

Governor DeWine Shares Ohio State Park Locations Offering Cool Options for Residents

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—With high temperatures in the forecast for areas across the state, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is offering residents options to stay cool at Ohio's state parks.

Indoor and outdoor pools at several Ohio state park lodges and campgrounds will waive daily pool fees Wednesday, June 15 and Thursday, June 16.

And, as always, Ohio's state parks are open to the public free of charge.

"I encourage all Ohioans to take precautions throughout the week to stay safe," said Governor DeWine. "As our Ohio Emergency Management Agency continues to work with its county partners to help community members stay cool and hydrated, ODNR's offering of free admission to our state's pools is another option that Ohio

families can take advantage of to cool down."

For lodge locations, call 1-800-AT-A-PARK before you go for pool hours of operation and to ensure that the pools haven't reached capacity. For additional lodge contact information, visit greatohiolodges.com.

-Outdoor Pool at Deer Creek Lodge and Conference Center

-Outdoor Pool at Hueston Woods Lodge and Conference Center

-Indoor and Outdoor Pools at Maumee Bay Lodge and Conference Center

-Indoor and Outdoor Pools at Punderson Manor Lodge and Conference Center

-Indoor and Outdoor Pools at Salt Fork Lodge and Conference Center

-Campground Pool at Indian Lake State Park

-Campground Pool at Grand Lake St. Marys State Park

-State park beaches also offer a refreshing option for families. Swim areas are available at parks in every corner of the state.

-In Northwest Ohio, visit East Harbor, Harrison Lake, Indian Lake, Kelleys Island, Kiser Lake, Lake Loramie, Maumee Bay, or South Bass Island State Parks.

-In Northeast Ohio, swimmers can explore Findley, Geneva, Guilford Lake, Headlands Beach, Jefferson Lake, Lake Milton, Mosquito Lake, Portage Lakes, Punderson, Pymatuning, or West Branch State Parks.

-In Central Ohio, swim beaches are available at Alum Creek, A.W. Marion, Deer Creek, and Delaware State Parks.

-In Southwest Ohio, Caesar Creek, Cowan Lake, Hueston Woods, Paint Creek, Scioto Trail, Stonelick, and Tar Hollow State Parks offer swim areas.

-In Southeast Ohio, Barkcamp, Burr Oak, Dillon, Forked Run, Jackson Lake, Lake Alma, Lake Hope, Lake Logan, Salt Fork, Strouds Run, and Wolf Run State Parks all offer swim areas.

Before visiting a state park beach, review ODNR's swim safety tips here.

Ohio state park nature centers are another cool place to spend a day. Nature centers are great places for people to learn about the natural world, see Ohio wildlife up close, and connect with our park naturalists. There are more than 30 state park nature centers located throughout Ohio.

For more details about Ohio state park beaches and nature centers, visit



First Lady Fran DeWine Opens New Storybook Trail at Deer Creek State Park

First Lady Fran DeWine and others stand at the entrance of the new Storybook Trail in Deer Creek State Park after the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

(Mt. Sterling, Ohio)—Through a partnership with the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), First Lady Fran DeWine opened a new Storybook Trail in Deer Creek State Park today. After an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, children and families walked with the First Lady on the new trail to mark the celebration.

"Experiencing a Storybook Trail gives children and their families the opportunity to take an adventure inside a great book while experiencing an outside adventure at one of our great State parks!" said First Lady DeWine. "I hope this new trail gives Ohio families — and visitors — new memories that will last a lifetime."

Within driving distance of Columbus, Deer Creek State Park is set in rich farming country. The park's resort, marina, large campground, and 18-hole golf course facilities blend perfectly with outdoor activities such as boating, fishing,

camping, and hiking.

The story featured on the park's new Storybook Trail is "Drop" by Emily Kate Moon. On the child-height panels lining this trail, children can follow the



story of the cutest drop of water as she takes readers on an adventure through the water cycle.

