meeting minutes are required for the OPWC to amend the Project Agreement accordingly.

Applicants shall endeavor to implement, without change, their approved project(s). In the event a project requires a change in scope the following procedure must be followed:

- The applicant must prepare an amended application including a revised budget and a detailed explanation of the change(s) requested
- The amended application is due to the District 4 Liaison a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the date scheduled for the Committee to review.
- The District 4 Liaison will verify budgetary amounts.
- The District 4 Liaison may provide the applicant with an advisory opinion as to the merits of the request.
- The District 4 Liaison will submit the request for change to the committee in the meeting agenda packet at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- The District 4 NRAC Committee, upon review of the request, shall deny, modify or recommend approval to the OPWC Director within sixty (60) days of receipt of **ALL** requested information.
- Any supplemental assistance requests must be within District 4's budget capacity and ensure achievement of the original objectives of the application.

Project Cost Underruns / Supplemental Funding

Any surplus in assistance resulting from a project cost underrun will be returned to the originating NRAC. If an NRAC has an active contingency list, fund balances will be used by the OPWC to fund contingency projects according to rank.

Travel Expenses

OPWC will reimburse for travel expenses incurred by consultants or contractors while performing eligible work according to the physical scope of the project as defined by the OPWC Project Agreement, Appendix A. Reimbursable costs must be in accordance with the OBM Travel Rule. Reimbursement for lodging and meals & incidentals will be based on per diem rates according to the location of work activity set by the federal General Service Administration (GSA). Mileage is eligible at the state rate in effect at the time of travel (see Travel Rule link).

Reference: [ORC 126.31](#), [OAC 126-1-02](#) and [OBM Travel Rule](#)

GLOSSARY

Aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design

Design which protects existing or restored habitats by avoiding sensitive areas, by setting back construction and paved surfaces from streams, wetlands and other sensitive habitats, by landscaping in order to create balanced natural ecosystems, by constructing facilities and amenities which visually enhance the natural setting. The result of such design is a healthy environment and a superior recreational experience, which inform, educates and pleases participants.

Aquatic biological communities

Native plants and animals which reside in wetlands, streams and lakes. The potential diversity of aquatic communities is defined by the use designation of the stream and/or the classification of the wetland as defined by the OEPA and by the ODNR.

Areas of relatively high unemployment / distressed area

A municipal corporation that has a population of at least 50,000 or a county that meets two of the following criteria:

1. Its average rate of unemployment, during the most recent five-year period for which data are available, is equal to at least 125% of the average rate of unemployment for the US for the same period
2. Its per capita income is equal to or below 80% of the median county per capita income of the US
3. A municipal corporation in which at least 25% of the residents have a total income for the most recent census year that is below the official poverty line or a county, in intercensal years, with a ratio of transfer payment income to total county income equal to or greater than 25%

Reference: [ORC 122.16](#)

Balanced natural ecosystems

Ecological systems are dynamic assemblages of native plant and/or animal communities that (1) occur together on the landscape or in the water; and (2) are tied together by similar ecological processes (e.g., fire, hydrology), underlying environmental features (e.g., soils, geology) or environmental gradients (e.g., elevation).

Comprehensive open space planning

A plan adopted by a subdivision of the state that identifies community goals related to open space preservation and utilization. The plan may include recreational and environmental goals, zoning definitions and requirements for planned unit developments where applicable, maps that identify targeted resources, funding strategies and timelines.

Connecting corridor for natural areas

Corridors are an attempt to compensate for habitat fragmentation by connecting similar areas to allow species to migrate between suitable habitats. Corridors should be as wide as possible to avoid “edge effects”. (The outer boundaries of any habitat consist of a zone of influences such as wind, sunlight, water tables that differ from the interior).

