

August 1, 2000

Re: Ohio EPA - DEFA Funding
Opportunities

Attention: Watershed Partners

Ohio EPA would like to introduce our Watershed Partners (watershed environmental groups /SWCDs/NRCS/Park Districts) to a new funding opportunity available through its Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA).

Watershed Resource Restoration Sponsor Program

DEFA recently initiated the most exciting incentive program yet. Now, loan interest from any municipal/county DEFA loan project for a wastewater treatment or collection system improvement may be utilized to fund an eligible stream restoration projects *at no additional cost to the loan applicant*. Some examples of stream restoration projects eligible for funds include:

- , Land conservancy easements
- , Stream bank re-stabilization
- , Riparian restoration
- , Dam modification
- , Sediment remediation projects
- , Source Water Protection Plans
- , Watershed Implementation Plans
- , Watershed Action Plans.

An important criterion for these projects is that they will provide, either by themselves or in conjunction with other projects being undertaken, complete protection or restoration of aquatic habitat sufficient to meet or protect the designated uses of the benefitted water resources as defined under Ohio Water Quality Standards.

The restoration project may be performed by the loan applicant or the funding may be directed to a third party sponsor (i.e. such as a park district, land conservancy, or a soil and water conservation district). We are encouraging watershed environmental groups/ SWCDs/ NRCS/Park Districts to get potential stream projects defined and pre-qualified by DEFA (submit description of project, assessment of stream restorability, cost, schedule, etc.) prior to planning a stream project with a pending loan applicant. We also invite our Watershed Partners to work with Ohio EPA staff to provide a priority list of stream projects in their watershed to potential loan applicants. We look forward to working with you.

For more information on this low-interest loan opportunity contact:

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