

# H2Ohio Rivers Initiative

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water  
12/20/2023

# H2Ohio Rivers Initiative

- Expansion of H2Ohio approved in July 2023 as part of state biennium budget
- Focuses on water quality of Ohio's rivers
- Initiatives for Ohio EPA include:
  - Dam removals
  - Road salt management
  - Emerging contaminant assessment (PFAS sampling)

# Dam Removals



Dam removals improve water quality and allow migration of fish and mussels to occur



Many dams have outlived intended use and/or are deteriorating and in need of repair

# Dam Removals

**H2Ohio**  
Rivers Program  
**Dam Removal**

Locations Along the Great Miami River  
in Miami County

Type of River Dam: Sheet Pile (Yellow Circle)  
Type of River Dam: Low Head (Blue Circle)

MIAMI COUNTY DAM LOCATIONS:  
TROY (Sheet Pile)  
PIQUA (Low Head)  
TIPP CITY (Low Head)

MIKE DEWINE  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

**H2Ohio**

h2.ohio.gov



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency**

# Chloride Reduction Program

- Road deicing salt application has been common practice for winter road management since 1970s
- Ohio is learning long-term environmental impacts of overapplication of these deicers
  - Increasing salinity levels in lakes, rivers and shallow aquifers most noticeable around urban areas
  - Excessive levels of chloride ions disrupt ability of aquatic organisms to maintain internal salt balance, especially for sensitive insects
- Modern snow removal practices reduce need for road deicers

# Chloride Reduction Program

- In partnership with ODOT, established grant program to reduce road salt runoff
  - Municipalities, villages, townships & counties eligible to apply
  - Items for funding: live-edge blades, salt spreader control systems, brine mixers, and structural upgrades to salt storage facilities to prevent ground water contamination
- Request for proposals – Due January 31, 2024
- For more information:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/financial-assistance/319-grants>