Conservation Easement

An incorporeal right or interest in land that is held for the public purpose of retaining land, water, or wetland areas predominantly in their natural, scenic, open, or wooded condition, including, without limitation, the use of land in agriculture when consistent with and in furtherance of the purpose of retaining those areas in such a condition, or retaining their use predominantly as suitable habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife; that imposes any limitations on the use or development of the areas that are appropriate at the time of creation of the conservation easement to achieve one or more of those purposes; and that includes appropriate provisions for the holder to enter the property subject to the easement at reasonable times to ensure compliance with its provisions. Easements are entered into on a volunteer basis and are compensated at whatever rate is agreed to among the parties given the value of the restrictions. Easements are permanent in nature and are to be recorded as a deed restriction.

Reference: [ORC 5301.67 \(A\)](#)

Conservation organization

Community and civic organizations which represent the interests of citizens who are concerned with the sustainability of the natural environment and the preservation of native natural habitats and communities including the air, water and land necessary to sustain them.

Ecotourism

Travel to natural areas that minimizes environmental impact, fosters environmental and cultural awareness, exhibits commitment to local conservation issues, and provides direct benefits to local people. Ecotourism operations that are owned and run by local people tend to offer the most authentic cultural immersion and provide the most significant local benefits.

Endangered species

According to U.S. Federal law, a species is endangered if it is in imminent danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Reference: [US Fish and Wildlife Service Listings and Occurrences for Ohio](#)

Facilities

Constructed features that are necessary to make an open space area accessible and useable such as parking places at a canoe launch, a boardwalk at a wetland, nature trails and kiosks. The preservation of the natural area or riparian corridor must be the main focus of the project, not the facility. Active recreation facilities such as tennis courts and recreation centers cannot be funded under the Clean Ohio Conservation Green Space Program.

Fee simple land acquisition

A fee without limitation to any class of heirs or restrictions on transfer of ownership.

Functioning floodplains

Riparian lands adjacent to the stream which are accessible to stormwater and floodwaters. Functioning flood plains disperse and retain peak flows, minimize downstream flooding and provide a settling basin for sediment and other pollutants carried by stormwater. Any development in floodplains should accommodate these functions by avoidance and minimization, especially of impervious surfaces.

Habitat for plant or animal species

The USGS Habitat Suitability Index provides information for evaluating impacts on fish and wildlife habitat resulting from water or land use changes.

Reference: [USGS Habitat Suitability Index](#)

Habitat protection

Management focus that de-emphasizes individual species, focusing instead on maintaining habitat or ecosystem quality, including ecological processes important in maintaining the characteristic biodiversity of an area.

Headwater streams

Small swales, creeks and streams that are the origin of most rivers and with a watershed less than or equal to 20 square miles. These small streams join to form larger streams and rivers or run directly into larger streams and lakes. Many streams and drainage ways have a watershed of less than one square mile referred to as “primary headwater” streams.

High quality wetlands

Wetlands assigned to OEPA wetland category 3 are those that:

- support superior habitat, or hydrological or recreational functions as determined by an appropriate wetland evaluation methodology acceptable to the director or his authorized representative
- may be typified by some or all the following characteristics: high levels of diversity, a high proportion of native species, or high functional values
- may include, but are not limited to: wetlands which contain or provide habitat for threatened or endangered species; high quality forested wetlands, including old growth forested wetlands, and mature forested riparian wetlands; vernal pools; and wetlands which are scarce regionally and/or statewide including, but not limited to, bogs and fens

Reference: [OAC 3745-1-5](#)

Hydromodification

Projects shall not initiate or perpetuate hydromodification such as dams, ditch development, or channelization. The project is that which is defined by the scope in the OPWC Project Agreement.

Reference: [US EPA Hydromodification definition](#) (Does not include restoring natural stream or drainage conditions)

Natural areas

An area of land or water which either retains to some degree or has re-established its natural character, although it need not be completely undisturbed, or has unusual flora, fauna, geological, archeological, scenic, or similar features of scientific or educational interest.

Reference: [ORC 1517.01 \(A\)](#)

Natural features

A physical or biological feature of the landscape which has resulted from and is maintained by natural processes. Examples: waterfall, river oxbow, gorge, natural bridge, cave, etc.

