



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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July 13, 2015

District 6 Natural Resources Advisory Council
c/o Mr. Tim Yova
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
100 E. Federal St.
City Centre One, 10th Floor
Youngstown, OH 44503

RE: Support for Bloomfield Swamp Expansion project

Dear District 6 Natural Resources Advisory Council Members:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (ODNR-DNAP), I would like to express my support for Natural Areas Land Conservancy's commitment to the acquisition and permanent protection of the Bloomfield Swamp Expansion property in Bloomfield Township, Trumbull County with Clean Ohio funds.

The Division of Natural Areas & Preserves is responsible for identifying, acquiring, and managing lands in Ohio that represent the finest examples of Ohio's natural landscape types, natural vegetation, and geological history. Natural Areas Land Conservancy's effort to preserve the Bloomfield Swamp Expansion property in Trumbull County with Clean Ohio funding resonates strongly with the conservation objectives of ODNR and the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves.

As part of our mission, the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves maintains Ohio's list of endangered and threatened plants. Recent surveys of Bloomfield Swamp Expansion's species have shown that the property is home to at least one listed plant—the Pale sedge (*Carex pallescens*), which is currently identified as "Potentially Threatened" in Ohio. I am confident that the Land Conservancy's acquisition of the Bloomfield Swamp Expansion will not protect this rare species, but also provide a strong foundation for future efforts aimed at eliminating invasive species and restoring habitat for native species there as well.

The scale of Bloomfield Swamp's natural assets and the property's location within a growing wetland conservation corridor that already includes two significant Trumbull County natural areas—Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area and Grand River Wildlife Area—assure me that the NRAC's investment in the Bloomfield Swamp Expansion is an excellent investment of Clean Ohio funds.

Sincerely,

Rick Gardner
Chief Botanist, ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves