



## AOA Adds Key Property to Scioto River Flyway Corridor

Protection and restoration of the Fleming Bend property continues AOA's ongoing and successful efforts to protect and restore the Lower Scioto River and its tributaries as part of our Scioto River Flyway Corridor Initiative. This 309-acre property which protects 13,880 linear feet of riparian floodplain is an important addition to the corridor. Located in central Pickaway County, immediately west of downtown Circleville, the Fleming Bend site lies on a large bend in the Scioto River. It includes a 50-acre island surrounded by river channel.

The Scioto River stretch running through and along Fleming Bend exceeds criteria for Exceptional Warmwater Habitat (EWH) aquatic life use designation and is listed as Superior High Quality Waters by the State of Ohio. The property and the significant section of Scioto



River corridor that flows through it, is home to numerous listed and potential rare and endangered species, particularly mussels and fish living in the river but also bats and native plants.

The property has been highly modified from its original bottomland forest habitat and its riparian function has been substantially impaired from historic uses such as forest removal and unrestricted cattle grazing.

Fortunately, the site maintains the ability for substantial uplift providing the opportunity for protecting and further enhancing Scioto River water quality.

AOA will carry out substantial site restoration activities including reestablishment of the site's hydrological conditions, wetland enhancement, removal and control of invasive species, replanting of native plants and prairies in former pastures, and reforestation of the riparian and floodplain areas to regenerate a native hardwood floodplain habitat.

The Fleming Bend addition project is being undertaken with Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program monies designated for protection and restoration of high-quality streams and wetlands in Ohio. This project is administered by the Ohio Department of Environmental Protection (OEPA) which recently completed an environmental assessment process for the project. A complete copy of the environmental documents may be found [here](#). The City of Columbus' Lower Olentangy Tunnel WPCLF loan project is the municipal sponsor for this property.