Senate Finance
Testimony in Support of House Bill 110
Provided by Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Mary Mertz
April 15, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Mary Mertz and I am the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on our department's H2Ohio budget request.

ODNR has made great strides over the last biennium as highlighted in the wetland map provided to committee members, and we are excited to continue that work alongside the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. ODNR's request for the upcoming biennium is $50 million, or $25 million in each of the two fiscal years. This funding will be used for individual wetland projects, not only in the Lake Erie Basin, but also the Ohio River basin, where the nutrient pollution problems are different, yet nonetheless significant.

Water is Ohio's greatest natural resource. Therefore, it is crucial that we maintain a clean and abundant water supply to enhance the lives of all Ohioans through consumption, recreation, and business. This work involves our staff in the Office of Coastal Management, and the divisions of Natural Areas and Preserves, Forestry, Wildlife, Parks and Watercraft, and Real Estate.

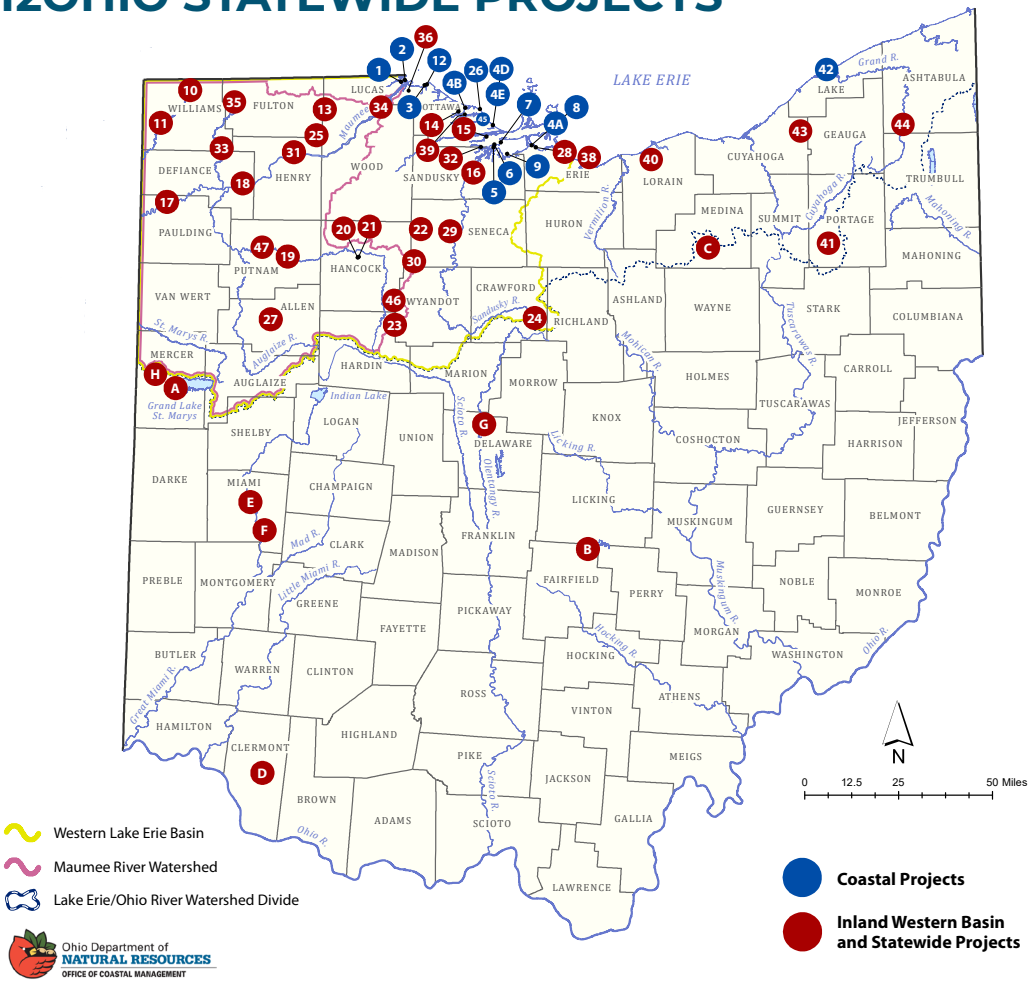
We anticipate our H2Ohio work will result in nutrient reduction (both phosphorous and nitrogen), carbon sequestration, expanded acres of wildlife habitat, ODNR-led conservation education, and numerous excellent recreational opportunities. The work currently underway moves us in that direction, but we estimate ultimately needing to triple our work in northwest Ohio, being even more strategic and using the information we learn from the evaluation process, to achieve that goal.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify about the great work of the Department of Natural Resources as we strive every day *to ensure a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all*. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

