HABITAT CONSERVATION ON ODOT RIGHT OF WAY

RIGHTS-OF-WAY AS HABITAT WORKING GROUP MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

































ODOT'S MISSION

To provide easy movement of people and goods from place to place, we will:

Take care of what we have;

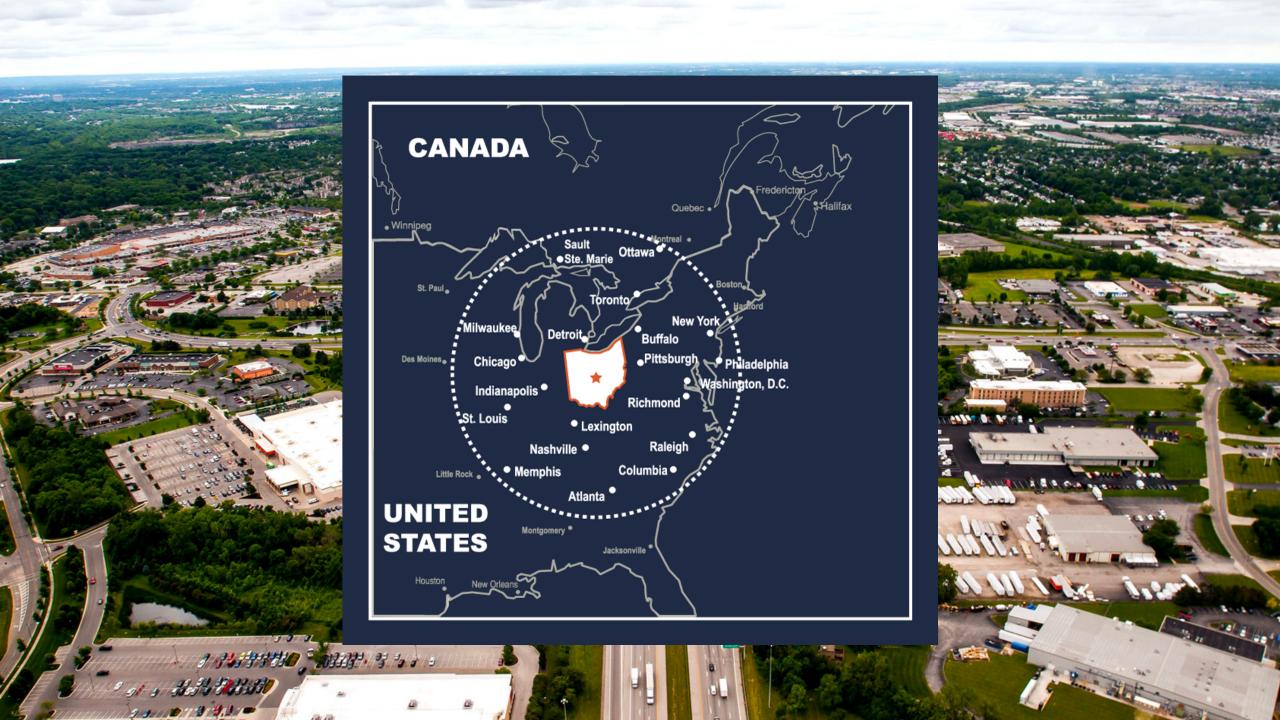
Make our system work better;

Improve safety;

Enhance capacity.

6TH **4**TH 2ND





ODOT is Centerline Focused

ODOT focuses on maintenance and repairs from the center of the road out leaving little time for roadside vegetation management and aesthetics

Priority:

- Pavement
- Bridges
- Drainage
- Guardrail
- Signs
- Culverts
- Lighting
- Snow and ice control















