

## Ohio State Wetland Program Summary



Photo Title: Wetland in Southwest Ohio  
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### Section A. Quick View

#### **Description of State's Wetlands**

Palustrine wetlands such as swamps (predominantly forested wetlands) including vernal pools, wet prairies (emergent wetlands), coastal and embayment marshes (emergent wetlands), peatlands (wetlands that have organic soils), and wetlands along stream margins and backwaters collectively are the most important Ohio wetlands. The state has many small vernal pool wetlands. Lacustrine and riverine wetlands constitute only a small percentage of the State's wetland acreage.

#### **State Definition of Wetlands**

Ohio EPA's wetland definition is the same as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) definition and is cited in OAC 3745-1-02.

#### **Historic Wetland Loss/Gain**

Original Wetland Acreage	Remaining Wetland Acreage	Acreage Lost	% Lost
5,000,000	482,800	4,517,200	90%

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service (Dahl, 1989)

#### **Primary State Wetlands Webpage**

Ohio Wetlands Webpage  
<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/>

Ohio Wetlands Permitting Webpage  
<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/permitting.aspx>

**State Wetland Program Plan**

Ohio does not currently have an EPA-approved wetland program plan.

**No Net Loss/Net Gain Goal**

Ohio has a formal no net loss goal; however, the state strives to achieve net gain. The state focuses on avoidance and minimization, with ratios of up to 3:1 for unavoidable impacts.

**State Resources for Wetland Work**

<b>State Name</b>	<b>Core element #1: Regulation</b>	<b>Core Element #2: Monitoring and Assessment</b>	<b>Core Element #3: Wetland Water Quality Standards</b>	<b>Core Element #4: Voluntary Wetland Restoration</b>
<b>Agency</b>	Ohio EPA	Ohio EPA	Ohio EPA	Information unavailable
<b>Source(s)</b>	Staff is funded by a combination of wetland permit fee-based revenue, federal grants, and general revenue funds. Fees from §401 certifications and isolated wetland permits and penalties and reimbursements from enforcement actions also support DSW activities.	This part of the Wetland Program has been largely funded by EPA Wetland Program Development Grants	Same funding sources as Regulatory Core Element	Information unavailable
<b>Amount</b>	Information unavailable	Information unavailable	Information unavailable	Information unavailable
<b>Staffing*</b>	11 FTE + 4 interns	(Same as Regulatory)	(Same as Regulatory)	Information unavailable

**State Permitting Fees**

<b>State Permitting Fee</b>	<b>401 Permitting Program</b>	<b>Isolated Wetlands Permitting Program</b>
Yes/No	YES	YES
Amount (range)	\$200 application fee (incl. NGOs)+ review fees up to \$25k; there is a \$5k cap for local government applicants and state entities have no fee	\$200 application fee (incl. NGOs)+ review fees up to \$25k; there is a \$5k cap for local government applicants and state entities have no fee
Agency	Ohio EPA	Ohio EPA

## **Innovative Features**

- Isolated wetland permitting program: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/permitting.aspx>
- Integrated assessment programs
- Ohio regulations that require the regular review of the best available science

## **Models and Templates**

Ohio Rapid Assessment Method

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/ecology.aspx#149364496-contacts>

Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity (VIBI) for Ohio Wetlands

[http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/PART4\\_VIBI\\_OH\\_WTLDs.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/PART4_VIBI_OH_WTLDs.pdf)

[http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/401/VIBI\\_FQ\\_FINAL.pdf](http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/401/VIBI_FQ_FINAL.pdf)

Amphibian Index of Biotic Integrity (AmphIBI) for Ohio Wetlands

[http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/Integrated\\_Wetland\\_Assessment\\_Program\\_Part7\\_AmphIBI\\_formatted.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/Integrated_Wetland_Assessment_Program_Part7_AmphIBI_formatted.pdf)

Wetland Ecology Group Reports

<http://www.epa/ohio.gov/dsw/401/ecology.aspx#149364495-reports>

## **Section B. Regulation**

### **How are Wetlands Regulated in the State?**

Ohio relies primarily on §401 water quality certification under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to regulate impacts to wetlands. Ohio's wetland water quality standards, Ohio Administrative Code, 3745-1-50 to 54, include wetland antidegradation rule (54) that places wetlands into three antidegradation categories that prescribe the varying review processes and levels of protection. The state also enacted the Isolated Wetlands Law in July of 2001. Administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Division of Surface Water, this rule package and law govern the bulk of wetlands-related activities at the state level. The statute makes it illegal for a person to "engage in the filling of an isolated wetland" or to "discharge dredged material into isolated wetlands" without a permit.