H2Ohio WETLANDS

H2Ohio will develop wetlands in strategic, targeted areas to reduce phosphorus runoff and prevent pollutants from entering waterways. These projects will provide nutrient reduction, fish and wildlife habitat, and riparian protection.

H2OHIO STATEWIDE PROJECTS



April 12, 2021

Lake Erie Basin Projects

1	Cullen Park Wetland Restoration
2	Grassy Island Wetland Restoration, Design Phase
3	Maumee Bay State Park Wetland Reconnection
4A	Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Reconnection Projects
4B	Magee Marsh Turtle Creek Bay Wetland Reconnection
4D	Bohling Marsh Wetland Reconnection
4E	Darby Refuge Wetland Reconnection
5	Muddy Creek Bay Wetland Restoration
6	Winous Point - North Marsh Reconnection
7	Inner Bay Shoals & Islands Restoration, Design Phase
8	Moxley Wetland Reconnection
9	Inner Bay Coastal Wetlands Restoration, Design Phase
10	St. Joseph Confluence Wetland Reconnection
11	St. Joseph's River Restoration Project
12	Mallard Club Wildlife Area Reconnection
13	Oak Openings Preserve Wetland Restoration
14	Gatorland Wetland Restoration
15	Little Portage Nutrient Reduction & Coastal Wetland Restoration
16	Redhorse Bend Preserve Wetland Restoration
17	Forder Bridge Floodplain Reconnection
18	Independence Dam Canal Reconnection & Wetland Creation
19	Blanchard River Oxbow Restoration
20	Oakwoods Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration Project
21	Oakwoods Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration Project
22	Fruth Wetland Nature Preserve
23	Andreoff Wetland Restoration
24	Sandusky River Headwaters Preserve Wetland & Habitat Restoration
25	Van Order Wetland & Forest Restoration
26	Navarre Marsh Wetland Restoration & Reconnection
27	Baughman Ditch Wetland Restoration
28	Sanford Agricultural Drainage Treatment Train
29	Wolf Creek Floodplain Restoration
30	Springville Marsh Wetland Restoration
31	Huddle Maumee Floodplain Restoration
32	Muddy Creek Wetland Enhancement and Reconnection
33	Tiffin River Pohlmann Floodplain Restoration
34	Clark Island Restoration, Design Phase
35	Goll Woods State Nature Preserve Extension
36	Duck and Otter Creek Wetland and Stream Restoration
38	Huron River Nutrient Reduction and Marsh Restoration
39	Rust Tract Wetland Restoration
40	Martin's Run Wetland and Stream Restoration Project
41	Bird Bog Restoration Project
42	Headlands Dunes Coastal Wetland Restoration Project
43	Fosters Run Restoration
44	Grand River Wet Meadow Restoration Initiative
45	Toussaint Coastal Wetland Reconnections
46	Upper Blanchard Watershed Wetland Restoration
47	Blanchard Floodplain Wetland Restoration

Ohio River Basin Projects

A	Burntwood-Langenkamp Wetland Conservation Area
B	Brooks Park Wetland Creation & Water Quality Initiative
C	Chippewa Lake Wetland Restoration
D	East Fork Lake Nutrient Reduction & Wetland Initiative
E	Great Miami Off-Channel Wetland Project - Duke Phase
F	Great Miami Off-Channel Wetland Project - Tipp City Phase
G	Delaware Wildlife Area O'Donnell Treatment Train
H	Mercer Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration Projects