Why ODOT Cares About Habitat



Saves taxpayers money



Opportunity cost



Contributes to Ohio's economy



Good stewards of the environment



Partnership opportunities



Favorable public relations

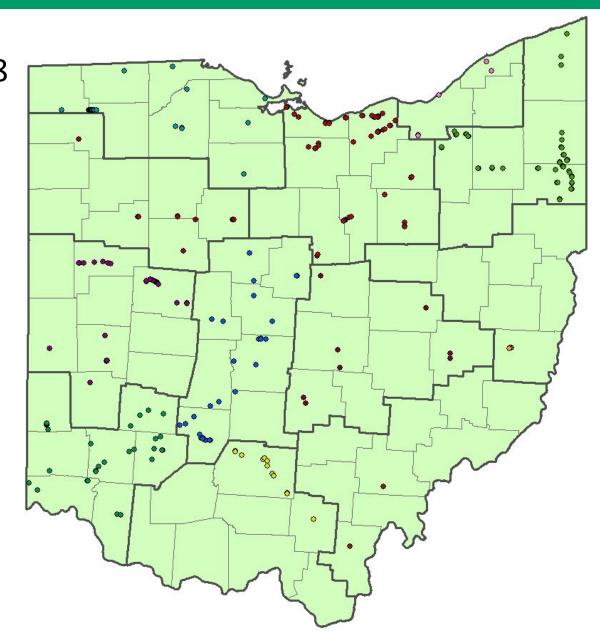
High-Value Pollinator Habitat Projects

ODOT has established 1,200 acres of high-value pollinator habitats at 120 sites in 57 of Ohio's 88 counties

- Highway interchanges
- Roadsides
- Rest areas
- ODOT garages
- Brownfields ('Brownfields to Blooms')
- Retired rest areas and weigh stations

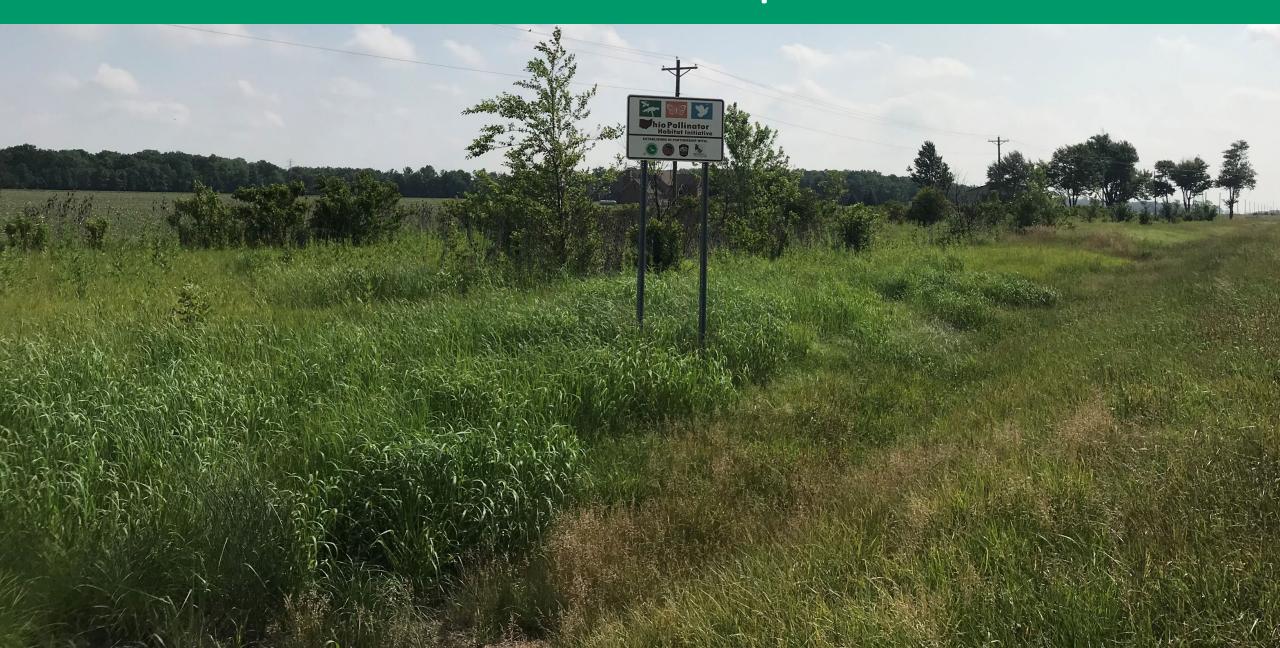
ODOT's goal is to have at least one pollinator habitat project in all 88 counties by 2022

ODOT plans to add 125 new acres of high-value pollinator habitats each year





Sometimes We Need A Little Help...



Who Will Do The Work?

