

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: *May 21, 2012*

Contact: **John R. Thomas, Director of Communications, 513-863-4692**

The New Edgewood High School Goes Green!

Edgewood High School is going green!

By practicing good groundwater and environmental stewardship, Edgewood High School was recently designated as a 2012 Groundwater Guardian Green Site by The Groundwater Foundation as a result of the groundwater-friendly practices being implemented. The new high school opening to students in the fall of 2012 is on a unique site. The property has no storm water leaving the site. All storm water must soak down into the soil and become a part of the Great Miami Buried Valley aquifer. The site is within one year ground water travel time to the wells of Miller Coors Trenton Brewery and the wells of Southwest Regional Water District on Morgenthaler Road, Butler County. The location is extremely groundwater sensitive.

Groundwater Guardian Green Sites are essentially places with a lot of green space – like golf courses; ball fields; educational campuses; and residential, recreational, and office parks – that implement groundwater and surface water-friendly practices to maintain the site. Edgewood High completed an application to evaluate and document its groundwater-friendly practices to earn this exclusive designation. By not storing, handling or using, pesticides and/or fertilizers, the school is practicing a no-application location. In addition, between the parking lots bioretention areas with native plant species have been installed in place of dry wells that typically permit surface water pollutants to enter the ground water uninhibited.

The project also involves a land laboratory which the science teachers wanted on the northwest corner of the property. "There is also a ditch that receives 200 acres of agricultural drainage on that side of the property," Terry Stephens, retired Edgewood High School Earth Science Teacher and Butler SWCD Board Chair said. "We're diverting water from that ditch into a low lying area with vernal pools, micro pools, plug plantings, prairie plantings, and possibly an oak savannah. The surface water entering the property will then flow through soil layers, sand filters, plant assimilation and through native wetland plants before it enters into the final basin that infiltrates into the ground." This land lab will also serve as a hands-on area for everything from botany, biology, hydrology, environmental issues, plant sciences, engineering design, soils and more for the school district. There are plans to have a walkway around and/or thru the land lab for school activities, teacher workshops, and tours for interested parties from around the state. Edgewood High is going "green" and helping to protect and conserve local water supplies.

2012 is the first year as a designated Groundwater Guardian Green Site. Edgewood is now a part of an elite group of more than 130 sites in the country that include the U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Miller Coors Trenton Brewery, and the Miami Conservancy District. Edgewood is the only high school in the nation that has received this designation. "It's been wonderful," Stephens said. "It's progressive, it's unique. It is perfect that it is a public school. The school is going to be able to use it, the science classes are going to be able to test it and build it into their

curriculum. Groundwater Guardian Green Sites is a program of The Groundwater Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska with a mission to educate and motivate the public to care about and for groundwater. The program began in 2007 to recognize good stewards of groundwater by encouraging managers of highly-managed green spaces to implement, measure, and document their groundwater-friendly practices.

Other interested sites are encouraged to get involved in the Groundwater Guardian Green Site program by visiting The Groundwater Foundation's website and downloading the current program application at www.groundwater.org/gg/greensites.html, e-mailing guardian@groundwater.org, or calling 1-800-858-4844.

###

For more information about the under construction Edgewood High School operation, please contact John R. Thomas, Director of Communications, at 513-863-4692 and/or thomas@edgewood.k12.oh.us or visit www.edgewoodschools.com/. Or contact Kevin Fall at Butler Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) at 513-887-3720 and/or fallke@butlercountyohio.org.

The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska with a mission to educate and motivate the public to care about and for groundwater. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has offered various educational programming for youth and adults. To learn more, visit www.groundwater.org. The Groundwater Guardian Green Site program is supported by Cargill, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Pollution Prevention Program, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.