

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CLEAN OHIO FUND CONSERVATION



Photos, from left to right: Darcy Kiefel, Ken Sherman, Darcy Kiefel

The Clean Ohio Fund is the state's primary funding source for open space conservation, farmland preservation, brownfield revitalization, and trail creation. It was created in 2000 and renewed by voters in 2008. The Trust for Public Land conducted research summarizing and quantifying the significant economic benefits to local communities throughout the state of Clean Ohio Fund investments in healthy lands and waters, and a healthy economy.

This summary examines the green space conservation, farmland preservation, and trails program areas only. These programs, commonly referred to as the 'green side' of the Clean Ohio Fund, create and sustain the numerous economic benefits summarized here.

Projects made possible by the Clean Ohio Fund support hundreds of thousands of jobs across Ohio. Additionally, for every \$1 invested in land conservation, \$4 in natural goods and services is returned to the State of Ohio according to The Trust for Public Land.

GENERATE JOBS AND GROW LOCAL ECONOMIES BY PROTECTING GREEN SPACE AND FARMLAND

From 2002 to 2012, the Clean Ohio Fund conserved 92,500 acres of open space and farmland, helping to create jobs and business and support the tourism and outdoor recreation and agriculture industries.

- Visitors to Ohio spend approximately \$26 billion each year. This tourism spending provides an annual economic impact of \$40 billion and accounts for nearly 9 percent of all jobs in the state. These jobs represent wages of \$10.5 billion annually.¹
- Outdoor recreation generates \$17.4 billion in consumer spending, \$1.3 billion in state and local tax revenue, 196,000 jobs, and \$5.1 billion in wages and salaries each year in the state.²
- In 2011, over 4.3 million people went hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, or did some combination of the three.³ These participants spent \$3.59 billion related to those activities. This spending creates tens of thousands of jobs. Sport fishing alone supports close to 20,000 jobs.⁴
- Agriculture is the state's top industry contributing over \$107 billion to the state's economy and providing over one million jobs each year.⁵ One out of seven Ohioans are employed in the food and agriculture industry.⁶

A VALUABLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT: NATURAL GOODS AND SERVICES

Natural lands and water resources conserved by the Clean Ohio Fund provide a host of benefits that have a measurable economic benefit to the State of Ohio and its communities. They include services such as drinking water protection, flood control, and air pollution removal.

- The Trust for Public Land analyzed the economic value of natural goods and services provided by Clean Ohio conserved lands between 2002 and 2012. For every \$1 of Clean Ohio funds invested in conservation, \$4 in economic benefits is returned to the State of Ohio.⁷

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Trails are unique and highly desired amenities that create jobs, raise property values, attract visitors who spend money locally, contribute to a high quality of life, and stimulate economic development. From 2002 to 2012, approximately 337 miles of trails have been conserved through 157 projects that were supported by the Clean Ohio Trails Fund.⁸

- Trail investments are effective job generators. Every \$1 million invested in off-street multi-use trails generates 9.6 jobs.⁹
- Property values near trails are higher because they are viewed as an amenity. Homes near the Little Miami Trail sell for \$9,300 more than comparable properties ¼ mile further away from the trail.¹⁰
- Trails in just the Miami Valley attract one million visitors every year who spend a combined \$16 million on related goods and services.¹¹



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END NOTES

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2. Outdoor Industry Association, 2012. The Outdoor Recreation Economy: Ohio
3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.
4. Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft, 2012. Recreational Boating in Ohio.
5. Ohio Department of Agriculture. About Us.
6. U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Ohio.
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8. Information provided by Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
9. Garrett-Peltier, H., 2011. Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure: A National Study of Employment Impacts. Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
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Full report available at tpl.org/ohio

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