H2OHIO IS GOVERNOR DEWINE'S COMPREHENSIVE, DATA-DRIVEN WATER QUALITY PLAN TO IMPROVE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PREVENT HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS THAT IMPACT LAKE ERIE AND WATERWAYS IN THE STATE. H2OHIO IS A LONG TERM INVESTMENT TOWARD PERMANENT WATER-QUALITY SOLUTIONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS IN OHIO.

MEDIA REQUESTS & INFORMATION: 614-265-6860 | h2.ohio.gov

Lake Erie Basin Projects

1. Cullen Park Flow-Through Wetland Restoration
Lucas County
This project is located within Maumee Bay adjacent to Cullen Park. Flow from the Maumee River will be directed through a restored flow-through wetland into protected shallow-water areas. These areas will filter water to keep excess nutrients from flowing through, create new fish and wildlife habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities.
Partners: Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority & City of Toledo

2. Grassy Island Wetland Restoration
Lucas County
This project is located north of the opening between Grassy Island and the Cullen Park path in Maumee Bay. Flow from the Maumee River will be directed through a restored flow-through wetland, into protected shallow-water areas that will support wetland vegetation, trap excess sediment in the water, process excess nutrients, and create new fish and wildlife habitat while maintaining navigation access and enhancing recreational opportunities.
Partners: Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority & City of Toledo

3. Maumee Bay State Park Wetland Reconnection
Lucas County
Portions of the existing Maumee Bay State Park wetland complex are dominated by non-native, invasive tall grasses called Phragmites. This project will involve controlling the Phragmites, restoring the wetland with native vegetation, and adding a water control structure to filter nutrients before reaching Lake Erie. As a secondary benefit, the added control structures will expand wildlife habitat allowing fish to pass between the restored wetland and Lake Erie.
Partner: The Nature Conservancy

4A. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Reconnection Projects
Lucas County
This project will reconnect three wetland habitat units to Lake Erie through the Crane Creek Estuary. The 580-acre project will reduce nutrients flowing into the lake by diverting excess water from farmlands in the 57-square mile Crane Creek/Veler Road ditch upstream of the wetland habitats.
Partner: Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation District

4B. Magee Marsh Turtle Creek Bay Wetland Reconnection
Ottawa County
This project will reconnect the large Turtle Creek Bay wetland within Magee Marsh to Lake Erie. Structures to control the amount and depth of water in the wetland will be installed to manage agricultural runoff when lake levels rise. During high flow events, upstream flow from Turtle Creek will be diverted into the wetland where excess sediments and nutrients will be captured, keeping them from flowing directly into Lake Erie.
Partner: Erie Soil & Water Conservation District

4D. Bohling Marsh Wetland Reconnection
Ottawa County
The Bohling Marsh project will reconnect 55-acres of existing wetland to La Carpe Creek, which flows into Lake Erie. Water quality will be improved by capturing and treating nutrient-rich waters that will soon be able to flow into the coastal wetland. Once completed, this high-quality wetland complex will also serve as fish spawning areas and nursery rearing habitat for larval fish.
Partner: Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation District

4E. Darby Refuge Wetland Reconnection
Ottawa County
Two wetland units in Darby Refuge will be reconnected to Lake Erie through this project. The reconnection will increase the amount of excess nutrients and sediment captured in the watershed before they are able to flow into the lake. The project will include breeching existing structures/levees and installing water control structures to allow La Carpe Creek to flow through the wetlands instead of emptying agricultural drainage into Lake Erie directly.
Partners: Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation District & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

