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For Immediate Release

Duke Energy Foundation Grant Helps Three Valley Trust's Four Mile Creek Protection Project

OXFORD, Ohio – The Three Valley Conservation Trust and the Duke Energy Foundation today announced a grant from the Foundation to aid the Three Valley Conservation Trust's (Three Valley) Four Mile Creek Protection Project. Duke Energy Foundation's partnership and that of new landowners will help Three Valley protect to protect a sensitive stream and open spaces. As a result, the project will maintain quality drinking water, ensure stream quality and retain farmland available for locally grown food.

“This project expands and extends a collaborative approach to safeguard the environment and quality of life for centuries to come,” said Dr. Adolph Greenberg, chairman of the board of Three Valley. “We're grateful for the support of Tim Abbott of Duke Energy and the Duke Energy Foundation.”

The Three Valley Conservation Trust's Four Mile Creek Protection Project will assist willing landowners and local communities to permanently protect the largest Great Blue Heron Rookery in Western Ohio, safeguard a mile of Four Mile Creek, preserve rare forest habitat, and would extend protection of adjacent forest already part of Butler Metroparks' Hueston Farm and Forest Preserve near Hamilton.

Implementation of the project would be accelerated by availability of Clean Ohio Conservation funds to match an already secured federal farmland preservation grant in order to purchase a conservation easement to protect the Heron nesting site. Funding for Clean Ohio has not yet been approved by the Ohio General Assembly, despite overwhelming voter support in 2008.

The Four Mile Creek Preservation Project was endorsed by Butler Metroparks and Audubon Miami Valley, and has received assistance from Butler Soil and Water Conservation District and the US Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The project will help protect the Great Miami Aquifer, which provides drinking water for two million people and hundreds of industries between Dayton and Cincinnati.

The nonprofit Three Valley Conservation Trust's mission is to partner with people and communities to conserve the natural environment and the cultural heritage for future generations in its service area. Three Valley has permanently preserved via conservation easement over 100 properties and 13,000 acres of stream, wildlife habitat and farmland.

For more information on Three Valley Conservation Trust and the project, contact its office at (513) 524-2150, or visit www.3vct.org. For information about the Duke Energy Foundation please visit the Foundation's website at www.duke-energy.com.