The Isolated Wetland Law, which became effective on July 17, 2001, establishes three levels of regulation based on the size of wetlands and their category assignment. Three categories of wetlands, consistent with the three wetland categories defined in the state's water quality standards, are assigned based on ecological condition, with Category One wetlands having the lowest ecological significance and Category Three wetlands having the highest. There are no minimum size thresholds for isolated wetlands that fall outside the jurisdictional boundaries of §401/§404—all are included under the Isolated Wetland Law. The only exemption concerns isolated wetlands that were created by coal mining activities and that are being returned to mining activity.

ODNR's Division of Wildlife (DOW) also conducts limited wetland-related activities: §404 permit reviews under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; outreach and technical support for restoration; research and monitoring of populations, wetland habitat, and wildlife; and restoration initiatives, including the administration of grants for restoration. ODNR also is responsible for managing the state's coastal resources along Lake Erie, including wetlands.

## Wetland Delineation

Delineation Guidance	Yes	No	Detail
Use State's Own Method		X	
Use Corps' 87 Manual and Regional Supplement	X		
Other (Please describe)		X	

## Evaluation Methodology

Evaluation tools, including bioassessment methods, have been developed to assist in the evaluation of wetlands and can be used to determine the quality of wetlands proposed to be impacted. This information, in conjunction with emphasis placed on avoidance and minimization of impacts as required by rule, helps us determine whether a project should be permitted and whether the impacts can be adequately mitigated. Ohio's wetland water quality standards state that a method acceptable to the director must be used to evaluate wetlands. These tools include:

1. ORAM Version 5.0 in rule, with additional revisions in-house at Ohio EPA
2. Vegetation Indices of Biotic Integrity for Wetlands
3. Amphibian Index of Biotic Integrity for Wetlands (currently not in use very much)
4. Floristic Quality Assessment Index for Vascular Plants and Mosses for the State of Ohio (used for research and reference rather than regulatory purposes).

## Exempted Activities

Ohio has fewer exemptions than the federal exemptions. Filling isolated wetlands and streams, which are exempted from Section 404 permitting requirements. Filling an isolated wetland in Ohio must be authorized by a general or individual isolated wetlands permit.

## Special Provisions for Agriculture and Forestry

Ohio has similar provisions to the federal provisions. Certain silviculture practices exempted by the federal Clean Water Act and discharges to agricultural land exempted by the Corps under Section 404 do not require Section 401 certification. However, isolated wetlands which are no longer regulated through the Section 404 permit program are captured by Ohio EPA and require a general or individual isolated wetlands permit before discharging to waters of the state. Isolated wetlands created by previous coal mining activities are exempted from the provisions of Ohio Revised Codes Sections 6111.020 through 6111.029 if remining is proposed.

## Penalties and Enforcement

Section 401 permitting staff works with Ohio EPA and the Corps on enforcement issues. Ohio EPA will generally consider the Corps and EPA evaluation of the situation and determination of what steps the federal government will take before deciding on how the State will address the violation. Ohio EPA may choose to initiate independent enforcement seeking civil and/or criminal penalties. Three enforcement options are available for the OEPA Enforcement and Compliance Program when DSW staff is unable to resolve continuing compliance issues: 1) The director may issue a Director's Final Finding Order (DFFO), which may be a unilateral or negotiated administrative order; 2) A DFFO may be issued with a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per day. This action usually involves some negotiation

with the responsible party and 3) Judicial enforcement can be sought by OEPA attorneys or by the Attorney General’s office For violations resulting in impacts to isolated wetlands, Ohio EPA and/or OHAGO proceeds independently from the Corps and EPA. The state has had several successful enforcement cases, including one that resulted in a \$1,000,000 settlement, that have strongly supported Ohio’s wetland water quality standards, wetland program, and wetland assessment methods.

**Permit Tracking**

Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water uses the Surface Water Information Management System (SWIMS) to track permitting activities for the Division. SWIMS tracks applicant information, acreage, type/quality/quantity of impacts, mitigation action, fees, annual reporting permit compliance, effluent quality data as reported by permit holders during the last 20 years, and preparation of enforcement actions. There is currently no mechanism in place to track the effectiveness of mitigation. Ohio EPA plans to replace the SWIMS system in the next couple of years.