5. Muddy Creek Bay Wetland Restoration
Sandusky County
The Muddy Creek Bay project will create a series of natural, shallow underwater ridges, also called shoals, and/or islands within the open waters of Western Sandusky Bay. Material dredged locally from the bay will be used to create these shallow features. The shoals will significantly improve water quality by reducing wave energy and creating calm-water areas that promote the growth of aquatic wetland vegetation that will process and remove nutrients and sediments from the water. Removal of fine-grained sediment from the bay bottom may also expand fish-spawning habitat.
Partner: The Nature Conservancy

6. Winous Point-North Marsh Reconnection
Ottawa County
This project will reconnect 800-acres of emergent wetland to Sandusky Bay which is directly adjacent to this marsh allowing water to flow through. There will be two fish passageways and water control structures connecting North Marsh to Sandusky Bay. Two inner wetland connections will also be established, improving the ability of this property to filter excess nutrients before they flow into the bay.
Partner: Winous Point Conservancy

7. Inner Bay Shoals & Islands Restoration
Sandusky County
Shallow natural underwater ridges, also called shoals, and/or islands will be created within the open waters of the inner Western Sandusky Bay. The plan anticipates using dredged material from the bay to create these shallow features. The shoals would significantly improve water quality in the bay by reducing wave energy, creating calm-water areas where aquatic vegetation can grow and trap nutrient-rich sediment. Removal of fine-grained sediment from the bay bottom may also expand fish-spawning habitat.
Partner: The Nature Conservancy

8. Moxley Wetland Reconnection
Erie County
This 57-acre marsh is located along the coast of Sandusky Bay. The goal of the project is to construct a fish passage/water control structure which will allow free water exchange between the wetland and Sandusky Bay. This shift in flow will enable the marsh to remove nutrients before the water hits the bay.
Partner: Erie Soil & Water Conservation District

9. Inner Bay Coastal Wetlands Restoration
Sandusky County
These coastal Lake Erie projects, focused along the southern shore of the Western Sandusky Bay, will restore frequently flooded wetlands and create new in-water habitat. Restored wetland area, near Pickerel Creek, will trap sediment and process excess nutrients from adjacent agricultural areas. Nature-based shoreline wetlands will improve water quality near the shore, reduce sediment redistribution, and restore shallow-water fish and wildlife habitat in Sandusky Bay.
Partner: The Nature Conservancy

10. St. Joseph Confluence Wetland Reconnection
Williams County
A combination of nutrient-reduction practices are included in this project site, which previously had 20-acres in agricultural use. Efforts included decommissioning subsurface drainage tiles, expanding existing wetlands, and the creation of new ones. Native vegetation, including shrubs and sedges, will be planted to help hold nutrients on the land, preventing them from entering nearby waterways. A deciduous forest of native trees also will be restored, within which nutrient and sediment-trapping vernal pools will naturally occur.
Partner: Black Swamp Conservancy

11. St. Joseph's River Restoration Project
Williams County
This project is restoring 56-acres of wetlands and forest and naturalizing tiled and ditched waterways to create meandering streams through the property. This property also will demonstrate how sustainable farming contributes to improved water quality. H2Ohio funds facilitated the purchase of nearly 94-acres of farmland along the mainstem of the St. Joseph River in Florence Township.
Partner: Black Swamp Conservancy

12. Mallard Club Wildlife Area Reconnection
Lucas County
This project will filter agricultural and residential runoff by reconnecting diked wetlands to create an additional 80-acres of manageable wetland habitat adjacent to Maumee Bay State Park. The work at the Mallard Club Wildlife area will result in better management opportunities for invasive species management, wildlife habitat and improved water quality.
Partner: Ducks Unlimited

13. Oak Openings Preserve Wetland Restoration
Lucas County
The existing Toledo Metroparks Oak Openings Preserve will incorporate previously farmed land adjacent to the preserve. Restoration of the property will include regrading and restoring wetland habitat. Forested wetlands and prairie habitat will also be added along Ai Creek, a tributary in the Maumee Basin.
Partner: Metroparks Toledo

