



OHIO

Annual Report 2022

DEAR FRIEND OF CONSERVATION



Amy L. Holtshouse

Amy Holtshouse

Agnes Andraea Director
of Conservation

As I write this letter and reflect on some of last year's greatest achievements, I recall watching a monarch butterfly flit across my yard and deposit eggs on the underside of the milkweed I've planted to try and help them out. I knew that my efforts mattered, but my sense of urgency heightened upon learning that the International Union for Conservation of Nature listed the monarch butterfly as endangered. It made me consider the other species that have found refuge in my garden, like the ruby-throated hummingbird that mocks my cat as it hovers to drink nectar from my cardinal flower. Both these species migrate from Central America to Ohio. They are beautiful reminders that we are connected through time, space and action.

I am inspired by the continuous cycle of their movements. Even amidst staggering habitat loss and a changing climate, they persist. I am hopeful that our conservation work mirrors their resilience. In just three years, TNC and many partners have collectively restored tens of thousands of acres of wetlands through the H2Ohio program. Looking ahead, we are leading over 45 stream and wetland restoration projects that will benefit biodiversity and the climate. And TNC's 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary next year, has grown to improve nutrient management and soil health practices on millions of acres of agricultural land in Ohio, boosting water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and reducing carbon emissions. These impacts are only the beginning as we work to mobilize funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which will uplift many of our efforts in Ohio, including a focus on equity and climate resilience.

Although there are many challenges to achieving a world where people and nature thrive together, I see a spirit of cooperation and a drive that will make a difference. Our work—on the ground and through partnerships and policy—aligns the goals of TNC and partners to conserve our most climate-resilient lands and the mosaic of life they support, even in my own garden. I am proud of all that we accomplished together last year, and believe an even brighter, more equitable future is within reach!