"Storybook Trails offer families another place to enjoy quality time with their friends and family, while encouraging the little ones to read and learn about nature," said Director Mertz. "We are ex-

cited to provide more opportunities to link literacy with healthy living through our Storybook Trails. There really is no better place than an Ohio State Park to explore, learn, and really appreciate everything the great outdoors has to offer."

First Lady DeWine encourages all Ohioans to explore the Storybook Trails at state parks and enroll children under the age of five in the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library.

There are currently 324,887 Ohio children enrolled in the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, which provides one free book every month to children enrolled in the program from birth to age five. Any Ohio child in this age group is eligible to receive the books, which are paid for by the state and local county partners. If a parent or grandparent enrolls a child at birth, that child could receive all 60 books in the program. To learn more about the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library and how to participate, visit OhioImaginationLibrary.org.

ODNR will be installing more Storybook Trails this summer and fall. To find a local story trail near you, use this interactive map.

Governor DeWine Issues Letter to Ohio School Superintendents on Safety Initiatives

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today sent a letter to school superintendents to provide information on the recent changes to Ohio law and to raise awareness about school safety services and resources offered by the state.

The letter addresses the following:

- * Student Wellness and Success funding for mental health programming and training
- * Ohio School Safety Center resources and expansion
- * \$100 million in grants for school safety and security upgrades
- * New behavioral threat assessment training for educators
- * Optional arming of school staff and training requirements

"House Bill 99, which I signed this week, addresses the option of arming school staff. Arming school personnel is a serious decision that is left up entirely to your school. It is optional. It is one of many tools that you can choose based on your unique school situa-

tion. Other tools, such as a school safety officer, may serve your school better," wrote Governor DeWine in the letter. "I signed this bill because we know some schools want to do this and know that each school situation is different I did not want to deny schools this option and wanted to make sure that if a school chooses this option that all training hours are directly relevant to situations that could occur in schools. However, I have made it clear that, in my opinion, the much preferred option is to have a school resource officer in each school building."

Governor DeWine's recent school safety announcements are part of a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach to school safety that has been in process since taking office in 2019. Ongoing initiatives directly and indirectly impact school safety through efforts contributing to an overall reduction in violence and enhanced mental wellness services for youth.

Governor DeWine Announces 112 Brownfield Remediation Projects Throughout Ohio

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) -- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today announced state support for 112 brownfield remediation projects that will help clean up contaminated properties in Ohio to make way for future economic development.

As part of the Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program, the Ohio Department of Development is awarding \$192 million for projects impacting 41 Ohio counties.

"These properties are vital spaces in our communities, ones that are not only being wasted in their current capacity, but oftentimes are a danger to their local communities," said Governor DeWine. "Today, we're reclaiming these spaces for the future of our residents, businesses, and communities."

Today's \$192 million in grant awards includes approximately \$187.8 million for 79 clean-up projects and \$4.5 million for 33 assessment projects. These grants are in addition to the \$60 million in Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program grants awarded in April. An additional \$98 million in funds will be awarded in the coming months.

"This is revitalization at its finest," said Lt. Governor Husted. "These investments in cleaning up brownfields take blighted properties and turn them into parks, housing, or economic development sites that improve the quality of life for everyone in the local community."

Funds awarded today will help to assess and clean up industrial, commercial, and institutional brownfield sites that are abandoned, idled, or underutilized due to a known or potential release of hazardous substances or petroleum. Following site remediation, properties can be redeveloped to revitalize neighborhoods and attract new economic development.

"These funds are significant investments in the future of our communities," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development. "By cleaning up these hazardous sites, we're

re creating new opportunities for economic growth that will benefit businesses and residents for years to come."

MORE INFORMATION: Summaries of 112 Grant Awards

Examples among the 112 projects receiving funding are:

* Belmont County Health Department: \$897,460 for the Belmont County Habilitation Center Asbestos Abatement and Demolition Project. Originally developed as an assisted living facility for residents with intellectual disabilities, this 85-bed facility served six counties in Southeast Ohio beginning in 1981. The facility operated as such until the early 2000s, and the building has been vacant since. After remediation and development, the county plans to construct a building to serve as the new home of the county health department and as a county records building.