ODOT will always utilize its crews first for any roadside vegetation management efforts

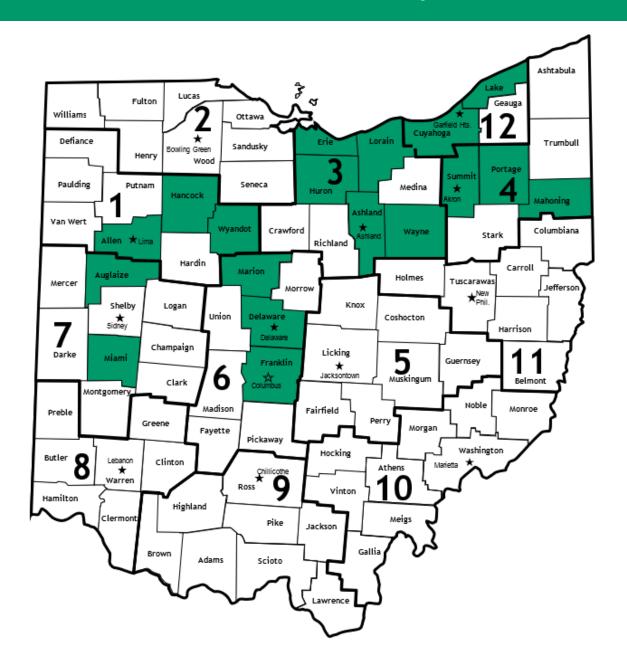
Whenever possible, ODOT enters into public-private partnerships with other agencies, municipalities, corporations, NGOs, conservation groups and others

As a last resort, ODOT will utilize contractors to ensure deadlines

are met



Fall 2018 - Site Preparation



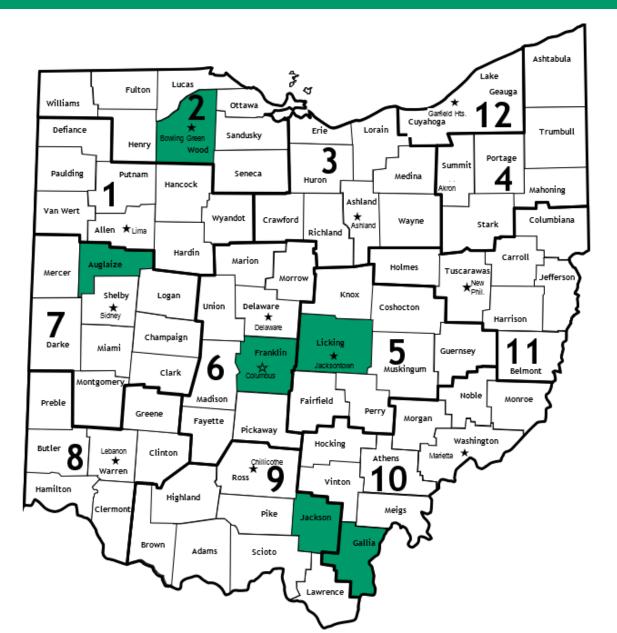
ODOT crews sprayed new and existing sites in 18 counties

An early killing frost shut down spraying causing many sites to be delayed one year

Needed better coordination between ODOT county managers and spray crews



Winter 2019/2020 – Dormant Seeding



ODOT crews dormant seeded sites in 6 counties

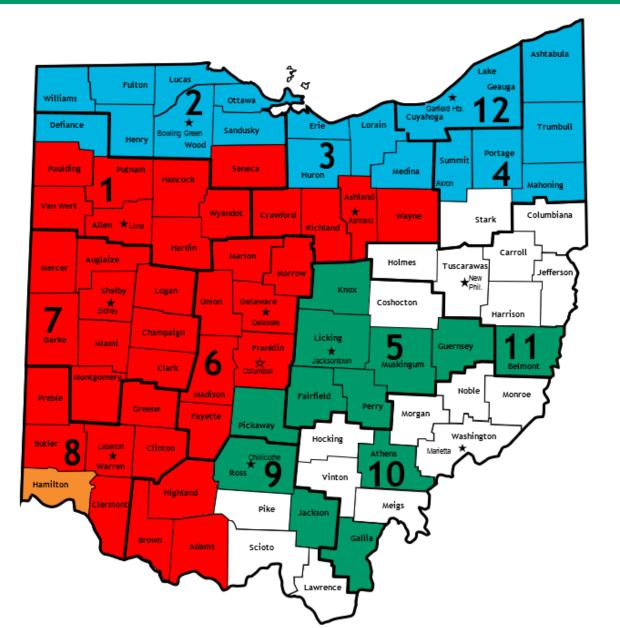
New administration in place after election and resources were realigned

Frequent snow and ice events prevented ODOT crews from mobilizing causing some sites to be delayed until spring

Quickly realized, given short spraying and seeding windows, ODOT needed assistance from contractors



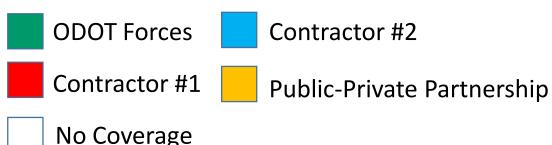
Spring 2019 - Site Preparation & Drill Seeding



