

Natural Resources Assistance Council
DISTRICT 12 - LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO

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Press Release

\$1.26 million available to protect open space in Lucas County

District 12 - Lucas County, OH - February 4, 2002 - Over the next four years, \$150 million in grants will be awarded from the Clean Ohio Fund throughout Ohio for eligible conservation projects. District 12, Lucas County, has been allocated \$1,266,080.00 in round one of funding. The Clean Ohio Fund, State Issue 1, was approved by voters in November 2000. The fund calls for a \$400 million bond program to preserve natural areas and farmland, protect streams, create outdoor recreational opportunities, and revitalize urban areas by returning contaminated properties to productive use. **A 25% minimum local match is required.**

An **11-member Natural Resources Assistance Council** has been appointed by District 12's Public Works Integrating Committee to assist in the selection of the Clean Ohio Fund conservation projects. The members of the council were chosen from among organizations with expertise in conservation, natural resource protection, parks and recreation, real estate development and environmental protection. The Natural Resource Assistance Council will be responsible for receiving applications and deciding how to allocate grants from the Clean Ohio Fund, based on uniform statewide criteria.

Terry Seidel, Chairman of the Natural Resource Assistance Council said, "Lucas County residents will soon begin to see direct benefits of their support for Issue One here in Lucas County. We are fortunate to have incredible natural areas, such as the Oak Openings Region. The funds will aid in the additional protection of our most viable natural areas and increase the quality of life for citizens."

All applications must be submitted by April 30, 2002. All successful applicants will be notified of the grant approval by June 30th, 2002.

Applications can be obtained by contacting the District 12 Liaison NRAC, Scott Bernhard, at 419-213-4547. Program information can be found on the web at www.pwc.state.oh.us.