* Beacon Communities (Cuyahoga): \$1,450,000 million for the remediation of asbestos and lead paint at the Central High School building, which has been vacant since 2013 and is currently a danger to the neighborhood in its current condition. Initially constructed in the 1880s for residential properties, the site was later an ice cream factory in the 1920s, and all structures were demolished by the late 1930s to make way for the construction of Central High School. The building operated as a school until 2013 and has been vacant since. After cleanup, the property will be renovated as approximately 80 affordable apartments for seniors and community space.

* Half Baked Holdings, LLC (Franklin): \$3,113,983 for the remediation of asbestos in the former Kroger Bakery along Columbus' Cleveland Avenue Corridor. Kroger operated the bakery for more than 90 years until operations ceased in 2019. After cleanup, the building will be a part of the larger Kroger Bakery redevelopment, including residential apartments, restaurant and commercial space, and office space.

* Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Au-

thority (Hamilton): \$2,443,861.53 for the cleanup of asbestos and lead paint in the Crosley Building, which was built in 1929 and served as the home to the Crosley Radio Corporation until 1946. The site was then used primarily for industrial purposes until it was abandoned in 2006 and later condemned in 2012. The building will be redeveloped as The Crosley, a 200-unit affordable housing project, including commercial and studio space, a rooftop garden, and lounge space.

* Lawrence County Port Authority: \$3,239,250 for the removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials present throughout the South Point Biomass site. From the 1940s to the late 1990s, various chemical plants producing ammonia, urea, melamine, fertilizer, ethanol, and formaldehyde operated on the property and the surrounding area. After remediation, the site will be available for economic development efforts underway at the Point Industrial Park.

* Western Reserve Port Authority (Mahoning): \$496,000 for the removal of petroleum contaminants and groundwater remediation of CASTLO Area A, which is a five-acre property that was once part of the Youngstown Sheet and Tub Struthers division. After cleanup, the site will be redeveloped as a mixed-use facility, supporting a new retail outlet, indoor sports training, and small manufacturing operations. Site acreage along the Yellow Creek and Mahoning River will become a public park and gathering space for outdoor activities.

* SP Rotunda (Montgomery): \$823,624 for the cleanup of asbestos in the Dayton Arcade's North Arcade, which has been vacant for nearly 30 years. The North Arcade's historic buildings make up more than 85,000 square-feet of space and are directly attached to the South Arcade. Once completed, the North Arcade will feature a 91-room Hilton Garden Inn with ground-floor retail and restaurant space.

* Muskingum County Land Reutilization Corp: \$120,000 for asbestos abatement at Munson Ele-

mentary, which was built in the 1920s and used solely as an elementary school until 2005. The site has been vacant for 17 years and is in poor condition. Brownfield Remediation Program funds will allow for asbestos abatement throughout the site. After cleanup, the county plans to rehabilitate the property as mixed-income residential units.

* Port Authority of Northwestern Ohio (Putnam): \$2,571,596 for the remediation of asbestos and the removal of universal wastes at the Display Components Manufacturing Facility. Since 1947, a variety of industrial operations have utilized this site, primarily manufacturing cathode ray tubes for televisions. Operations ceased in 2002, and the site has remained largely vacant with buildings in various states of disrepair. After remediation, some of the buildings will be demolished for public safety, and the remaining 400,000 square-feet will be marketed to industrial users.

The Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program was created with support from the Ohio General Assembly in the current operating budget. Funding for the program is first come, first served with a \$1 million set-aside for each county. Today's funding awards are the final grants to be awarded as part of the first round of grant funding. Applications for the next round, which is exclusively for counties that have not yet exhausted their \$1 million set-aside, are currently under consideration. All remaining funds not used by counties in the first two rounds will be made available statewide in the third round, which will open for applications on July 1, 2022.

The Brownfield Remediation Program is part of Governor DeWine's Ohio BUILDS Initiative, which focuses on supporting targeted solutions that impact quality of life, such as water infrastructure improvements, broadband expansion, brownfield redevelopment, the demolition of blighted buildings, and more.

For more information, visit Development.Ohio.Gov/Brownfield.