

# Ohio's Nutrient Reduction Efforts Related to the Mississippi River and Gulf Hypoxia Task Force

Greg Nageotte,  
Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Ohio Department of Agriculture

1



**H2Ohio**

Initiated in Lake Erie and moving into Ohio River Basin

**Reducing Phosphorus** 

**Creating Wetlands** 

**Addressing Failing Septic Systems** 

**Preventing Lead Contamination**

PROTECTING OHIO'S WATER

 **MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

2

# ODNR'S H2OHIO Program H2Ohio Wetlands For Water Quality

Using natural infrastructure to provide both nutrient reduction and habitat restoration

PROTECTING OHIO'S WATER



## Reducing Phosphorus



## Creating Wetlands



## Addressing Failing Septic Systems

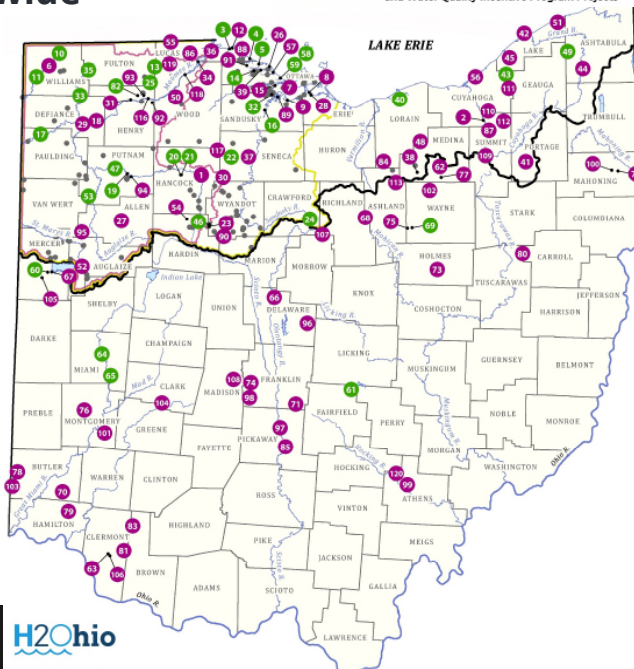


## Preventing Lead Contamination

## ODNR's H2Ohio Program is Statewide

- H2Ohio is now expanding projects across the state out from its initial Western Lake Erie Basin.
  - Currently >120 projects
- Two rounds of Ohio River Basin H2Ohio Wetland Grant Program
  - 2021 – 10 projects awarded a total of \$4.3mil
  - 2022 – 9 projects awarded a total of \$3mil

H2Ohio Statewide Projects and Water Quality Incentive Program Projects



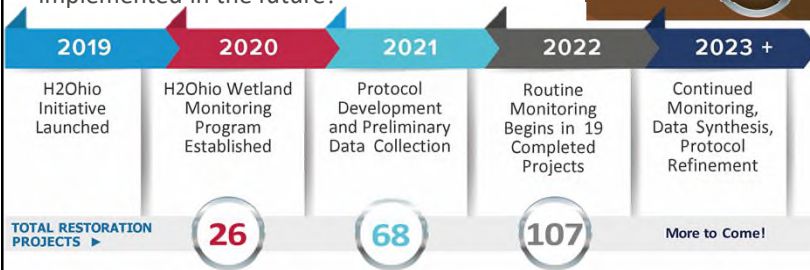
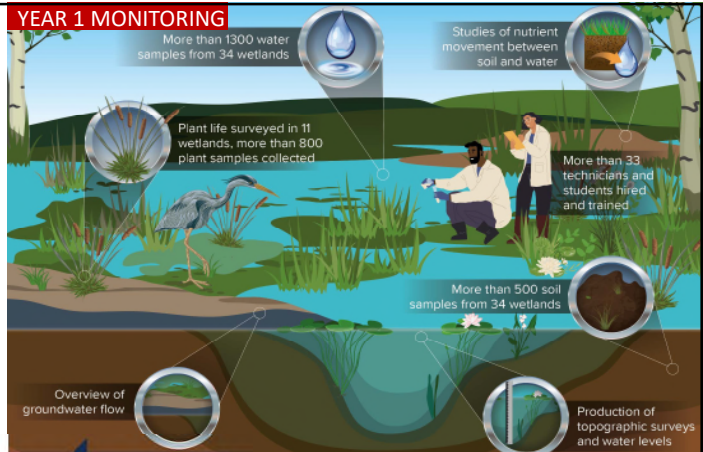
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