14. Gatorland Wetland Restoration
Ottawa County
This project added a pump and protective structures to capture and filter the runoff from over 60-acres of adjacent agricultural drainage. H2Ohio funding was leveraged with federal sources

to create additional water-quality benefits from a Lake Erie CREP emergent marsh restoration along Packer Creek.
Partner: Ducks Unlimited

15. Little Portage Nutrient Reduction and Coastal Wetland Restoration
Ottawa County
The Little Portage restoration project contains more than 190-acres of frequently flooded farmland. Surface water from those fields currently flows directly into the Little Portage river. Once the restoration is complete, the excess water will be diverted into two wetlands and has the potential of capturing an additional 215-acres of nutrient and sediment-rich drainage from area farmland. These efforts will not only improve water quality, but also provide increased habitat for wildlife.
Partner: Ducks Unlimited

16. Redhorse Bend Preserve Wetland Restoration
Sandusky County
This project is restoring 54-acres of floodplain habitat along the Sandusky River. Dikes are being removed to enhance access to restored floodplain wetlands increasing the ability to retain floodwaters and treat pollutants. Trees and upland meadow habitat will also be planted. Once the restoration is complete, the property will be managed by Sandusky County Parks and open for public access.
Partner: Black Swamp Conservancy

17. Forder Bridge Floodplain Reconnection
Paulding County
This project involves wetland restoration on a 54-acre parcel adjacent to the Maumee State Scenic River in Paulding County. Restoration actions include installing a series of passive treatment wetlands along an agricultural drainage, recontouring stream banks to reconnect the Maumee River to its floodplain, and installing riffle grade control structures to reduce nearby streambank erosion. As a result of this project, water quality will be improved and wildlife habitat will be expanded.
Partner: Black Swamp Conservancy

18. Independence Dam Canal Reconnection & Wetland Creation Study
Defiance County
This project is examining potential designs for reconnection and reestablishing flow through the historic Miami and Erie Canal to improve water quality along the Maumee River. If deemed feasible, flow would be reestablished through the six miles of canal downstream of

Independence Dam State Park and incorporate wetland habitat features. The project has the added potential to restore a cultural resource and provide recreational opportunities.
Partner: Divisions of Parks & Watercraft, Engineering

19. Blanchard River Oxbow Restoration
Putnam County
This project will restore wetlands along the curves of the Blanchard River just west of the village of Ottawa. Low earth berms will create a series of terraced wetlands which will form water depths of 0-18". Native plant communities will be restored, and additional vegetation will be planted to add onto a narrow riparian wooded corridor.
Partners: Village of Ottawa, Maumee Watershed Conservancy District

20. Oakwoods Nature Preserve East
Hancock County
The Oakwoods Nature Preserve East is located in a former agricultural field. The area has been primarily converted into wetlands and a small portion will be planted as a native prairie. The project includes restoring natural water flow to the landscape and capturing excess nutrient and sediment from nearby farmland. This is a component of a larger restoration at Hancock Park District's Oakwoods Nature Preserve.
Partner: Hancock Park District

21. Oakwoods Nature Preserve West
Hancock County
The Oakwoods Nature Preserve Aurand Run project is creating and restoring wetlands, woodlands, and prairie in a previously farmed floodplain. Aurand Run crosses the project area and will be reconnected to its floodplain, allowing nutrient-rich water to be treated through three acres of forested wetlands. Other project efforts include removing underground drain tiles, enhancing wooded habitat along Aurand Run, and restoring wooded streamside habitat to expand and protect 15-acres of an existing high-quality forested wetland.
Partner: Hancock Park District

22. Fruth Outdoor Center Wetland Restoration
Seneca County
Existing wetlands have been restored and expanded on this property, which is in the headwaters of Wolf Creek, a tributary of the Sandusky River. Work included excavation of a grass field allowing it to revert to its former wetland ecosystem. The project also involved breaking drainage tile to restore natural hydrology to the surrounding area as well as planting trees and other vegetation native to Ohio wetland habitats.
Partner: Seneca County Park District

