

Call Your Reps Today to Support Federal Funding for Conservation!

Recent decisions from the executive branch of the federal government are impacting partners throughout our region. The Greenspace Alliance is asking you to take 3 steps today to help advocate for environmental conservation and the funding to support it.

3 Steps You Can Take to Help:

Step 1 – Contact your Reps

Call your federal and state legislative offices and voice your concern about the rescinding of federal funding and support for conservation. We've provided a script below to get you started.

Step 2 – Share This Information

Share this information with others and spread the word with your colleagues and community.

Step 3 – Connect With Us

Follow Green Umbrella's Greenspace Alliance by signing up for our newsletter and attending monthly hikes; follow Green Umbrella on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for the latest updates.

Why the Greenspace Alliance is concerned

Recent rescinding and freezing of federal funding

Greenspace Alliance partners across the region have had federal dollars frozen or completely repealed over the past few weeks, including Newport, Kentucky, losing a \$1M federal tree planting grant, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources freezing their Urban Forestry Grant Program. This action alone has brought years' worth of work to a halt and has made the scarce funding sources for conservation work even more competitive.

With federal funding driving many partners' initiatives, these actions significantly limit their ability to maintain their current efforts and capacity. Nationally, some conservation-focused organizations have had to shut down or greatly reduce staff capacity due to the loss of federal funding, including Conservation Districts of Iowa, who laid off 38 employees, and the Indiana Association of Conservation Districts, who furloughed all staff working in three statewide conservation programs, due to federal funding freezes.

Locally, federal cuts to the Americorps program has impacted many partners ability to implement their programmatic and boots-on-the-ground work; putting them in a situation where they have to either let go of staff or alter their work.

These limitations will have detrimental impacts on our ability to protect, restore, and conserve the greenspaces in our region that are at risk for development or decimation. Without funding, our hands are tied.

How to Voice Your Concerns

We need your help! Your local, state, and federal representatives are MORE LIKELY to take action if they hear from you, their constituent! Phone calls are the most impactful way to communicate your concerns. Here's how to find your reps and what to say when you contact their offices.

“What should I say?”

When calling, have a short script prepared and be ready to leave a message. You should be polite, to the point, and focused on your request.

Sample Script:

- Hello, my name is _____ and I live in (city/county the legislator represents)
- I am deeply concerned with the recent rescinding and freezing of federal funding by the new administration. These actions have already and will continue to reduce the capacity of environmental conservation work in the Ohio River Valley, limiting our ability to enhance the region's environmental and economic vitality through environmental conservation.
- I am asking you to please express your concern to the White House and request federal funds for _____ (share which federal funding source your organization is impacted by or share your perspective on the rescind of federal grants) be reinstated.
- (Add a personal example of why this is important to you and/or how it impacts your community.)
- Thank you for your consideration!



Who are your Reps?

Start at the local level! It is important to engage with your local representatives as they 1) represent you and your community and will make decisions based on your needs, 2) direct outreach can help answer questions, solve small problems, and better understand the path towards making bigger changes, and 3) understanding the basic structure of government will help you to know who to contact in the future.

Local Representatives and their contact information are listed below.

- **County Commissioners** serve as the executive and administrative authority for the county. They enact local ordinances and administer them, approve budgets and establish tax rates, oversee spending and approve budgeted purchases, manage county parks, and more. Communicating your concerns to them is a way to share your concerns locally so your representatives can then pass that information up the ladder.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)** coordinate assistance from various sources to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns. SWCDs have been heavily impacted by the federal funding freeze. Connect with them to learn how you can advocate for their initiatives and who you should communicate with.

Dearborn County, Indiana

- **County Commissioners:** Board President, Jim Thatcher, jthatcher@dearborncounty.in.gov, mobile (513) 708-0619, office (812) 537-1040
- **Soil and Water Conservation District:** (812) 926-2406

Franklin County, Indiana

- **County Commissioners:** President Jeff Koch, commissioners@franklincounty.in.gov, office (765) 647-4985
- **Soil and Water Conservation District:** office (765) 647-2651, ext. 3

Boone County, Kentucky

- **County Commissioners:** county office (859) 334-2100 (ask to be connected to County Commissioners)

Campbell County, Kentucky

- **County Commissioners:** county office (859) 292-3838 (ask to be connected to County Commissioners)

Kenton County, Kentucky

- **County Commissioners:** county office (859) 392-1400 (ask to be connected to County Commissioners)

Butler County, Ohio

- **County Commissioners:** Vice President, T.C. Rogers, rogers@bcOhio.us, (513) 887-3247
- **Soil and Water Conservation District:** butlerswcd@bcOhio.gov, office (513) 887-3720

Clermont County, Ohio

- **County Commissioners:** President, David Painter, dpainter@clermontcountyohio.gov, (513) 732-7300
- **Soil and Water Conservation District:** office (513) 732-7075 ext. 2

Hamilton County, Ohio

- **County Commissioners:** President, Denise Driehaus, Denise.Driehaus@hamilton-co.org, (513) 946-4406
- **Soil and Water Conservation District:** (513) 946-8020

Warren County, Ohio

- **County Commissioners:** office (513) 695-1250
- **Soil and Water Conservation District:** (513) 695-1337

To locate your federal Senate and House representatives, [click here](#) and type in your zip code in the search bar.

To locate your state Senate and House representatives, click the following links for [Ohio](#), [Indiana](#), and [Kentucky](#).

After locating your representatives, you will be taken to a page with your representatives' and senators' phone numbers.