The Nature Conservancy in Ohio

STATE DIRECTOR

Bill Stanley

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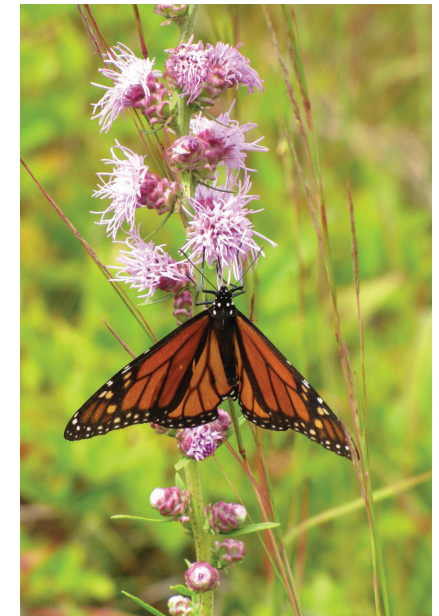
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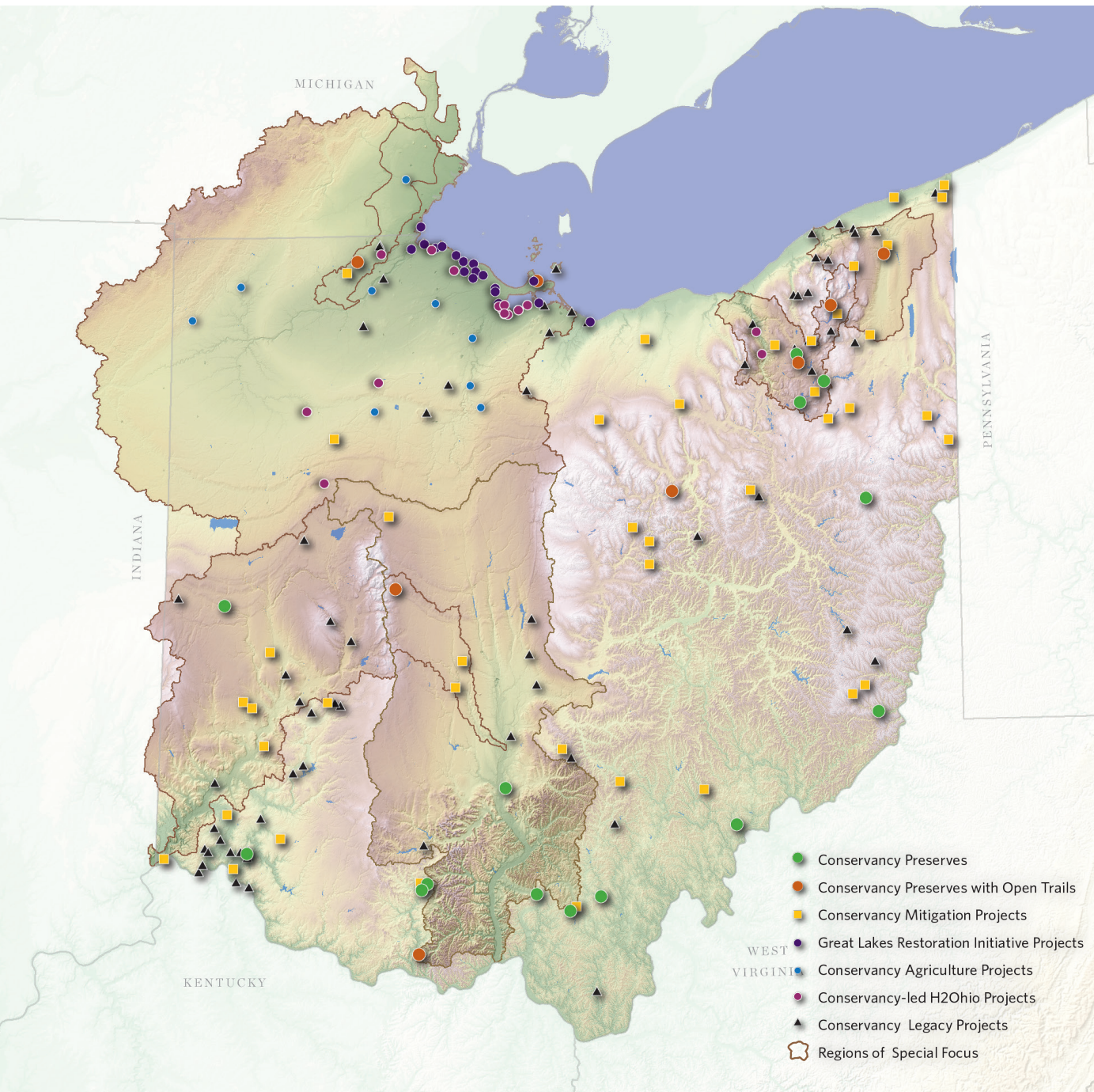
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WHERE WE WORK

Our vision is of a world where people and nature thrive together. The Nature Conservancy encourages people of all ages, races, ethnicities, religions, gender expressions, and abilities to visit our preserves and has a zero-tolerance policy for racism and discrimination.

Importantly, we acknowledge that the lands we are on today are the ancestral homelands of many peoples, including Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Forest County Potawatomi, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca Nation of Indians, Shawnee Tribe, Tonawanda Nation, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and Wyandotte Nation.

We recognize Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and respect and appreciate that we build today from their legacy and heritage.

WATER

Healthy Lands Lead to Healthy Waters

Across the state, farmers are redefining how we cultivate food. TNC is supporting their transition to more sustainable practices by sharing financial and technical resources and elevating a culture of conservation. Last year, TNC secured funding to continue our partner Agraria's Regenerative Farmer Fellowship program. Now in its second year with nine participating fellows, the program provides land access, training, and resources to Black, Indigenous, and people of color interested in regenerative agriculture—a holistic approach that produces nutritious foods while rebuilding local communities, soil health and biodiversity.