ODOT let two contracts in early spring 2019 to assist ODOT crews with site preparation and drill seeding

Since most ODOT pollinator habitat projects were in northern and western Ohio, the two contracts focused on those areas

ODOT's pollinator habitat consultant was the was responsible for project coordination, inventory control, and reporting

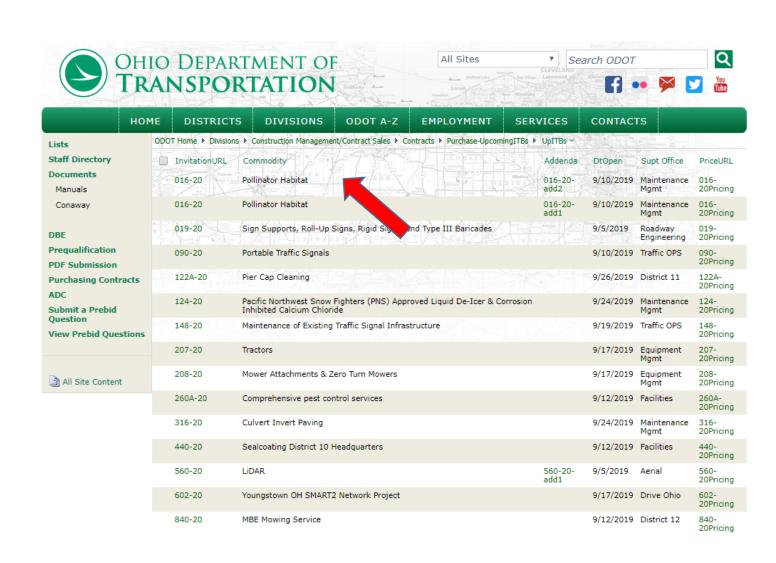


Utilizing Green Contractors

ODOT's Pollinator Habitat Program has expanded beyond its capability to perform site preparation and seed planting in-house

ODOT is currently accepting bids through September 10 for a multiple-award statewide green contract for pollinator habitat site preparation and planting from fall 2019 through spring 2020

Contractors are submitting lumpsum bids per acre and are required to bid on at least one district, up to all 12 districts



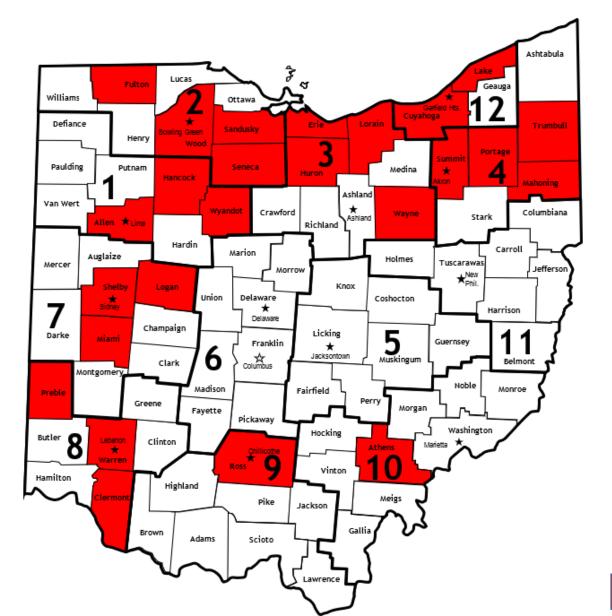
Utilizing Green Contractors

ODOT has 120 projects at varying stages of development and contractors will perform between one and four tasks at each site as part of this contract:

- 1. Fall 2019 Site Preparation
- 2. Winter 2019/2020 Dormant Seeding
- 3. Spring 2020 Site Preparation
- 4. Spring 2020 Drill Seeding



Fall 2019 - Site Preparation



This fall, contractors will spray sites in 25 counties

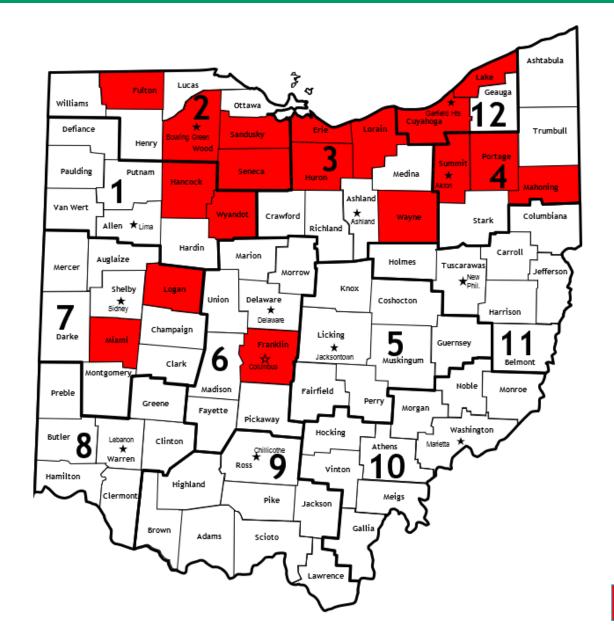
ODOT will provide all herbicide and contractors will coordinate with ODOT's pollinator habitat consultant

