

Ohio Environmental Education Fund New Mini Grant Awards, April 2021

Ohio EPA awarded the following five new mini grants for a total of \$22,816 in funding.

Agricultural Extension Camp, Inc., “4-H Camp Ohio Center Revitalize,” S-20M-021, \$4,847, Licking County, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Janessa Hill, hill.1357@osu.edu, 740-745-2194.

4-H Camp Ohio was established in 1920 and hosts thousands of visitors everywhere from International student workers to youth and adults across the state of Ohio. Ohio 4-H reaches over 550,000 across the state of Ohio and includes over 15,000 that attend a summer camp with over 4,000 directly at 4-H Camp Ohio. Counties that camp at 4-H Camp Ohio with 4-H members include Licking, Knox, Holmes, Coshocton, Muskingum, Ashland, Hancock, Franklin, Hardin, Perry, Morrow, Marion, Delaware. With an additional 3,500 groups utilizing camp year-round not part of the 4-H programs e.g., band camps, school groups, church groups, and family camps. The goals of the 4-H Nature Center update are to expand on the environmental education of visitors to Camp Ohio. The updated camp nature center eventually will educate visitors on habitat preservation, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, watersheds, water quality, environmental health and sustainability.

Preble Soil and Water Conservation District, “Conservation Day Camp and Careers,” S-20M-023, \$3,000, Preble County, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Kate Sills, katesills@prebleswcd.org, 937-456-5159.

Conservation Day Camp is a week-long camp dedicated to promoting environmental education and preservation of natural resources through hands-on activities. The camp is located at the local Historical Society and Nature Reserve, a 256-acre farm with several natural features such as wetlands, creek, pollinator habitat, and hiking trails through wooded areas. Conservation Day Camp specializes in the education of natural resources, wildlife, soil and erosion, water quality, and conservation stewardship. Careers will also be included in this year’s camp agenda. Over 130 local students will benefit from this year’s camp.

Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District, “Manure Management Education,” S-20M-027, \$4,969, Ashland County, Audience: Regulated Community, Contact: Erica White, ewhite@ashlandcounty.org, 419-281-7645.

This project would include a multi-pronged approach to demonstrate and encourage best management practices for nutrients with a focus on manure management. It would target the farm community with specific programming designed to reach our

underserved Amish & Mennonite populations. It would include hands-on manure education day where farmers learn about soil & manure testing, how to develop application rates based on those tests, calibration of manure application equipment, and use of the OnMrk app for manure application record keeping. Afterward, in teams of 3, participating farmers would work a hands-on scenario to interpret soil & manure test results, determine appropriate application rates, calibrate their manure application equipment & do an application using OnMrk for record keeping. Additional components include a manure record keeping calendar for Amish and a follow up fall producer meeting with a manure BMP focus.

Cuyahoga Falls City Schools – Cuyahoga Falls High School, “Raise the Roof: Increasing Awareness of Green Infrastructure in a Revitalized Suburban Community,” S-20M-028, \$5,000, Summit County, Audience: Pre-school to University, Contact: Ashlynn E. Schindler, cf_schindlera@cfalls.org, 330-622-2113.

The student-lead CFHS Environmental club will be instituting a comprehensive initiative throughout the district and community to demonstrate innovative stormwater management and green infrastructure. The cornerstone of which will be the installation of a biodiverse green roof on a section of the high school roof, serving as an example of green infrastructure to the community. This will provide accessible outside-of-the-classroom learning. Students will make further use of both materials and funds to facilitate multi grade K-12 field trips to analyze streams in the Cuyahoga River watershed in which High School students interact with elementary students to pass on knowledge gained in our Environmental Science program to emphasize the importance of water quality to developing generations. Construction of the green roof will require input of local Environmental Engineers who will work with the Environmental Club students, increasing awareness of the green career sector to students.

Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, “Sawmill Wetlands Educational Signage,” S-20M-034, \$5,000, Franklin County, Audience: General Public, Contact: Kori Gasaway, kgasaway@franklinswcd.org, 614-486-9613.

FLOW and our partners will implement educational signage at the 17-acre ODNR Sawmill Wetlands Natural Area (in urban Columbus). Forested wetlands and vernal pools are unique in the urban environment. The project will facilitate immersive, hands-on and passive environmental education and ensure that all visitors have the opportunity to experience and care for their natural world. We will primarily educate the general public. Attendees will learn about these valuable wetland habitats and why it is important to preserve them. We will purchase and install a kiosk and design and install 4 educational signs. We will also conduct Project Wet Activities and Wonder of Wetland Activities.

For more information, contact:



Office of Environmental Education

<http://epa.ohio.gov/oeo>

oeef@epa.ohio.gov

(614) 644-2873