

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 17, 2009

**OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION AWARDS \$157,400  
FOR TWO LAKE ERIE WATERSHED PLANS**

*Projects support Ohio's Balanced Growth Program in the Lake Erie Watershed*

**TOLEDO, OH** – A total of \$157,400 in state grants to fund watershed-protection projects in Cuyahoga and Lake counties were approved yesterday by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The grants advance the Lake Erie Balanced Growth component to Ohio's Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan by promoting voluntary planning for priority areas for future growth and conservation at the local level.

“These grants support Lake Erie basin watershed planning, and improve local economic development and conservation, through the application of Balanced Growth practices,” said ODNR Director and Ohio Lake Erie Commission Chairman Sean Logan. “Both projects will be significant in the continued effort along the North Coast to develop Balanced Growth plans.”

Funding for the grants is provided by the Lake Erie Commission's Lake Erie Protection Fund and will be distributed to grantees over a two-year period with work projected to begin by January 2010. The fund is supported by Ohioans through the purchase of the “Erie...Our Great Lake” license plates that display the Marblehead Lighthouse, or renewal of the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse plate as designed by noted Lake Erie artist Ben Richmond.

Visit the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's Balanced Growth Website at <http://balancedgrowth.ohio.gov> or call the commission office at 419-245-2514 for additional information on the Balanced Growth Program.

# Ohio | Balanced Growth

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** See below for a list of the selected Balanced Growth projects.

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## SELECTED BALANCED GROWTH WATERSHED PROJECTS

### **Eastern Lake County Coastal Tributaries Watershed Balanced Growth Plan**

**Project Organization:** Lake County Planning Commission; Jason Boyd, Project Director.

**Award:** \$100,000

**Description:** The Lake County Planning Commission will work with local governments and other watershed stakeholders to develop the Eastern Lake County Coastal Tributaries Watershed Balanced Growth Plan. This project will address the numerous small tributaries that empty into Lake Erie between the Grand River and Arcola Creek in northeast Lake County.

### **Balanced Growth Watershed Management Plan for Furnace Run**

**Project Organization:** Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization; James White, Project Director.

**Award:** \$57,400

**Description:** The Furnace Run Watershed Plan for Lake Erie will be developed by CRCPO under direction of their executive director, James White. Furnace Run originates in northern Summit County and south Cuyahoga County in northeast Ohio. It flows approximately 10.4 miles joining the Cuyahoga River in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. It drains approx. 20.34 square miles of mostly suburban lands in the Lake Erie watershed.