Fall herbicide applications must commence no earlier than September 15 and conclude no later than November 15.

ODOT crews and public-private partners (not shown) will continue developing sites around the state



Winter 2019/2020 – Dormant Seeding



This winter, contractors will dormant seed sites in 18 counties

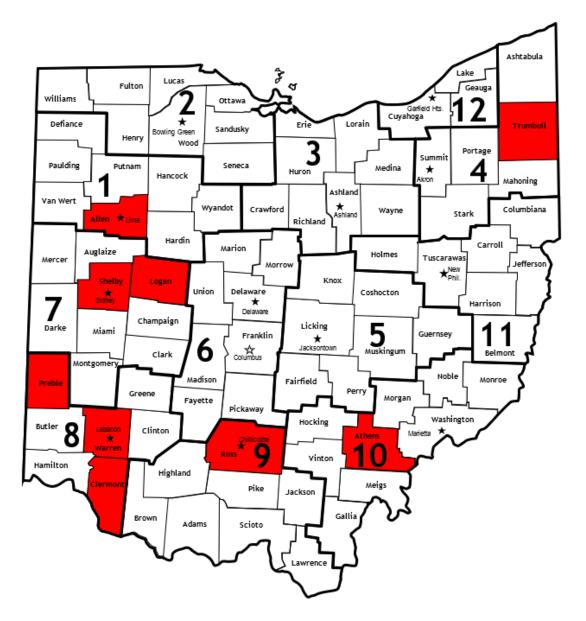
ODOT will provide all seed and bulking agents and contractors will coordinate with ODOT's pollinator habitat consultant

Dormant seeding must commence no earlier than December 1 and conclude no later than March 31

ODOT crews and public-private partners (not shown) will continue developing sites around the state



Spring 2020 - Site Preparation



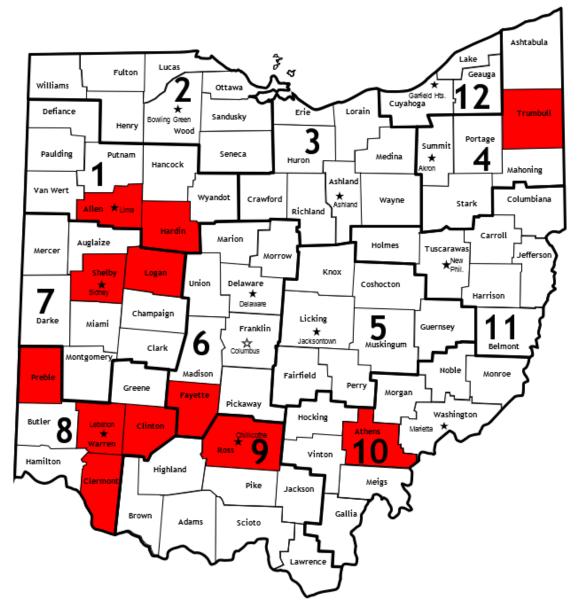
In spring 2020, contractors will spray herbicide in 9 counties

ODOT will provide all herbicide and contractors will coordinate with ODOT's pollinator habitat consultant

Spring herbicide applications must commence when cool season grasses, noxious and invasive, and broadleaf weeds are actively growing, but no earlier than April 1 and must conclude by June 1.



Spring 2020 – Drill Seeding

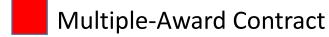


In spring 2020, contractors will drill seed in 11 counties

ODOT will provide all seed and bulking agents and contractors will coordinate with ODOT's pollinator habitat consultant

Spring drill seeding must commence when ground temperatures are above 55 degrees and must conclude by June 1

ODOT crews and public-private partners (not shown) will continue developing sites around the state



Site Management

Post-establishment maintenance is currently being performed by ODOT crews and public-private partners

ODOT performs annual stand evaluations at each site

ODOT will review stand evaluations this winter to determine whether postestablishment maintenance should be included in future green contracts



Thank You!

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