



Foundation for Appalachian Ohio | 2023 - 2024 Impact Report

Environmental Stewardship Pillar

*Caring for Appalachian Ohio's natural environment
for the well-being of our people and communities*



The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is a community of givers – donors and doers committed to ensuring our region's people and communities flourish. Organized as a 501(c)(3) regional community foundation, we work to inspire and support gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Our Pillars of Prosperity serve as a roadmap for all we do. Each pillar – arts and culture, community and economic development, education, **environmental stewardship**, and health and human services – represents an area of investment essential to generating an abundance of possibility in our region. The stories in this report are testaments to the love and commitment our community of givers has for maintaining Appalachian Ohio's natural environment. Read on and be inspired.

Thanks to donor generosity and transformative partnerships, we are ensuring the people of Appalachian Ohio can experience our region's natural beauty, both today and for generations to come. Donor support is strengthening parks, trails and outdoor recreational spaces; funding scholarships and fellowships focused on environmental stewardship; and providing opportunities for all to spend time in nature, cultivating future generations who will nurture our communities' breathtaking landscapes.

We are forever grateful to the individuals and organizations who make our work possible. And we invite you to join us.

Environmental Stewardship Pillar of Prosperity impact



\$1.6M+

awarded in grants and scholarships throughout Appalachian Ohio



400

projects and students received funding



21

miles of new recreational trails created

In 2023 alone, we awarded nearly **\$126,000** in funding to support environmental stewardship.



To learn more about the collective impact our donors and doers are having across Appalachian Ohio, watch FAO's State of the Foundation address from Giving Tuesday 2023.



We will be accepting proposals for grants through our Environmental Stewardship Pillar in 2024. Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.AppalachianOhio.org to receive updates on all FAO funding opportunities.



Part of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Atwood Lake is located in Appalachian Ohio's Tuscarawas and Carroll counties but draws visitors from across the state and beyond. Photos courtesy of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Celebrating a milestone and planting seeds for the future

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District was established in 1933 in response to the devastating floods that ravaged eastern Ohio for years. Today, it is the largest conservancy district in Ohio, serving residents in 18 counties with a mission that has grown to include recreation and conservation.

While celebrating the district's 90th anniversary in 2023, its board also planted seeds for the future, investing \$5 million to create a new fund at FAO.

Through grants, scholarships and fellowships, the **Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Fund for Environmental Stewardship** will support activities that contribute to the preservation and enhancement of our natural environment while fostering community engagement and education. The fund will launch its inaugural competitive grant round in 2024.



The district's board of directors was presented FAO's 2023 Chaddock Philanthropist of the Year Award in celebration of its transformative gift and partnership.



The Hocking Hills region annually draws more than 4 million visitors from across the world to explore everything from caves to waterfalls, including Upper Falls of Old Man's Cave (pictured here).

Preserving and enhancing Ohio's most-visited state park

From the banks of the Ohio River to the farmlands of Amish Country, Appalachian Ohio is rich in nature's treasures. Among the most majestic is the Hocking Hills region.

The **Friends of the Hockings Hills State Park Educational Endowment** at FAO is a permanent source of funding that supports improvements to ecological, educational and recreational opportunities at Ohio's most-visited state park.

Our partners at the Friends of the Hocking Hills State Park also established the John Glenn Astronomy Park Fund, which opened additional opportunities for fundraising to support the development and construction of the astronomy center – named in honor of a child of Appalachia and national hero. In 2023, the John Glenn Astronomy Park celebrated five years of sharing the wonders of the universe.

Advancing a longtime commitment to Adams County

In 2023, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) teamed up with FAO to advance its longtime commitment to the people and communities of Adams County, home to the Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve System, the state's largest privately owned nature preserve.

TNC's new **Edge of Appalachia – Adams County Fund** at FAO awarded its inaugural grants and scholarships this year, investing in local residents, organizations and communities to ensure that Adams County is a place where youth thrive, businesses flourish and visitors have memorable experiences.

The first Edge of Appalachia – Adams County Fund investments are supporting:

- 🍁 An elementary school's Family STEM Nights
- 🍁 Materials for a new welcome center at Adams Lake State Park
- 🍁 Experiential learning opportunities for local youth and their families
- 🍁 Wi-Fi hotspots for residents lacking adequate home internet access
- 🍁 Restoration and relocation of historical graves at risk due to erosion
- 🍁 Scholarships for three Adams County students

A life devoted to the region's environment lives on

Ora Eaton Anderson was a champion for the conservation of Appalachian Ohio's landscape and the protection of its wildlife. In everything he did, Ora shared the joy of nature – a legacy that endures through two funds created by those he inspired.