**State General Permit (statewide vs. regional coverage)**

Ohio approved all Nationwide Permits with some qualifications.

Permit Coverage	Yes	No	Detail (Type of Permit)
Regional General Permit	X		Applicant specific - Letters of Permission (LOP), ODOT Regional Permit that complies with Nationwides
Statewide General Permit		X	SPGO Isolated Wetland Permit – Ohio has not taken over any Corps duties

**Assumption of 404 Powers**

Assumption Status	Yes	No	Detail
Assumed		X	
Working Toward Assumption		X	
Explored Assumption	X		Ohio explored assumption in 2012-2013 (interested in speeding up permitting); there was some pushback and the decision to not pursue assumption was a political one

**Joint permitting**

Ohio EPA has no joint permitting procedures with the Corps or local governments. Coordinated application procedures for coal mining impacts have been developed with the Corps and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), the state agency responsible for implementation of the state mining laws.

**Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) and Advanced Identification (ADID) Plans**

None.

## **Mitigation Policy**

Ohio state regulations specifically address wetland mitigation, outlining provisions for each of the three categories of wetlands defined in the Isolated Wetlands Statute and the state's wetland water quality standards. Mitigation is required by rule for impacts to federally jurisdictional wetlands (OAC 3745-1-50-54) and by statute for isolated wetlands (ORC 6111.02).

Ohio is currently working to bring its mitigation rules for isolated wetlands in line with the Corps 2008 Mitigation Rule. Ohio has mitigation banks, permittee-responsible projects and a new in lieu fee (ILF) program.

### Non-Isolated Wetlands Mitigation:

Mitigation ratios outlined in OAC 3745-1-54 are linked to wetland category, whether the wetland is forested or not, and whether the mitigation will be on-site or off-site. The ratios of mitigation requirements increase with higher wetland categories and if the impacted wetland is forested. There are also increased mitigation requirements for off-site mitigation. (Off-site would be greater than 1 mile from the impact.) Mitigation ratios range from 1.5:1 to 3:1. Impacted Category 1 wetlands must be replaced with a wetland of higher category.. Category 2 and 3 wetlands must be replaced by wetlands of equal or higher quality.

### Isolated Wetlands Mitigation Requirements:

- Wetland Category 1 and 2 non-forested - mitigate 2:1 at a mitigation bank.
- Wetland Category 2 forested - mitigate 2.5:1 at a mitigation bank.
- All other isolated wetland impacts are reviewed under and mitigated at the same ratios outlined in OAC 3745-1-54.

## **Mitigation Database**

Ohio EPA has a database to track mitigation losses and gains related to the permitting process. They also have one wetland ecologist and interns who have been studying the success/failure of mitigation projects.

## **Buffer Protections**

Buffers are required in Non-Isolated Wetland Mitigation (OAC 3745-1-54). If mitigation is at a 1:1 for restoration, a .5:1 is required for additional buffer. It is new for Ohio to have base buffers. Now to get more credit, the mitigation needs to include additional buffer work.

## **Section C. Monitoring and Assessment**

### **Agency Responsible for Wetland Monitoring and Assessment**

Ohio EPA has a wetland-specific monitoring program and a comprehensive strategy for monitoring the quality of wetlands throughout the state of Ohio. Ohio EPA's Wetland Ecology Group has monitored hundreds of natural wetlands and hundreds of compensatory mitigation wetland projects. Using the data collected at natural sites, the agency has developed the assessment tools, including IBIs, used in the wetland program. The Wetland Ecology Group's work aids and strengthens the bases for regulatory decisions made by the 401 Water Quality Certification Section. Additionally, Ohio EPA's Wetland Ecology Group performs wetland research in specific areas with the goal of developing and applying wetland biocriteria and wetland water quality standards for Ohio.

### **Mapping/Inventory**

- ODNR developed a statewide inventory of wetlands based on satellite imagery. This was a joint project with the NRCS for Swampbuster implementation.
- Ohio EPA is using geographic information system (GIS) to locate Section 401 water quality certification and isolated wetlands permit projects.
- A Status and Trends Report is prepared annually for wetland impacts and mitigation acreage. The last report was completed and is available on the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water web site. This report is intended to satisfy the reporting requirements specified in ORC 6111.025(C), which applies to the isolated wetlands only. In order to provide a more complete picture of the impacts generated by permitting activities in the state, information regarding individual 401 water quality certifications that address impacts to non-isolated wetlands, streams and lakes has been included. Information regarding projects covered under the NWRPs has also been included in this report.

