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Ohio EPA Awards Environmental Education Grant to Cincinnati Organization

Cincinnati students will learn environmental science while providing community service by helping restore and improve Salway Park as part of the Mill Creek Urban Habitat Restoration efforts. Ohio EPA awarded Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek a \$36,036 Ohio Environmental Education grant for the project. Eleven grants were awarded statewide for \$304,136.

The project will provide outdoor environmental education programs to at least 2,000 middle and high school students. The students will work with local environmental professionals to restore wetlands and improve wildlife habitat in the park. This will include removing invasive plants, identifying native species, observing birds and tracking wildlife using digital applications. Students and professionals also will plant wetland plants, perennials and edible forest gardens of native hardwoods to provide food and habitat for wildlife, and fruit trees and vegetables to provide food for both humans and wildlife.

The wetland curriculum will be realigned with the new state science standards being phased in for the 2014-15 school year. Groundwork Cincinnati is collaborating with Cincinnati Public Schools and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund is administered by Ohio EPA. Eligible grant recipients include environmental groups, public and private schools, colleges and universities, trade or professional organizations, businesses and state and local governments. For additional information, contact the [Ohio Environmental Education Fund](#) on the web or at (614) 644-2873.

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www.epa.ohio.gov

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was created in 1972 to consolidate efforts to protect and improve air quality, water quality and waste management in Ohio. Since then, air pollutants dropped by as much as 90 percent; large rivers meeting standards improved from 21 percent to 89 percent; and hundreds of polluting, open dumps were replaced with engineered landfills and an increased emphasis on waste reduction and recycling.