The **Ora E. Anderson Scholarship** is seeding future generations of nature lovers and protectors, providing funding to young scholars across the region who are pursuing postsecondary studies in the natural sciences.

The **Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund** provides a permanent regionwide source of funding that has supported everything from the construction of hiking trails and preservation of green space to the restoration of a historic springhouse and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat.

Since 2008, the Ora E. Anderson Scholarship has awarded: **29** scholarships, totaling **\$78,000**, to students in **20** Appalachian Ohio counties.

Writing another chapter of service to Ohio

In fall 2023, individuals and businesses throughout the region and beyond donated more than \$100,000 to support the **Nicolozakes Trucking and Construction Inc. Environmental Stewardship Fund for Appalachian Ohio** during an event in celebration of both the region and the Cambridge-based business' 70th anniversary.

Since established, the fund has been able to support the development of two new storybook trails for children and their families; upgrades to existing recreational spaces to make them more accessible to individuals with disabilities; the purchase of benches, picnic tables and a bike rack; and field trips for local children to learn and explore the outdoors.



Opening the doors to contribute to conservation

2012 marked the 10th anniversary for the Appalachian Ohio Alliance (AOA) and the start of an endowment fund that will sustain its efforts to permanently preserve our region's unique natural and cultural resources.

The **Paul Knoop Conservation Education Fund** at FAO advances AOA's mission while honoring Paul Knoop, a highly respected Ohio naturalist who dedicated his career to environmental education – and teaching children the value of the natural world.

Twenty-one years since its founding and with support from generous donors, AOA has conserved 15,000+ acres and counting in 21 Ohio counties.



Elly stops to capture her favorite wildflower, Jack-in-the-pulpit, during a guided hike led by Paul Knoop at Klenmaier State Nature Preserve, which was donated to AOA.



Building a living legacy rooted in a love for nature

At the 71-acre Lindy Roosenburg Preserve, visitors encounter mature forests, scenic rock formations and an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife – experiences made possible by giving.

Athens Conservancy's newest nature preserve is the first fruit of the **Selinde Roosenburg Memorial Fund**. The fund was created by Kate Kelley and Willem Roosenburg in memory of their daughter, a child of Appalachia who loved nature and was pursuing a career in wildland fire management when her life was tragically cut short.

Their generosity, coupled with gifts to the fund, has established a destination for all to nurture their love of nature, a living legacy for Lindy and the protection of the flora and fauna she cherished.



A history-making planned gift for conservation

Building on their longtime commitment to local conservation, in spring 2024 Jeff Chaddock and his husband, Mark Morrow, pledged a legacy gift of \$1 million to Athens Conservancy – the largest planned gift to date for the nonprofit land trust.

“This extraordinary gift strengthens our mission for the future and is a philanthropic legacy that helps ensure long-term sustainability of our efforts to protect local lands for our community,” says Donna Goodman, president of the board of the Conservancy, which has three funds housed at FAO.

Staunch proponents of the power of planned giving, Jeff and Mark opted to make their intentions public with the goal of inspiring others to consider legacy gifts.



In 2016, the couple announced they will leave 97 percent of their estate to nonprofits through a planned gift to FAO – and challenged others to leave gifts that will continue to give beyond their lifetimes.



A champion for conservation – in his lifetime and beyond

For Hocking County resident Brian Blair, a childhood love for the natural world blossomed into a 32-year career with the Ohio EPA and volunteer work with land trusts – conserving land and protecting their habitats.

“We have so many tremendous resources in Appalachian Ohio, including the Wayne National Forest and many state wildlife areas, but most of those resources are fragmented,” Brian says. “We need private donors to invest and help stitch the quilt of our forests together because the connectedness of those areas is vital to the health of our wildlife.”

Through a planned gift, Brian established the **Brian J. Blair Appalachian Forest Fund** that will forever advance Appalachian Ohio by growing the work of the region’s land trusts, connecting our forest ecosystems and empowering others to become – like Brian – champions for conservation.

As of 2024, the Environmental Stewardship Pillar has 29 funds partnering with FAO in service to our communities.

FAO partners with donors and nonprofit organizations to support specific environmental stewardship causes. These funds provide sustained funding and open the door to new opportunities. Several are the result of legacy gifts.

