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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **\$3.1 Million of Clean Ohio Conservation Funds Available for Franklin County**

**(Columbus – July 30, 2015)** On April 1, 2014 Governor Kasich signed House Bill 497 and appropriated \$37.5 million for the Clean Ohio Conservation Program to fund Program Year 10. The Clean Ohio Conservation Program is part of the Clean Ohio program approved by voters in 2008. The Natural Assistance Resource Council has been allocated \$3.1 million of these funds for District 3-Franklin County. The funds can be used to acquire green space and/or restore riparian corridors. Local governments, park and joint recreation districts, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, and non-profit organizations located in Franklin County are eligible to apply for the grant funds.

“Since 2002 more than \$33.8 million has been awarded in Clean Ohio Conservation funds in Franklin County,” states Wilma Yoder, District 3 Liaison. “Earlier this year, seven projects submitted by the Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks, Westerville, Grove City, Gahanna and the Appalachia Ohio Alliance were awarded \$3.3 million to preserve more than 223 acres of greenspace for future generations.”

A preliminary screener and a final application are required. The preliminary screener will be used to determine if the project is eligible. The deadline for the preliminary screener is 5:00 p.m. on December 30, 2015, and the final application is due by 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2016.

Application documents and information are available under the “Sustainability – Clean Ohio Fund” tab on the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission’s website at [www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org) or by clicking [here](#).

For questions or to schedule time to discuss this funding program, please contact Wilma Yoder at [wyoder@morpc.org](mailto:wyoder@morpc.org) or 614-233-4175.

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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