### **State Wetland Mapping Public Portal**

Ohio does not have a public portal for wetland maps. However, the state does provide an online clearing house for potential mitigation sites.

### **Wetland Classification and Assessment**

Ohio's wetlands are classified based on two factors: 1) their dominant plant community and 2) their hydrogeomorphic setting. Assignment of wetland category using IBIs can vary by wetland type and ecoregion.

ORAM Version 5.0, a rapid assessment method, is used most often to evaluate wetlands before they are impacted. ORAM is not used to evaluate mitigation wetlands. Compensatory mitigation wetlands are assessed using bioassessments, most often the VIBI or the BIBI-FQ, but sometimes the AmphIBI. An FQI and IBIs using vegetation and amphibian communities have been developed. The following are links to the assessment tools:

- Floristic quality assessment index (FQAI) for vascular plants and mosses for the State of Ohio  
[http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/wetlands/Ohio\\_FQAI.pdf](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/wetlands/Ohio_FQAI.pdf)

- Amphibian Index of Biotic Integrity (AmphIBI) for Wetlands for the State of Ohio  
[http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/Integrated\\_Wetland\\_Assessment\\_Program\\_Part7\\_AmphIBI\\_formatted.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/Integrated_Wetland_Assessment_Program_Part7_AmphIBI_formatted.pdf)
- Vegetation Indices of Biotic Integrity (VIBI) for Wetlands: ecoregional, hydrogeomorphic, and plant community comparisons with preliminary wetland aquatic life use designations  
[http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/PART4\\_VIBI\\_OH\\_WTLDs.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/wetlands/PART4_VIBI_OH_WTLDs.pdf)

### Statewide Monitoring Plan

Ohio EPA has developed a comprehensive strategy for monitoring the quality of wetlands throughout the state of Ohio. This wetland monitoring and assessment strategy is included in Ohio EPA's Surface and Groundwater Monitoring Strategy (<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/bioassess/ohstrat.aspx>).

### Overall Wetland Gain and Loss Tracking System

Ohio EPA tracks gains (through mitigation) and losses of wetlands through the Section 401 water quality certification and isolated wetlands permitting programs.

### State Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Characteristics

Level	None	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<i>Ohio</i>		X	X	X

Type	None	IBI	Condition	Functional
<i>Ohio</i>		X	X	

Frequency	None	Project Specific	Ongoing
<i>Ohio</i>		X	X

### Participation in National Wetland Condition Assessment

NWCA Study Type	Yes	No
National Study	X	
State Intensification Study	X	

**Detail:** A probabilistic sample of 50 wetlands was conducted across the state.

### Section D. Water Quality Standards

#### Wetland and Water Quality Standards

Type	None	Use Existing WQ Standards/Policy	In Process	Adopted	Future Direction
<b>Wetland-specific Designated Uses</b>		QAC 3745-1-53 WWQS		X	
<b>Narrative criteria in the standards to protect designated</b>		QAC 3745-1-51 WWQS		X	

<b>wetland uses</b>					
<b>Numeric criteria in the standards based on wetland type and location to protect the designated uses</b>		QAC 3745-1-52 WWQS		<b>X</b> (chemical criteria for NPDES)	
<b>Anti-degradation policy includes wetlands</b>		QAC 3745-1-54 WWQS		<b>X</b>	

**Description:**

- Ohio EPA adopted Wetland Water Quality Standards on May 1, 1998. The wetland water quality standards specify narrative criteria for wetlands.
- State legislation was enacted in 2001 for the regulation of impacts to isolated wetlands which no longer fall under federal jurisdiction.
- Specific wetland water quality standards were developed by Ohio EPA and placed in OAC Sections 3745-1-50 through 1-54. State rules outline criteria that are applicable to all waters of the state, as well as additional narrative criteria applicable specifically to wetlands, which include:
  - Protection of the hydrology necessary to support biological and physical characteristics in order to prevent adverse impacts to water currents, erosion or sediment patterns; natural water temperature variations; chemical, nutrient and dissolved oxygen regimes of the wetland; movement of aquatic fauna; pH; and water levels or elevations (including those resulting from ground water recharge and discharge);
  - Protection of the water quality necessary to support existing habitats and populations of wetland flora and fauna in order to prevent adverse impacts on food supplies for fish and wildlife; reproductive and nursery areas; and dispersal corridors;
  - Protection of the water quality necessary to prevent conditions conducive to the establishment or proliferation of nuisance organisms; and
  - Prevention of conditions that might have an adverse impact on wetland-dependent recreational opportunities.
- All wetlands are assigned to the "wetland" designated use. More detailed uses and numeric biological criteria were not proposed since the data to support them had not been collected at that time.
- Wetland anti-degradation is outlined in OAC 3745-1-54. Antidegradation provisions seek to protect a suite of wetland functions, including: groundwater exchange, nutrient removal and/or transformation, sediment and/or contaminant retention, water storage, sediment stabilization, shoreline stabilization, maintenance of biodiversity, recreation, education and research, and habitat for threatened or endangered species. The rule created three categories of wetlands category 1 (low [poor]), Category 2 (moderate [fair to good]), and Category 3 (superior [excellent]) ecological condition).