- Environmental Stewardship Pillar of Prosperity
- AEP Environmental Stewardship Fund for Appalachian Ohio
- Athens Conservancy Endowment Fund
- The Athens Conservancy Fund
- Bishop Educational Gardens Endowment Fund
- Bison Hollow Conservation Fund
- Brian J. Blair Appalachian Forest Fund
- Broken Timbers Outdoor Education Center Endowment
- Earthtouch-Lou DeWein Conservation Stewardship Fund
- Edge of Appalachia – Adams County Fund
- Friends of the Hocking Hills State Park Educational Endowment
- Friends of the Lower Muskingum River Endowment Fund
- Highland County Bat Stewardship Fund
- Highland County Conservation Fund
- Hocking Hills Conservation Endowment Fund
- LilyFest Fund
- Monroe County 4-H Endowment
- Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Fund for Environmental Stewardship
- Nicolozakes Trucking & Construction, Inc. Environmental Stewardship Fund for Appalachian Ohio
- Old Guernsey County Conservation Association Fund
- Ora E. Anderson Conservation Fund for Appalachian Ohio
- Ora E. Anderson Scholarship Fund
- Paul Knoop Conservation Education Fund
- Rural Action Fund for a Sustainable Future
- The Selinde Roosenburg Memorial Fund/Athens Conservancy
- Somerset Horticultural Endowment
- Upper Rush Creek Revitalization Project Fund
- Vinton County Conservation Fund
- William L. Phillips Fund



Contact our office to create your own fund for the causes or communities closest to your heart.

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

OUR MISSION

We seek to unleash the potential within Appalachian Ohio by growing and leveraging gifts that advance sustained transformation.

OUR VISION

Appalachian Ohio is abundant in possibility for all who call our region home, today and in perpetuity.

OUR IMPACT



1,550+ grants, scholarships and fellowships totaling **\$9.5 million** awarded in 2023



700+ donor-established funds



\$105.5 million in charitable assets

STAY IN TOUCH!

Follow us on social media to learn more about our work in Appalachian Ohio.



Foundation for Appalachian Ohio



@FDNforappalachianohio

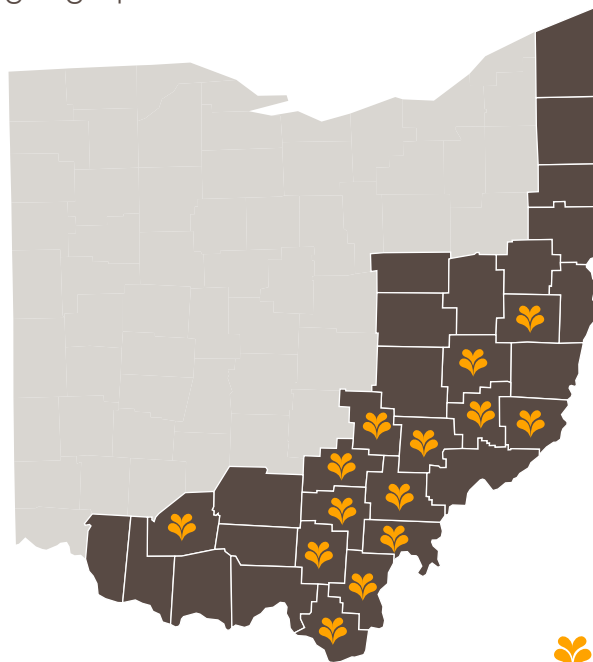


Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is a community of givers who bring together our time, talent and treasure to create opportunities and advance sustained transformations across our 32-county region. We maximize our impact by investing in local solutions, supporting transformative leaders and advancing approaches that are collaborative, holistic, evidence-based and sustainable.

Our community

We are honored to partner with 15 affiliate foundations, including the region-wide African American Community Fund and 14 geographic affiliates.



- African American Community Fund
- Gallia Community Foundation
- Guernsey County Foundation
- Harrison County Community Foundation
- Highland County Community Fund
- Hocking County Community Fund
- Jackson County Community Foundation
- Lawrence County Community Foundation
- Meigs County Foundation
- Monroe County Community Foundation
- Morgan Community Fund
- Nelsonville Community Foundation
- Noble County Community Foundation
- Community Foundation for Perry County
- Vinton County Community Fund



= County with an affiliate foundation

Our Pillars of Prosperity

Together with our community of givers, we advance lasting change across five areas that increase quality of life, known as our Pillars of Prosperity.



