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## Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

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### News & Updates: June 24, 2014

#### **ODNR to Award Nearly \$8 Million in NatureWorks Funding for Local Park Projects**

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The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is now accepting applications for grant funding assistance for local park projects through the state NatureWorks Grant Program. Before the end of this year, ODNR will be awarding \$3.9 million to local communities all across the state to assist in providing Ohioans with enhanced outdoor opportunities.

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The Ohio General Assembly recently allocated nearly \$8 million to the NatureWorks Program for the next two fiscal years, FY 14 and FY 15. ODNR is currently offering half of these funds for local park projects, awarded projects can be started as early as spring 2015.

NatureWorks funding is available for cities, villages, counties, townships, park districts and conservancy districts interested in securing funds to assist with local park projects. Applicants and project scopes must meet the eligibility requirements under the NatureWorks Program, and all applications for the NatureWorks grant program must be postmarked by Sept. 1, 2014.

The NatureWorks grant application can be found at: [ohiodnr.gov/realestate](http://ohiodnr.gov/realestate).

The Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Fund (State Issue No. 1) was passed by voters on Nov. 3, 1993. Additional legislation authorized the creation of the NatureWorks program. This is the 21st round for NatureWorks grants.

#### **SOAR Executive Director Position**

Many of you are aware of the Shaping our Appalachian Region (SOAR) initiative in eastern Kentucky that is now underway. As you may know, Governor Beshear and Congressman Rogers are key proponents of this effort to diversify and strengthen the economy of Kentucky's Appalachian region. In a key step forward, SOAR has begun the search for an Executive Director who will be charged with leading the organization and helping to implement the goals and ideas established thus far for this initiative to encourage development and sustainable growth for the area.

For more information please visit: [SOAR Executive Director Position](#) (pdf)

#### **OVRDC's 2013 Audit is Available**

A financial audit of Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission by the Auditor of State Dave Yost's office has returned a clean audit report.

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You can now view OVRDC's 2013 Audit online at:  
<https://ohioauditor.gov/auditsearch/detail.aspx?ReportID=108351>

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