



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

FOR RELEASE: January 30, 2012
MEDIA CONTACT: Heidi Griesmer, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Mary McCarron, (614) 644-2160

Ohio EPA Offering Info Sessions in February for Surface Water Improvement Grants

Communities and organizations interested in learning how to apply for grants to improve water quality can attend upcoming information sessions Ohio EPA is holding on the Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) grant program.

Each session will begin at 10 a.m. and will last about 90 minutes. Ohio EPA representatives will present information and answer questions about the grant process.

Sessions include:

- Northeast: Thursday, Feb. 9, Ohio EPA Northeast District Office, 2110 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg;
- Southwest: Tuesday, Feb. 21, Ohio EPA Southwest District Office, 401 E. Fifth St., Dayton;
- Central: Thursday, Feb. 23, Ohio EPA Central Office, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700, 6th floor, Columbus;
- Northwest: Friday, Feb. 24, Ohio EPA Northwest District Office, 347 N. Dunbridge Rd., Bowling Green.

Habitat alteration, modification of natural flow with dams and levees, excessive sediment and nutrient enrichment are the greatest causes of stream degradation in Ohio. SWIF grants are designed to demonstrate improvements in practices that keep soil, excess nutrients and pesticides out of waterways.

More than \$2 million will be made available statewide. Following a competitive review process, grants of varying amounts are available to local governments, park districts, conservation organizations such as soil and water conservation districts and others. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- stream restoration and riparian protection;
- innovative storm water demonstration practices such as green roofs and rain gardens;
- green infrastructure; and
- wetland restoration and protection.

Ohio EPA is accepting grant applications until March 31 for projects in Cuyahoga County and April 30 for the rest of the state. The request for proposals and applications are available [online](#).

-30-

www.epa.ohio.gov