Arts & Culture



Community & Economic Development



Education

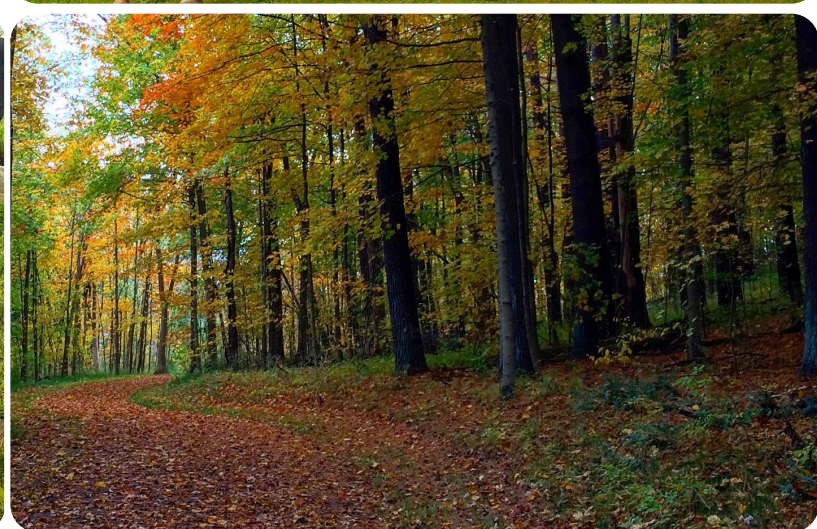
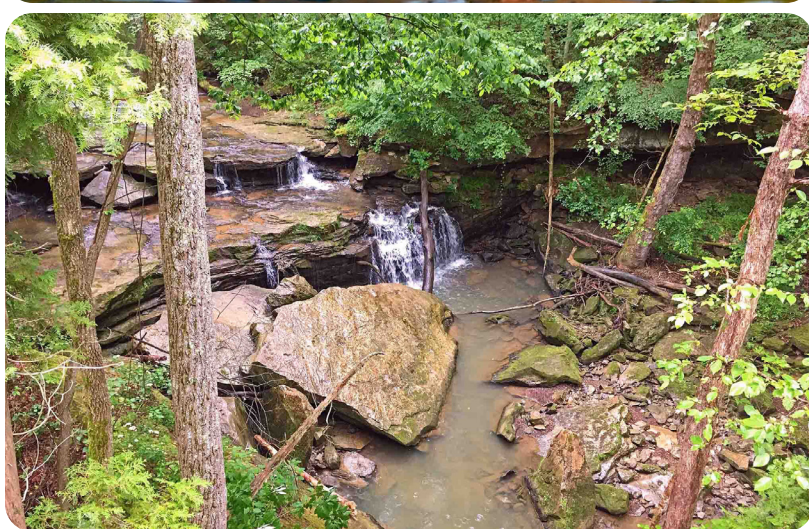
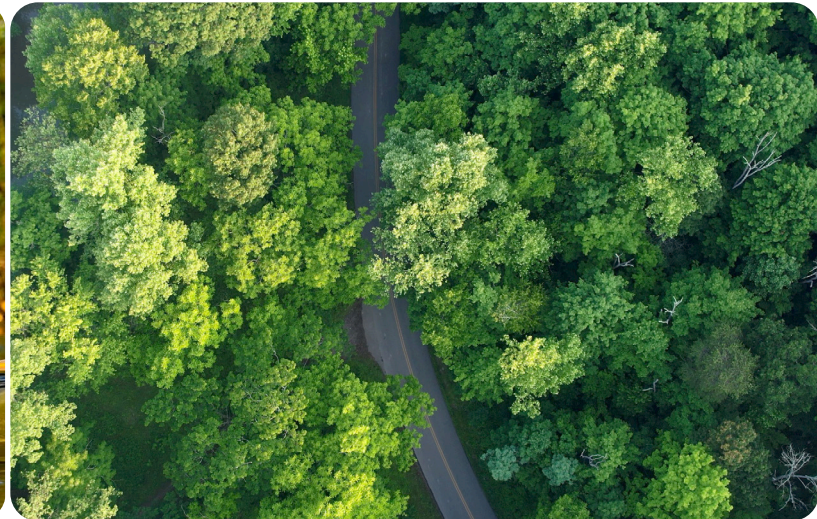


Environmental Stewardship



Health & Human Services

Our investments improve health, create educational opportunities, advance economic development and environmental stewardship, and provide access to arts and cultural experiences.



FOUNDATION FOR
APPALACHIAN OHIO