

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **\$1.01 million Available to Protect Open Space in Lucas County**

Since the inception of the Clean Ohio Fund in 2001, the Ohio General Assembly has appropriated \$150 million for conservation projects in Ohio. These projects have already returned more than \$5 million dollars to Lucas County for protection of open spaces and wetlands. To date, the Clean Ohio Fund has preserved ten natural areas in Lucas County, including the Kitty Todd Nature Preserve, the Sylvan Prairie Park, and land which doubled the size of Pearson Metropark.

Applications are now being accepted for the next round of grants. In 2008, the Clean Ohio Fund has allocated \$1,012,864 (and possibly more depending on outcome of voting in November), for nonprofit organizations that will use the funds for open space preservation. For any project approved, a 25 percent minimum local match is required. All applications must be submitted to the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) by 5 p.m. on February 6, 2009. All applicants will be notified of NRAC's recommendation by March 31, 2009.

The Lucas County Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) will hold a meeting to discuss the program, its goals, and to answer questions. Potential applicants are strongly urged to attend. The meeting will be December 2, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom, 300 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, in Toledo. Applications can be obtained by contacting the NRAC District 12 Liaison, Kurt Erichsen at TMACOG: 419-241-9155. Applications forms and program information can also be found on the Web at [www.tmacog.org/Environment/NRAC/nrac\\_body.htm](http://www.tmacog.org/Environment/NRAC/nrac_body.htm) or [www.pwc.state.oh.us](http://www.pwc.state.oh.us). For directions to TMACOG, see the TMACOG website: [www.tmacog.org/tmacogMAP.htm](http://www.tmacog.org/tmacogMAP.htm).

### **Background on NRAC**

The 11-member Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) has been appointed to assist in the evaluation and selection of the Clean Ohio Fund conservation projects. The members of the council in Lucas County were chosen from among organizations with expertise in conservation, natural resource protection, parks and recreation, real estate development, and environmental protection. NRAC will be responsible for receiving applications and deciding how to allocate grants from the Clean Ohio Fund, based on uniform statewide criteria.

Natural Resources Assistance Council  
DISTRICT 12 - LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO

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