



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: May 20, 2008

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Ohio EPA Awards \$45,000 Environmental Education Grant to Hamilton County Organization

Mill Creek Restoration Project has been awarded a \$45,000 Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund grant to teach students how to implement infrastructure projects to reduce storm water runoff from school properties. Nine grants were awarded statewide for a total of \$350,000.

The grant will support efforts at nine Cincinnati Public Schools to involve sixth grade students through high school seniors in green infrastructure projects to reduce storm water runoff from the school properties.

Students will participate in site assessment, installation, maintenance and monitoring of projects such as reforestation, rain gardens, vegetated swales, wetlands and green roofs that use soils and vegetation to filter and absorb rainfall, evaporate it back to the atmosphere, and reuse it onsite. After the one-year pilot project, the program will extend to 50 schools over the next five years. Collaborators include the Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Storm Water Management Utility, Civic Garden Center, Master Gardeners Program, Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, and Rain Garden Alliance.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund is administered by Ohio EPA. Grants up to \$50,000 are funded from one-half of the civil penalties collected by the Agency for air and water pollution control violations. Eligible grant recipients include environmental groups, public and private schools, colleges and universities, trade or professional organizations, businesses and state and local governments. Approximately \$1 million is given each year.

The next OEEF application deadline is on July 15, 2008. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 8. For additional information, contact the Ohio Environmental Education Fund at (614) 644-2873 or visit its Web site at www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/.

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<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/>