Natural heritage

All the species, communities and physical features present in Ohio at the time of the first European settlement.

Natural stream channels

Provide for the normal fluvial morphology of a stream. The channel will allow for natural migration of stream sinuosity, pool and riffle formation and other instream habitat features, and banks which allow stormwater access to the floodplain.

Nonnative, invasive species of plants and animals

Non-native or exotic species are plants or animals that are introduced to a new area artificially, either deliberately or accidentally. A non-native species can become invasive if it reproduces so successfully in the new area that it dominates the native species present.

Preservation

Any area of land which would:

- Maintain and enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources
- Protect natural streams or water supply
- Promote conservation of wetlands, marshes, bogs, fens, forests, prairies, lakes, streams or other naturally occurring communities
- Enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, stream corridors, forests, wildlife areas, natural areas or other natural open spaces
- Enhance passive public recreation opportunities such as nature observation, hiking, and canoeing or kayaking, that require a minimum of facilities or development and that have minimal environmental impact on the recreational site.

Reforestation

To place a parcel of land back into forested condition.

Restores streamside forests

The process of using ecological principles and experience to return a degraded ecological system to its former or original state.

Riparian corridors

Ecosystems with a high-water table because of proximity to a river, stream, lake, or other body of water. They usually occur as an ecozone between aquatic and upland ecosystems but have distinct vegetation and soil characteristics and are uniquely characterized by the combination of high species diversity, high species density, and high productivity. They serve a variety of functions including the preservation of water quality by filtering sediment, protection stream banks from erosion, and provide food and habitat for various species.

State natural heritage inventory endangered/rare/threatened species

Managed by ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, the Natural Heritage State Ranking system is as follows:

- S1: Critically imperiled in state (5 or fewer viable populations known)
- S2: Imperiled in state because of rarity or vulnerability (6-20 viable populations known)
- S3: Rare or uncommon in state (21-100 viable populations known)
- S4: Apparently secure in state
- S5: Demonstrably secure in state
- SH: Of historical occurrence throughout range
- SU: Possibly in peril range-wide but status uncertain

ODNR maintains the lists of Ohio's endangered and threatened animal species.

Reference: [ODNR Endangered and Threatened Species](#), [ODNR Rare Native Ohio Plants List](#)

Streamside forest functions

Those colonies of native shrubs and trees which protect water quality and instream and riparian habitat by allowing the succession of native plants. These forests provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals from upland species to aquatic communities. They also minimize sedimentation from bank erosion and pollutant migration from stormwater runoff. In addition, they provide shade to instream species which is especially critical to those species which are intolerant to heat extremes.

Vegetative filters or buffers

Vegetative filtration buffers and wetlands remove organic and inorganic nutrients and toxic materials in the following ways:

- A reduction in velocity causes sediments and chemicals attached to sediment particles to drop to the bottom and be trapped among the stems and roots
- A variety of anaerobic and aerobic processes remove certain chemicals from the water
- The high rate of production of many vegetative filters or wetlands can lead to high rates of mineral uptake by vegetation and subsequent burial in sediment when vegetation dies
- A diversity of decomposers in wetland sediment

Viability population (of rare or endangered species)

Viability indicates the ability of a conservation target to persist for many generations or over long time periods.

Waters of the state

All streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems, drainage systems, and other bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial, regardless of the depth of the strata in which underground water is located, that are situated wholly or partly within, or border upon, this state, or are within its jurisdiction, except those private waters that do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters.

Reference: [ORC 6111.01 \(H\)](#)

Water quality

The chemical, physical and biological condition of a wetland, stream or lake. Ohio sets criteria for water quality in OAC 3745-1-05 (Criteria as applicable to all waters).

Reference: [OAC 3745-1-05](#)

Watersheds

A watershed is the total land area from which water drains into a single stream, lake, or ocean.

Wetlands

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.