

Clean Ohio Fund

An Investment in Economic Development, Family Farms, and Environmental Health

CLEAN OHIO PROJECT IMPACTS



More than **175,000 acres** of natural areas preserved



Over **80,000 acres** of family farms protected



Nearly **500 miles** of multi-use, recreational trails created



The Clean Ohio Fund is a \$400 million state bond initiative first approved by Ohio voters in 2000. It was overwhelmingly renewed in all 88 counties in 2008 with strong bipartisan support from the executive and legislative leadership.

As a public-private partnership, The Clean Ohio Fund restores and preserves open space and farmland, improves outdoor recreation through a network of parks and trails, and attracts investment and economic development in our state.

REQUEST

In 2022, appropriate \$100 million over two years in conservation bonds for the Clean Ohio Fund. The bonds would be allocated to open space conservation (\$75million), farmland preservation (\$12.5 million) and multi-use trail construction (\$12.5million). This request is supported by a broad coalition of representatives from business, hunting and fishing clubs, community development, local government, parks, land trusts, environmental groups, and Ohioans from communities across the state.

BENEFITS OF THE CLEAN OHIO FUND

- **Agricultural Easement Purchase Program:** Agriculture is one of Ohio's top industries, contributing more than \$98 billion to our state economy and supporting one in seven jobs. According to Ohio Centers of Excellence, Ohio's 76,500 farms cover more than half of the state's total land area and produce more than 200 diverse crops. This program preserves farmland for future generations of farmers.
- **Open Space Conservation Program:** Based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, as of 2020, Ohio's outdoor recreation industry contributed \$10.7 billion to the state's economy and provided over 130,000 jobs. This program helps fund the preservation of open spaces, ecologically sensitive areas, and stream corridors.
- **Trails Fund:** This program increases opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the state by funding trails that allow people to walk, run, bike, hike and paddle in both urban and natural areas.
- Previous iterations of the Clean Ohio Fund included a very successful brownfield remediation program.



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Development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Cleveland was supported by Clean Ohio.



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Nine miles of Buckeye Trail/North Country Trail/American Discovery Trail were developed with Clean Ohio funding.



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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

- Preserved over 175,500 acres of natural areas.
- Protected over 80,000 acres of family farms.
- Created nearly 500 miles of multi-purpose, recreational trails.
- Leveraged additional investments to create a total economic impact of over \$3 billion in public and private investments to date.
- Cleaned up hundreds of abandoned, polluted sites (2000-2013).

REASONS TO SUPPORT CLEAN OHIO FUNDING

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

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