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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Natural Resources Assistance Council awards over \$3.2 Million of Clean Ohio Conservation Funds

(Columbus –April 29, 2014) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) announces the award of over \$3.2 million of Clean Ohio Conservation Funds (COCF) in Round 8 for District 3-Franklin County from the Natural Assistance Resource Council. The COCF is part of the Clean Ohio program approved by voters in 2008. The COCF 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 all eligible to apply for these grant funds.

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	COCF Requested	COCF Award Amount
1	Franklin County Metro Parks	Darbydale Watershed Acquisition - Thomas Property	\$334,000	\$233,800	\$233,800
2	Franklin County Metro Parks	Olentangy River Acquisition - Bodycombe Property	\$1,110,000	\$832,500	\$832,500
3	Franklin County Metro Parks	Walnut Woods Acquisition - Herr Property	\$748,000	\$486,200	\$486,200
4	Columbus Parks & Recreation	Dysart Run Headwaters Preservation	\$1,586,000	\$983,320	\$983,320
5	Columbus Parks & Recreation	Big Walnut Creek Refugee Preservation Area	\$247,000	\$173,000	\$173,000
6	Lithopolis	Alice Smith Nature Preserve	\$669,955	\$495,342	\$495,342
7	Jefferson Twp.	Olde Quarry Park Improvement	\$101,790	\$76,342	\$0
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,796,745</b>		<b>\$3,204,162</b>

"The Natural Resources Assistance Council for District 3 was pleased with the quality of projects submitted for Clean Ohio Conservation funding that will provide connectivity to existing open space; preserve and protect our riparian corridors, wetlands, woodlands and natural resources for future generations," states Michael E. Hooper, Westerville Parks and Recreation Development Administrator and Chair of the Natural Resources Assistance Council.

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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“Greenways benefit the community by attracting economic development, create environmental sustainability and provide an opportunity for residents to live a healthy active lifestyle which reduces health care costs.”

Please contact Wilma Yoder at [wyoder@morpc.org](mailto:wyoder@morpc.org) or 614-233-4175 regarding the Natural Resources Assistance Council and the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund.

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*MORPC is a voluntary association of local governments in Central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.*