## Section E. Voluntary Wetland Restoration

Ohio is involved in significant statewide voluntary wetland restoration programs. Both ODNR and the OEPA conduct significant activities related to the restoration of wetlands. Ohio EPA has a Water Resources Sponsor Program (WRRSP) that provides funds for wetland preservation and restoration. Each year WRRSP spends \$15 million on nominated restoration and preservation. Most other state restoration activities are through the ODNR Division of Wildlife, which handles habitat, wildlife, and endangered species, among other wetland-related issues. The ODNR Division of Wildlife has worked on wetland restoration intensively since the 1980s. The goal, part of the Division’s strategic plan, is habitat-focused and specific to wetlands, including restoration on public and private grounds.

### Types of Wetland Restoration Work Funded by the State:

Type of Work	YES	NO	Description
Fund Wetland Restoration (may include easement agreements)	X		ODNR; Ohio EPA WRRSP funds
Private Land Restoration	X		ODNR
Public Land Restoration	X		ODNR; Ohio EPA WRRSP funds
Technical Assistance	X		ODNR, Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy provide technical assistance funded by ODNR (limited)
Tax Incentives	Unknown		ODNR may have incentives to keep wetlands intact in forests
Other	X		Assistance to areas previously mined (including wetlands)

### Comments:

- Ohio EPA’s WRRSP accepts nominations for wetland protection and restoration projects each year and selects those that they determine will provide the most improvement in water quality (chemical, physical, biological) to the state’s watersheds.
- ODNR’s private land biologists work closely with USDA staff to provide technical assistance to landowners and to prioritize lands for restoration.
- ODNR’s cost share program supplements multiple USDA programs in order to minimize landowners’ expenses, including the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, and the Conservation Reserve Program.
- The state has monitoring requirements for mitigated and restored wetlands.

### Voluntary Wetland Restoration Program Components

Wetland Restoration Efforts	Nothing in the Works	Planning	In Progress	Complete
Program has a set of restoration goals				X
Coordinate with relevant agencies that outline restoration/protection goals and strategies and timeframes				X
Developed multi-agency body to coordinate restoration/ protection				X

efforts				
Set restoration goals based on agency objectives and available information				X

**Goals for Restoration Projects**

Goal	Yes	No	Description
No Net Loss	X		
Reverse Loss/Net Gain	X		
Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS)	X		
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs)	X		
Habitat	X		
Coastal Protection	X		
Floodwater Protection	X		
Groundwater	X		
Other (please describe)	X		Vernal Pool Restorations

**Landowner Guides and Handbooks to Assist with Voluntary Wetland Restoration Efforts**

Yes. Please contact the state for more information.

**Section F. Innovative and/or Highly Effective Education and Outreach**

Ohio EPA is part of the Ohio Vernal Pool Partnership and has worked for years educating citizens about the value of these resources.

**Section G. Climate Change and Wetlands**

The Ohio State Wetland Program does not currently do any specific work on climate change.

As part of a 2011 report called “Assuring Ohio’s Competitiveness in a Carbon-Constrained World,” Ohio analyzed and prioritized policies that could be adopted and implemented at the state level to reduce climate change risk (<http://www.ohioenergyresources.com/index.aspx>). Analysis focused on carbon management and energy policies. There are no efforts specifically related to climate change and wetlands.