23. Andreoff Wetland Restoration
Wyandot County
This restoration project is located directly to the east of the Andreoff Wildlife Area in the headwaters of the Blanchard River. The restored wetland complex will capture drainage from surrounding agricultural fields through a drainage system designed to control flow and will reduce excess nutrients and sediment from getting into the river, and ultimately into Lake Erie.
Partner: Ducks Unlimited

24. Sandusky Headwaters Preserve Wetland and Habitat Restoration
Crawford County
The Sandusky Headwaters Preserve is restoring habitat by adding wetlands on a 7-acre agricultural field and restoring an additional 2-acre wetland within the preserve. A stream is being diverted through a seasonal wetland with vegetation around the perimeter. These combined efforts will improve water quality by reducing nutrient loading into the Sandusky River. A pollinator habitat with flowering plants will also be developed to provide a food source for insects.
Partner: Crawford Park District

25. Van Order Wetland and Forest Restoration
Henry County
This project includes both wetland creation and forest restoration. The implemented practices will naturally capture phosphorus-laden runoff to reduce the amount of nutrients entering agricultural ditches and slow flow into nearby waterways. Tree species to be planted include white oak, red oak, black oak, black cherry, black walnut, hickory, and, if available, American chestnut and butternut.
Partner: ODNR Division of Forestry

26. Navarre Marsh Wetland Restoration and Reconnection
Ottawa County
The existing Navarre Marsh complex will undergo an upgrade to the water management controls and project work will restore a connection with Lake Erie at the mouth of the Toussaint River. New pumps will also be installed and connected directly from two of the Navarre Marsh wetlands to Lake Erie. The proposed improvements will allow better passage for fish and improve Lake Erie water quality.
Partners: Ducks Unlimited & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

27. Baughman Ditch Wetland Restoration
Allen County
This project has two simultaneous goals: alleviating recurring flood damage in an urban area and slowing the flow of sediment and processing nutrients on their way to the Maumee. Three separate wetland cells are proposed and will incorporate citizen monitoring and educational outreach opportunities.
Partner: Allen County Engineer

28. Sanford Agricultural Drainage Treatment Train
Erie County
This project will increase water retention and treatment during high and low flow periods. An extended path provided by the wetland will increase filtering of sediments when the water is low. During high flow periods, the marsh will increase retention time to aid in water quality improvement. A portion of Sanford Ditch will be made into an overwide channel, allowing for more vegetation to grow and pre-treat nutrients before they enter the wetland and ultimately Sandusky Bay.
Partner: Erie Soil & Water Conservation District

29. Wolf Creek Floodplain Restoration
Seneca County
This project will focus on floodplain wetland restoration on over 160-acres of property that currently consists of over 100-acres of crop land. The crop land contains hydric soils and floodplain that connects with Wolf Creek. This project will interact with drainage from a 64-square mile area.
Partners: Seneca County Parks & Black Swamp Conservancy

30. Springville Marsh Wetland Restoration
Seneca County
The Springville Marsh project will reduce phosphorus runoff by including 65-acres of former cropland in the partial restoration of the historical Big Spring Prairie, a former large, wet prairie/fen/marsh complex. Restoration work includes removing underground drainage tiles in frequently flooded land adjacent to the Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, controlling invasive species, and planting native prairie vegetation with burr and white oaks on the uplands. Project improvements will also provide additional habitat for rare wildlife and plant species.
Partner: Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

31. Huddle Maumee Floodplain Restoration
Henry County
This project will help keep nutrients out of the Maumee River by restoring 57-acres of active floodplain allowing the Maumee River to fully utilize nearby habitat to process nutrients and settle out suspended settlements. This project is expected to deliver both water-quality and wildlife habitat benefits.
Partner: Black Swamp Conservancy

32. Muddy Creek Wetland Enhancement and Reconnection
Sandusky County
Two related projects in the Muddy Creek watershed will reconnect coastal emergent marsh wetland habitat. This project will route upstream agricultural drainage into restored wetlands to prevent nutrients from running off directly into nearby drainage ditches and ultimately into Sandusky Bay.
Partner: Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District

