

For Immediate Release
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State Approves more than \$531,000 for Clean Ohio Assistance Fund Projects

COLUMBUS – Today, the State Controlling Board approved \$531,710 in Clean Ohio Assistance Fund grants for two Ohio communities. The Clean Ohio Assistance Fund supports brownfield redevelopment in Ohio's urban areas, and is administered by the Office of Redevelopment, which is housed within the Ohio Department of Development's Community Services Division.

"These investments are an important first step to finding new, productive futures for underused properties," said Thea Walsh, Deputy Chief of the Office of Redevelopment. "Such properties can often become blighted and eye sores for communities. By investing in the environmental assessment, we can better understand what it will take to bring these locations back to life, creating valuable jobs in the process."

The Clean Ohio Assistance Fund is part of the Clean Ohio Fund, which restores, protects, and connects Ohio's important natural and urban areas by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and cleaning up brownfields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities.

City of Marion (Marion County) will receive a \$289,312 grant to conduct a Phase II Environmental Assessment on the former Fairfield Engineering property. The property, located at 324 Barnhart Street, is made up of two parcels totaling 7.99 acres northeast of downtown. The Phase II Environmental Assessment, which will determine the property's environmental suitability and possible need for remediation, will include the installation of 67 soil borings, 25 shallow groundwater monitoring wells, and one deep groundwater monitoring well. The assessment also will include an asbestos survey, data evaluation, and reporting. The city and development partner, Clarksco Properties, LLC plan to redevelop the site to attract future tenants.

City of Niles (Trumbull County) will receive a \$292,628 grant to conduct a Phase II Environmental Assessment on the former Republic Steel property. The property, located at 1818 North Main Street, is made up of 11 parcels totaling 26.06 acres northwest of downtown. The Phase II Environmental Assessment, which will determine the property's environmental suitability and possible need for remediation, will include the installation of 112 soil borings, 49 shallow groundwater monitoring wells, and three deep groundwater monitoring wells. The assessment also will include an asbestos survey, data evaluation, and reporting. The city and property owner, BR Property Group, are in the process of redeveloping the property to assist with the expansion of BRT Extrusions, Inc. The project is expected to create 20 jobs.

*The **Clean Ohio Assistance Fund** is an open-cycle program that provides grant dollars for Phase II Environmental Assessment and Brownfield Cleanup/Public Health Projects. To date, 220 Clean Ohio Assistance Fund projects have been awarded, totaling more than \$75.9 million. Of the 220 projects, 63 were for cleanup projects, which leveraged more than \$1 billion and are expected to create and retain more than 5,800 jobs. For more information about the **Clean Ohio Assistance Fund**, visit www.clean.ohio.gov.*

*The **Office of Redevelopment**, located within the Department's Community Services Division, assists communities with place-based redevelopment which creates wealth from personal, business, and community successes. The Office works to identify the resources and financing necessary to enhance the economic viability of local communities.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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