At all levels of the food system, collaboration, education, and outreach are fundamental to our

success. TNC's innovative Farmer Advocates for Conservation Program hit a significant milestone in 2022: 18 farmers in northwest Ohio were trained to help increase the adoption of soil health practices like implementing cover crops and the 4Rs of nutrient management (right source, right rate, right time, and right place). In turn, the trained farmer advocates shared their knowledge of soil health practices with other farmers managing a combined 212,000 acres. These practices help achieve sustainable yields while reducing nutrient runoff and sequestering carbon in the soil.

For the best outcomes for people and nature, we must work beyond the field, too. To that end, TNC

catalyzed \$850,000 in funding last year to monitor conservation drainage ditches and cascading waterways to show how practices that mimic nature can improve water retention and reduce nutrient runoff and erosion. We'll share the science-based benefits of these practices with others.

Our approach reflects a decade of learning and refining, as well as the special role TNC plays with partners, communities, and decision-makers across the globe. When we invest in science, build authentic relationships, and uplift each other, we can nurture an equitable future where nature and people are not mutually exclusive, but thriving together.





4.5
MILLION

In March, TNC will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program. Initially developed and launched in Ohio, the program is now a multi-state effort that has led to 4R practices—applying the right fertilizer to crops at the right rate, time, and in the right places—on more than 10 million acres across the United States and the province of Ontario. **4.5 million of these acres were influenced by TNC's work in Ohio.**

“We benefit from the ground. We really can’t expect good crops if we don’t take care of the soil.”

—LESLEY RIKER, Farmer in northwest Ohio

LAND

Local Land Protection Catalyzes Global Impact

Over the last year, The Nature Conservancy's land protection work culminated in the protection of more than 250 additional acres at the Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve. These newly protected lands will enhance the long-term resilience of the preserve's forests, streams and wildlife. Perhaps most importantly, they contribute to TNC's bold global objectives: limiting climate change and avoiding catastrophic biodiversity loss.

TNC supports the United States' commitment to protecting 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030. Expanding and conserving biodiversity strongholds and restoring degraded natural areas are critical steps to halting habitat loss, maintaining migration corridors and increasing access to outdoor spaces for everyone.



ONLINE

Visit [nature.org/ohiolandprotection](https://www.nature.org/ohiolandprotection) to learn more about TNC's work protecting land that supports wildlife, people and the economy.



TNC is partnering with communities worldwide to conserve 1.6 billion acres of land—an area twice the size of India—by 2030.

Keeping People and Nature Connected

After nearly three years of work, TNC closed on the Mackenzie Run property in 2021, thanks to approval from local county commissioners and township trustees and funding from the Clean Ohio Fund and ODNR-Division of Wildlife.

Mackenzie Run rests within the biologically significant Ohio Brush Creek watershed in southern Ohio. Following decades of intense human use, TNC had the vision to return the 37-acre property to a more natural state. Before it was protected, the property was used as a restaurant, bar, campground and dirt racetrack, but most recently, its buildings were vacant.

“We felt this project was an ideal way to conserve important habitat while promoting public access and enjoyment of the landscape,” says Martin McAllister, TNC’s conservation coordinator for the Edge of Appalachia and lead on the project.

TNC and its partners saw a new future for Mackenzie Run that required removing numerous older, unsafe structures but would still allow for recreation by enhancing the existing boat ramp and canoe launch. The acquisition not only protects the last piece that TNC needed to fully conserve the Mackenzie Run watershed—rated by the Ohio EPA as high quality “Cold-water Habitat”—but it also provides public boating and fishing access along a popular section of Ohio Brush Creek.

Volunteers from the community played a central role in the property’s initial restoration. Local Rural Action members, West Union High School Science and Agriculture classes, and others collectively contributed more than 200 hours to plant diverse grassland seeds and more than 1,000 young trees. Their hard work changes this landscape for the better, ensuring that it can provide clean air and water for generations to come.

The project demonstrates TNC’s ability to take the long view, build relationships within the community and secure funding to accelerate conservation for people and nature.



“Projects like Mackenzie Run illustrate the deep collaboration needed among landowners, local officials, and state and federal agencies to protect freshwater resources, enhance critical wildlife habitat and support the economic well-being of communities.”

