



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

FOR RELEASE: May 6, 2010
MEDIA CONTACT: Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Awards Grant for Little Cuyahoga River Restoration

Restoration work along the Little Cuyahoga River will receive a big boost thanks to a major grant awarded by Ohio EPA. The \$400,000 grant will support local efforts to lower Akron's Kelly Avenue dam, restore the natural stream channel and protect riparian areas along the river's banks.

The grant awarded to the city of Akron is one of seven Section 319 grants Ohio EPA issued statewide totaling nearly \$2.9 million. The money will be combined with a \$1.9 million local match to complete phase two of the Little Cuyahoga River restoration project.

Akron plans to lower the Kelly Avenue dam five feet. This will significantly reduce the dam impoundment area and improve water quality. Removing the dam in its entirety is not a viable option due to upstream bridge structures and in-stream abutments.

After the dam is lowered, the city will restore 1,570 feet of stream channel, an acre of riparian wetlands and more than eight acres of riparian forested buffer areas. The restoration work will employ natural channel design methods and native plantings of hardwood and shrub species. A conservation easement will ensure the riparian areas are permanently protected.

In 1987, Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act created a national program to control nonpoint source pollution. Ohio EPA administers the program for U.S. EPA and distributes millions of federal dollars to projects proposed by local governments and community organizations such as watershed groups. To be eligible, grant recipients must contribute at least a 40 percent match consisting of cash or in-kind contributions or services. Grants of up to \$500,000 are awarded for three-year periods.

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairment in Ohio's streams and lakes. There are many sources of nonpoint pollution including runoff from farm fields, urban areas and abandoned coal mines. Typical 319 grants help pay for stream restoration, lowhead dam removal, abatement of acid mine drainage and protection of wetlands and riparian areas.

More information is available online at: www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/319Program.aspx.

-30-

www.epa.ohio.gov