

My name is Mike Fornataro, I am the Executive Director of the non – profit Buckeye Lake Region Corporation. The BLRC unifies the efforts of the 3-county Buckeye Lake Region by aligning the elected officials from the county, village, township and neighborhood level for the common good.

The efforts of the legislature are deeply appreciated, as it is their good work on behalf of the residents, businesses and visitors in the Buckeye Lake Region that makes our good work possible.

The primary focus of the BLRC is infrastructure, water quality and public spaces. Buckeye Lake is strategically located in the Center of Ohio, an easily accessible recreation hub and economic engine in a region that does not have many other options. As Buckeye Lake itself is a state park (in fact, the oldest in Ohio) much of what the BRLC advocates involves working with the Department of Natural Resources.

DNR has been a partner for positive change in the area, as they work closely with the BLRC on projects that will improve the safety, opportunities and general well-being of visitors and residents of the region.

While many needs of the area have been addressed, many remain. Among them the need for DNR to have the budget that provides for the resources to continue to adequately maintain and improve parks and public spaces and provide the safety services that improves the quality of life of every Ohioan that enjoys Buckeye Lake or any Ohio State Park.

In closing, I again want to thank this body for the support that has led to the constant improvement of Buckeye Lake, support that pays dividends to all Ohioans by creating recreational and occupational opportunities, which lead to increased tax revenue.