—JOHN NAVARRO, Aquatic Stewardship Program Administrator, ODNR-Division of Wildlife

Protecting an Environmental Treasure

Nature preserves play an irreplaceable role in protecting Earth’s biodiversity—now and in the future as climate change alters the distribution of species across the planet. Adding land to the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System continues to be a priority for safeguarding biodiversity at a landscape scale. In February, TNC closed on the 94-acre Jenkins tract. The property is an environmental treasure trove with an assemblage of habitats, including many spring-fed tributaries and a long section of Mill Creek, a branch of the high-quality Scioto Brush Creek. Its deciduous forest, eastern red cedar thickets and rare dry limestone prairies support an abundance of state-listed species, including the showy crested coralroot orchid and scaly blazing star.



2022

Our Year in Photos

Highlights from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Sandhill Crane Wetlands Opens to the Public ▶

TNC restored 280 acres of marginal agricultural land back to native habitat last year. The Sandhill Crane Wetlands Viewing Area is part of the Kitty Todd Nature Preserve, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022. The property's former owner, Ron Bettinger, said, "Seeing everyone excited about this project makes me proud of our decision to restore wetlands on this part of our land, which was always so wet and hard to farm."

Ribbon cutting © Mark Dilley/Mad Scientist Associates, LLC



Giving Beyond Ohio's Borders ▶

TNC's work is global, spanning more than 76 countries and territories. The Appalachian Mountain Range is one of TNC's four global focal regions. Ohio supporters have invested over \$1 million in our efforts to conserve its rich biodiversity and carbon sinks.

© Cameron Davidson



More Land Protected in the Sunshine Corridor ▶

A new addition to the Edge Preserve last year, the 128-acre Ladd tract, protects the lower half of Pine Fork Hollow, one of the deep narrow valleys that cut into the south slope of sunshine ridge. The ridge is a prominent topographic feature of TNC's sunshine corridor project, an effort to link the 20,000-acre Edge preserve and the 65,000-acre Shawnee State Forest.

© Terry Seidel/TNC



Corporate Partners for Conservation ▶

Through our Adopt a Natural Area program, corporate partners stewarded over 10 acres at the Big Darby Headwaters Preserve by planting nearly one thousand trees, removing invasive species and collecting seeds.

Honda employees plant tree saplings © Chad Duplain/TNC



◀ Experiencing Nature's Light Show

Each summer, there is a short window to see synchronous fireflies sparkle. This unique species of firefly can be seen during the summer months at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve. Their presence illuminates the positive impact we can have on biodiversity through science-led land protection and restoration.

© Danae Wolfe/TNC



◀ Programming Returns to the Bissell Nature Center

"In today's digital world, the nature center and Morgan Swamp offer the chance for people to experience the natural world and the wonder it instills." —BEN LUTZ, TNC VOLUNTEER

© Janet Grout

CLIMATE

Mapping a Cleaner Future for People and Wildlife

We are at a decisive moment. In February, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that we must peak our greenhouse gas emissions before 2025 and then reach net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F). If we don't, we risk worldwide climate disruptions that will threaten people and nature alike.

Thankfully, there is a path forward, but it will require collective action—and a lot of land—to get there. In the United States, energy from renewable resources makes up only 20 percent of the nation's portfolio, so the potential to achieve net-zero goals through rapid wind and solar energy deployment is massive. However, while cost reductions and technological advances in renewable energy make the transition feasible, the buildout could require an area nearly 2.5 times the size of the Great Lakes.

In many places, the onus has fallen on local communities to accelerate climate-smart initiatives. In Ohio especially, it can be difficult to balance

federal successes like the historic passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with restrictive state policies like Senate Bill 52, which gives county commissioners the authority to prohibit large-scale wind and solar energy, even on private property.