# H2Ohio Wetland Monitoring Program

## CORE QUESTIONS

- Which types of wetland structure and function provide enhanced nutrient reduction and retention?
- Which wetland restoration approaches maximize cost-effectiveness to mitigate nutrient loads to Ohio water bodies?
- How can wetland restoration be effectively implemented in the future?



5

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



- Scioto CREP Initiated in 2004;
- Focus on floodplain grass, tree and wetland practices to reduce sedimentation and improve water quality and wildlife habitat
- 70,000 acre maximum; 59,164 acres currently enrolled
- Expands incentives with saturated buffers to treat subsurface drainage



6

## What a producer gets for enrolling into CREP

- Continuous Sign-up under USDA authorization
- Enhanced CRP annual rental payment (15 yr. period). Rental payment determined by 3 predominant soils for cropland.
- 50% cost-share (eligible reimbursable costs)
- Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) 32.5% of 1<sup>st</sup> annual rental payment
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) =to 40% of the eligible reimbursable cost
- State Incentive Payments for eligible practices

7

## State Water Quality Incentive Payments

Scioto River CREP FY24-25				
Practice	Description	State Incentive Agency	State Incentive (New Enrollment)	State Incentive (Re-Enrollment)
CP1	Introduced Grasses	ODNR	\$500	\$250
CP2	Native Grasses	ODA	\$500	\$250
CP21*	Grassed Buffers (Filter Strips)	ODA	\$500	\$250
CP22	Forested Riparian Buffers	ODNR	\$1,500	\$0
CP23, 23A, 9	Wetlands	ODNR	\$1,500	\$250

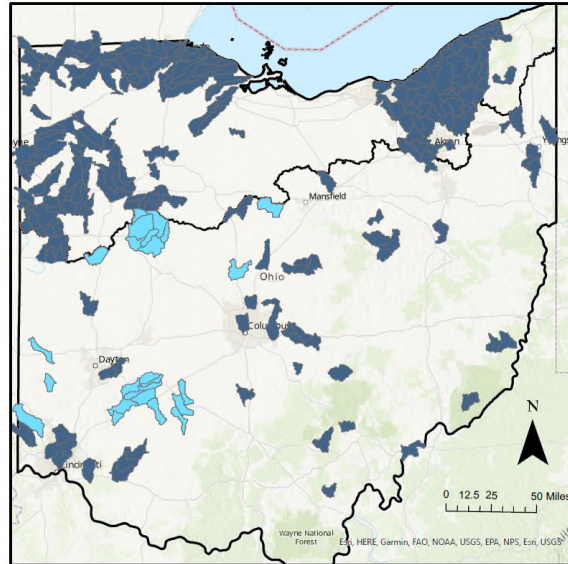
\*Incentive payments are also available for saturated buffer installation

8



# Ohio 2020 USEPA Gulf Hypoxia Assistance Grant

26 New Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategies (NPS-IS) using \$200,000 assistance funds



Non-Point Source Implementation Strategies (NPSIS)  
GULF20 NPSIS  
NPSIS  
Lake Erie Drainage Divide  
State Boundary



9

## Ohio Gulf Hypoxia Program Funds –Years 1 & 2

1. Update Ohio's Nutrient Reduction Strategy;
2. Increase Ohio Dept. of Agriculture technical assistance staff:
  - a Nutrient Management Specialist;
  - and a Conservation Engineer;
3. Increase support for Nutrient Reduction Activities and Hypoxia Task Force Goals through additional Ohio EPA position;
4. Develop twelve new HUC12 nonpoint source implementation strategies;
5. Home Septic Treatment Systems (HSTS) maintenance/education program for disadvantaged communities in Southeast Ohio;
6. USGS gage water quality monitoring at three gages in the Ohio River Basin
7. Measure the Effectiveness of New Innovative Practices;



10