33. Tiffin River Pohlman Floodplain Restoration
Williams County
This project will restore floodplain along 75-acres near the Tiffin River. Restored wetlands and vegetation will filter nutrients and restore fish habitat. The project will also allow for re-introduction of threatened and endangered fish species.
Partner: Black Swamp Conservancy

34. Clark Island Restoration: Design Phase
Lucas County
This project supports the design and engineering stages of an effort to ultimately restore flow-through wetlands at and near Clark Island, reducing nutrient loading in the Maumee River. In addition to improving water quality, the project will also create and protect fish and wildlife habitat.
Partner: Toledo Lucas County Port Authority

35. Goll Woods State Nature Preserve Extension
Fulton County
This project aims to treat runoff from a 336-acre agricultural watershed. A wetland will be constructed adjacent to Goll Woods State Nature Preserve. The project will filter nutrients and sediment and could also present endangered fish reintroduction opportunities.
Partner: Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

36. Duck and Otter Creek Wetland and Stream Restoration
Lucas County
This project will restore wetland and stream habitat along Duck Creek, a direct tributary to Maumee Bay in an industrialized area of Toledo. It will slow the flow of water, allowing sediments and phosphorous to be filtered. This project will amplify the benefits of a series of other ecological restoration projects in the area.
Partner: Toledo Lucas County Port Authority

38. Huron River Nutrient Reduction and Marsh Restoration
Huron County
This project will restore and preserve 100-acres of emergent wetlands, forested shrub wetlands, and open water mudflats near the Huron River. Industrial and agricultural lands currently influence the watershed, negatively impacting water quality.
Partner: Western Reserve Land Conservancy

39. Rust Tract Wetland Restoration
Ottawa County
This project will restore a 7-acre emergent marsh and enhance another existing but degraded 8-acre marsh along the north bank of the Toussaint River. A pump system will be installed to divert 178-acres of agricultural runoff into the wetlands to be filtered before they flow into the river. This project was developed with the support of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act and the Lake Erie CREP.
Partner: Ducks Unlimited

40. Martin's Run Wetland and Stream Restoration Project
Lorain County
This project will restore and enhance 16-acres of wetland and 1,000-linear feet of severely eroding stream channel. It will restore Martin's Run's connectivity with its floodplain and riparian wetlands. The resulting restoration will treat stormwater and reduce sediment and nutrient pollutant loading to Lake Erie.
Partner: City of Lorain

41. Bird Bog Restoration Project
Portage County
Wetlands will be restored along Breakneck Creek in the Cuyahoga River watershed. The work will filter nutrients from nearby farmlands, improving surface water quality upstream of a municipal drinking water source and will help to protect a sensitive and rare bog ecosystem.
Partner: West Creek Conservancy

42. Headlands Dunes Coastal Wetland Restoration Project
Lake County
This project will replace frequently flooded parking lots with a coastal wetland dune/swale plant community at Headlands Dunes State Park. This restoration project will be removing approximately 7-acres of asphalt parking lots, moving sand to establish dunes and depressions, and planting native wetland species. This project is supported by a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
Partner: Division of Parks and Watercraft

43. Foster's Run Restoration
Cuyahoga County
This project will restore wetland and stream habitat at Foster's Run in the North Chagrin Reservation. This project complements and expands on a 2008 restoration project, reducing erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient loading into Foster's Run and maintaining high-quality riparian, wetland, and forest habitat in the project area.
Partner: Cleveland Metroparks

44. Grand River Wet Meadow Restoration Initiative
Ashtabula County
This project will restore existing agricultural land into a wet meadow complex. This will serve as a buffer and phosphorus sink, filtering nutrients from 270-acres of adjacent agricultural land. Once complete, the area will help keep excess nutrients from flowing into Lake Erie.
Partner: Western Reserve Land Conservancy