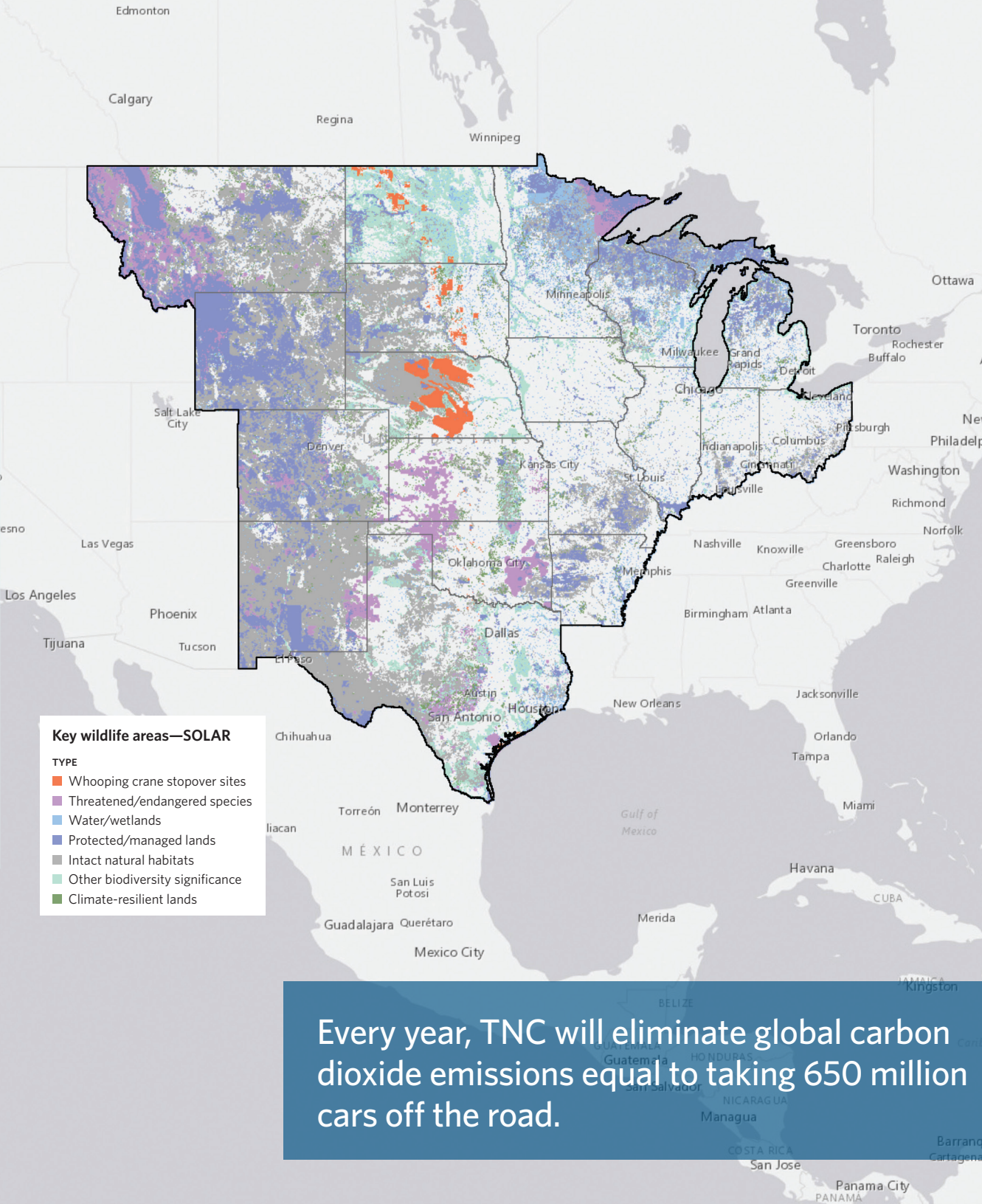
To help local municipalities develop renewable energy projects amid conflicting policies, TNC released two multi-state maps and an Ohio-specific study that help prioritize projects with the greatest outcomes for communities, conservation and the climate. TNC's Site Renewables Right and Mining the Sun maps help take nature into consideration during the project planning process and, whenever possible, encourage repurposing degraded industrial sites like brownfields and surface mines. Meanwhile, the Low Conflict Zone research helps to identify the communities that are most receptive to clean energy development, based on local zoning policies and corporate sustainability goals. Together, the resources aid in the transition to a lower-carbon future that safeguards people, wildlife and our planet.