**Section H. Integration**

<b>Entity/Program Area</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Description of the Connection</b>
NPDES/Stormwater	YES	Wetland protections used occasionally, however, there have been discussions about making connections it routine
303(d)	YES	Wetland information is mentioned
305(b) reporting on wetlands	YES	Wetland information is mentioned
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs)	YES	Each basin in Ohio has been assigned a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) team, which includes a §401 certification coordinator. This person brings wetland information and permitting issues to bear as the team addresses water quality goals and issues in the basin.
Climate Change/ Resiliency	NO	
<b>Entity/Program Area</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Description of the Connection</b>
Land Use /Watershed planning	YES	There are locally led, state-funded watershed groups in Ohio, covering about 43 percent of the state’s area. Local program coordinators, usually from the communities they lead, develop comprehensive restoration plans (working alongside TMDL rules). The plans cover a suite of issues, including wetlands. Plans seek to preserve existing wetlands and implement best management practices for agriculture, mitigation, and other restoration-related activities.
Flood/Hazard Mitigation	NO	Look at flooding issues when reviewing 401 permits re functions. If there is already a flood hazard, then wetland program denies the permit. However, both programs look at the data independently and there is no integration between the programs.
Coastal Work	YES	There is some coordination around work on the northern border of Lake Erie: 1) coastal consistency review and 2) submerged lands leases. 401 applications require coordination.
Wildlife Action Plan	YES	ODNR develops a plan every five years and it includes wetlands
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)	NO	
Other (Specify)	NO	

**State Wetland Program Continuum**

Continuum Stage		Core Element 1: Regulation	Core Element 2: Monitoring & Assessment	Core Element 3: Wetland Water Quality Standards	Core Element 4: Voluntary Restoration
Mature Stage	High	<b>X</b> (401 Certification Program + state wetland permits for wetlands not regulated under CWA jurisdiction)	<b>X</b> (Reference wetland work)	<b>X</b> (establish three wetland antidegradation categories and specify protection levels and mitigation requirements)	<b>X</b> (Restoration is taking place through Ohio EPA and ODNR activities)
Initial Implementation Stage	↑				
Development Stage					
Early Stage		Low			

**Section I. Contact Information**

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**Section J. Useful State Websites**

**State Government Programs**

1. Department of Natural Resources
  - <http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/998/Default.aspx>
    - a) Wetlands Restoration
      - <http://ohiodnr.com/dnap/wetlands/restoration/tabid/1003/Default.aspx>
    - b) Soil & Water Conservation Districts

These districts, found in every Ohio county, offer wetland restoration technical assistance and information.

<http://ohiodnr.com/soilandwater/swcds/default/tabid/9093/Default.aspx>

- c) Office of Coastal Management
  - i. Coastal Management Program  
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Default.aspx?alias=www.dnr.state.oh.us/coastal>
2. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
  - a) Ohio Wetland Bioassessment Program  
<http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/assessment/oh1.cfm>
  - b) Division of Surface Water  
<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/SurfaceWater.aspx>
    - i. Wetland & Stream Mitigation  
<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/mitigation.aspx>
    - ii. Water Quality Certification and Isolated Wetland Permits  
<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/401/permitting.aspx>
  - c) Division of Drinking & Ground Waters  
<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/DrinkingandGroundWaters.aspx>
3. Ohio Public Works Commission
  - a) Clean Ohio Fund
    - i. Green Space Conservation Program  
<http://development.ohio.gov/cleanohio/GreenSpaceConservation/Default.htm>
4. Department of Transportation
  - a) Division of Planning
    - i. Office of Environmental Services  
<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divisions/planning/environment/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Federal Government Programs**

1. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Wetlands Reserve Program  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/oh/programs/easements/wetlands/>

### **Other Organization Wetland Programs**

1. Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
The CMNH acquires and manages rare wetland habitat types in northeast Ohio. They provide information to landowners to manage unique habitats as well.  
<http://cmnh.org/site/Conservation/NaturalAreas.aspx>
2. Black Swamp Conservancy  
<http://www.blackswamp.org/>
3. The Ohio State University
  - a) School of Environmental & Natural Resources
    - i. The Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park  
<http://senr.osu.edu/research/schiermeier-olentangy-river-wetland-research-park>
  - b) Ohio Sea Grant College Program
    - i. Wetlands

<http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/wetlands/>

4. Ohio Wetlands Foundation  
<http://ohiowetlands.org/>
5. Wesselman Nature Society  
Howell Wetlands  
<http://www.wesselmannaturesociety.org/wetlands/>
6. Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization  
Wetlands Projects  
<http://www.cuyahogariverrap.org/Wetlands/WETLANDS.html>