45. Toussaint Coastal Wetland Reconnections
Ottawa County
These projects will reconnect coastal wetlands to Lake Erie tributaries, allowing for a flow-through system. Water will flow through the coastal wetlands and be treated before making it to the Toussaint River. These wetlands also will serve as fish spawning areas and nursery rearing habitat for larval fish. Both components of this project will enhance currently degraded wetland dike infrastructure.
Partner: Ottawa SWCD

46. Upper Blanchard Watershed Wetland Restorations
Wyandot County
This project is being designed to improve water quality in the Blanchard River watershed. Several private-lands and/or CREP wetland projects will work together in a local drainage network, with newly installed pump infrastructure on an existing wetland, and will allow filtering of agricultural runoff.
Partner: Wyandot SWCD

47. Blanchard River Floodplain Wetland Restoration
Putnam County
Wooded riparian buffer and floodplain wetlands will be restored and enhanced on private property along the Blanchard River, filtering nutrients from a tributary that contributes nutrients to the Maumee River watershed.
Partner: Private Landowner

<u>Ohio River Basin Projects</u>

A. Burntwood-Langenkamp Wetland Conservation Area
Mercer County
This project will be the fourth treatment train associated with nutrient-reduction efforts at Grand Lake St. Marys. The Lake Facilities Authority has purchased property in Butler Township with Clean Ohio grant funding. Following acquisition, the H2Ohio program is funding construction of a passive wetland treatment train featuring three created wetlands, several acres of planted trees, and a large buffer area of grasses and plants.
Partner: Lake Facilities Authority

B. Brooks Park Wetland Creation & Water Quality Initiative
Fairfield County
The Buckeye Lake State Park Brooks Park project will reduce nutrients and pollutants entering Buckeye Lake via Murphy's Run through the creation of new wetlands at Brooks Park. The project will accomplish this goal through habitat improvement along Murphy's Run and establishing connectivity with an off-channel wetland. Stream habitat improvements and creation of wetlands will lead to increased ecological function including nutrient, sediment, and pollutant removal.
Partner: ODNR Division of Parks & Watercraft

C. Chippewa Lake Wetland Restoration
Medina County
At more than 300-acres, Chippewa Lake is Ohio's largest glacial lake, making it ecologically and culturally significant. In recent years, the lake has been plagued by harmful algal blooms. This project will restore several wetlands and a stream channel to intercept nutrients from nearby agricultural drainage areas and create wetland habitat within the footprint of a former amusement park along the shore of Chippewa Lake.
Partner: Medina County Parks

D. East Fork Nutrient Reduction & Wetland Initiative
Clermont County
This project involves several components, all of which improve water quality by reducing nutrient loading to Harsha Lake including the creation of a 3-acre wetland treatment system at the former Williamsburg reservoir. A detailed assessment of the Harsha Lake watershed is also being conducted to identify priority areas for additional constructed wetlands.
Partner: Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District

E & F. Great Miami Off-channel Wetland: Duke Phase/Tipp City Phase
Miami County
Off-channel wetland habitat will be created in two locations along the Great Miami River by excavating areas prone to flooding and then re-establishing a connection to the river channel. The newly built wetlands will increase flood storage, trap excess sediment, and remove excess nutrients.
Partners: Miami County Parks, US Fish & Wildlife Service

G. Delaware Wildlife Area O'Donnell Treatment Train
Delaware County
This project will restore wetlands which will accept drainage from adjacent cropland and 18-acres of upland will also be converted to a wetland. These wetlands will form a four-cell wetland treatment train in which water, pumped from Delaware Lake, will pass through all four wetland cells for filtration before returning to Delaware Lake.
Partner: Ducks Unlimited

H. Mercer Wildlife Area Wetland Restoration Projects
Mercer County
There are several complimentary wetland restoration projects planned at Mercer Wildlife Area, all with the goal of limiting nutrient loading into Grand Lake St. Marys. The Division of Wildlife will enhance a forested wetland to help with nutrient filtering. The project will also

upgrade a pump and supply lines to a newly created wetland increasing the volume of water from Grand Lake St. Marys that can be treated.
Partner: Lake Facilities Authority