“Site Renewables Right encourages the protection of critical habitats. By avoiding those sites, projects will be less expensive overall, are more likely to be approved, and get us closer to a much-needed renewable energy expansion.”

—REBECCA MELLINO, Climate and Energy Policy Associate, The Nature Conservancy in Ohio





Key wildlife areas—SOLAR

TYPE

- Whooping crane stopover sites
- Threatened/endangered species
- Water/wetlands
- Protected/managed lands
- Intact natural habitats
- Other biodiversity significance
- Climate-resilient lands

Every year, TNC will eliminate global carbon dioxide emissions equal to taking 650 million cars off the road.

BY THE NUMBERS



80%

of The Nature Conservancy's suggestions were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including funds earmarked for demonstration sites featuring renewable energy development on former mine lands.



\$2.8B

dollars will come to Ohio through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Of the total, millions have been allocated to clean energy development, legacy pollution cleanup, infrastructure resilience, electric vehicle charging, and safe drinking water.



484,000

acres of land across 4,500 former mine sites in Ohio could be used for solar generation.

CONSERVATION SUPPORT

The Nature Conservancy in Ohio is deeply grateful to the many individuals, corporations and foundations that have generously supported our conservation efforts, both locally and globally.

The following supporters contributed \$5,000 or more to TNC between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. The list reflects gifts received during this time period and does not include the full value of multi-year pledges. Although space does not permit us to list all gifts to TNC, each contribution, no matter what size, has a direct impact on our critical work to protect people and nature.

\$1,000,000-\$3,500,000

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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A Trailblazer in Equitable Philanthropy and Science

For Dr. Rohini Mulchandani, the joy of giving—and the emotions that come with it—is the hard-earned reward of a young girl who dared to dream. Growing up in mid-twentieth century India, the perceived role of a woman was to be a wife and mother, but Rohini's parents noticed early on that she had a "mind of her own," and they supported her career aspirations.



At the University of Bombay, learning that shoe polish contained a milk protein first sparked Rohini's interest in applied chemistry. Years later, her passion for science eventually led her to earn a PhD in dairy technology from The Ohio State University. During that time, Rohini funded the completion of her doctorate research program by working at Ross Laboratories, where she retired in 1998.

Today, Rohini is grateful to be in a position to make a difference using her life's earnings. Reflecting on recent donations, she shared, **"Whenever possible, I link my gifts back to India so that I am jointly supporting my home country, India, and my country of residence since age 19, the U.S."**

This year, in addition to her own generous support for TNC's India program, Rohini has invited her stateside Indian friends to give back, too. "I have seen what we humans are doing to the planet," she said. By donating to India, Rohini and her friends are demonstrating that we are all united by one shared Earth, and a gift to one country is truly a gift to them all.

Worldwide, TNC is supporting the leadership of 45 million people from local and Indigenous communities whose well-being and livelihoods depend on healthy ocean, freshwater and lands.

➔ **ONLINE** | To learn more about TNC's work in India, visit nature.org/India

THIS PAGE Dr. Rohini Mulchandani © Courtesy of Dr. Mulchandani; Baby parrots. Targeted conservation efforts in India will play an important role in sequestering carbon as well as providing a healthy habitat for plants and wildlife. © Anuj Jain/TNC Photo Contest 2022

One Conservancy to Improve Our Planet

At TNC, we approach conservation with a 'One Conservancy' mindset, which means that while we work in every state and over 76 countries and territories, we are all still one organization with a shared mission. Supporting each other is the only way to confront our planet's dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

Many Ohio donors are passionate about conservation worldwide, contributing to successes in places like the rainforests of Belize, the mountains of West Virginia, the Great Lakes and Mississippi River ecosystems, the northern forests of Michigan, and the diverse habitats of Indonesia. And as the primary statewide conservation nonprofit in Ohio, we strive to work in ways that lift all boats, elevating smaller conservation groups and land trusts in the state.

These investments come back to us in so many ways. While we export impactful conservation strategies, we often import great ideas. Making a difference for the planet inspires many and has led donors to increase their support for Ohio. In sum, we are doing more conservation work here than ever.

Thank you for helping us to deliver a growing amount of conservation success for the lands, waters, and climate of Ohio while improving the future of our planet.



Bill Stanley, State Director



FINANCIAL RESULTS

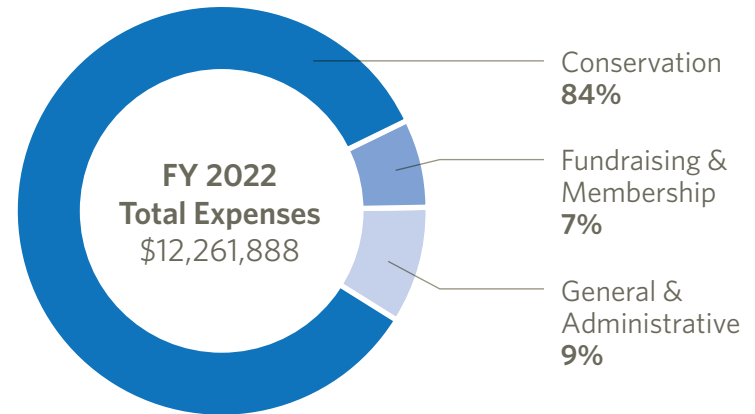
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WE CARRY OUT OUR WORK WITH A DEEP COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.

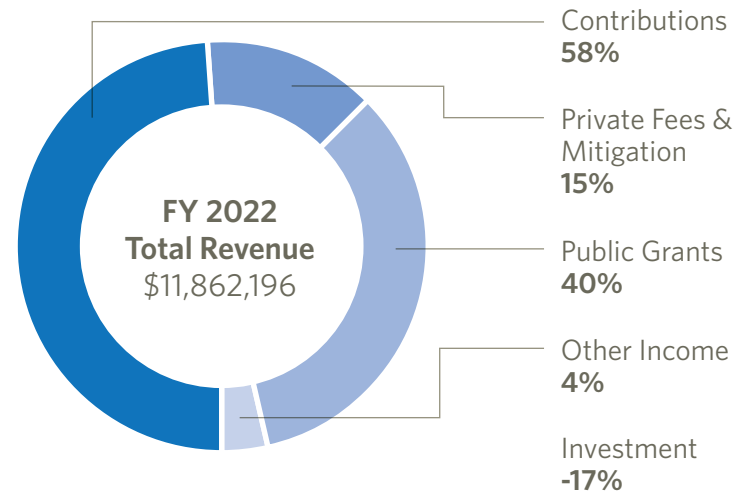
As a leading global charity, we hold ourselves accountable to our members, the public and all creatures that rely on the world's natural resources.

We are able to accomplish so much because we make wise use of our resources. While TNC is one 501(c)(3), the Ohio chapter is directly responsible for raising funds to carry out the vision we have created for Ohio's lands, waters, climate and communities. Each year, we invest a significant portion of our revenue into our conservation work while also ensuring that the long-term financial health of our chapter remains strong by investing in our people, culture and systems.

Programmatic Efficiency



Funding by Source








THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN OHIO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	At June 30, 2021	At June 30, 2022
Cash and Investments	\$49,238,620	\$56,047,103
Endowment Funds	\$21,102,389	\$18,504,787
Conservation Lands	\$45,580,473	\$46,427,648
Other Assets	\$2,029,545	\$4,086,255
	\$117,951,027	\$125,065,793
Liabilities	\$31,931,867	\$40,461,292
Net Assets	\$86,019,160	\$84,604,501
	\$117,951,027	\$125,065,793

TOGETHER, WE FIND A WAY



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