



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BUCKEYE • HILLS
**regional
council**

2022 GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ron Moore, President
Lenny Eliason, Vice President
Kevin Ritter, Treasurer

Diane Burkhart
Ben Carpenter
Misty Crosby
Jeff Dennis
Brian Howard
Larry Kienzle
Zachary Manuel
Brad Peoples
Steve Patterson
Josh Schlicher
Adam Shriver
Diane Ullom
Gary Waugh

Private Sector, Morgan County
County Commissioner, Athens County
County Commissioner, Washington County

County Commissioner, Monroe County
County Commissioner, Perry County
Emeritus Member
Private Sector, Perry County
Private Sector, Meigs County
Private Sector Hocking County
County Commissioner, Meigs County
County Commissioner, Noble County
Mayor, City of Athens
Mayor, City of Marietta
County Commissioner, Morgan County
Private Sector, Monroe County
County Commissioner, Hocking County

ATHENS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Charlie Adkins County Commissioner
Chris Chmiel County Commissioner
Chris Cooper Private Sector
Scott Frank City Manager, Nelsonville
Gary Gooseman Mayor, Amesville
Paul Isherwood Private Sector
Chris Knisely Athens City Council President
Jeff Risner Athens City Council Member
John Simpson Private Sector

HOCKING COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Greg Fraunfelter Mayor, City of Logan
Ken Wilson County Auditor

MEIGS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Jane Ann Aanestad Private Sector
Don Anderson Mayor, Pomeroy
Jimmy Will County Commissioner

MONROE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Ricer Mayor, Woodsfield
Mick Schumacher County Commissioner

MORGAN COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Tom Bragg County Commissioner
John Finley Mayor, McConnelsville

NOBLE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Ty Moore County Commissioner
Darrell Crum Village Administrator, Caldwell

PERRY COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

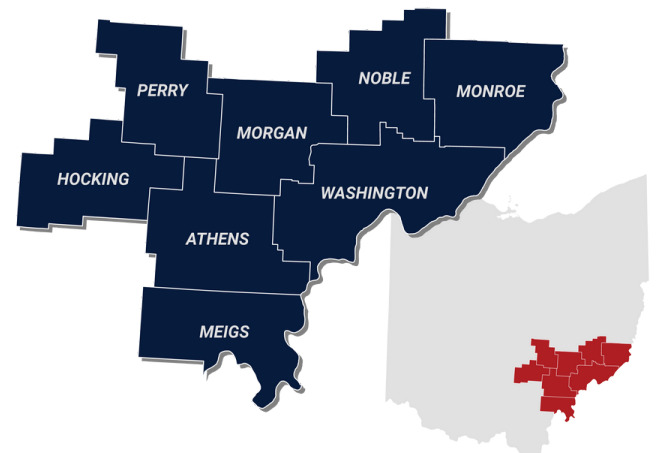
Kent Cannon County Engineer
Eric Emmert Administrator, New Lexington
Tom Johnson Mayor, Somerset
Scott Owen County Commissioner
Fred Redfern Private Sector

WASHINGTON COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

James Booth Washington County Commissioner
Gary Doan Trustee, Muskingum Township
Mike Lorentz Mayor, Belpre
Ben Rutherford Private Sector
Brad Webb Private Sector

OUR MISSION

Buckeye Hills Regional Council's mission is to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the region by promoting the interests and needs of our constituents to persons and agencies empowered to create positive change.



A Message from our Leadership



Our mission to work cooperatively to improve our region comes to life through those who do the work. We are grateful to the Buckeye Hills Board of Directors, the Buckeye Hills staff, and our many partners for bringing that mission to life each and every day. In 2022 we saw the culmination of a multi-year succession planning process in the selection of a new Executive Director. With the retirement of Misty Crosby, who had served Buckeye Hills for 32 years, we knew the ideal candidate would have big shoes to fill. Our Executive Search Committee engaged leaders from each of our eight member counties and four member municipalities to evaluate candidates from a national search. We welcomed Chasity Schmelzenbach as the council's next Executive Director on August 1. As the long-time Director of the Noble County Emergency Management Agency, Chasity brought with her a high level of professionalism, community leadership, and expertise in meeting the challenges and opportunities before Southeast Ohio. Her skill set, experience, and track record of leadership in our region are already helping Buckeye Hills Regional Council serve our communities well and fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life in Southeast Ohio.

Ron Moore
Executive Committee President



In recent discussions with staff, we have marveled at the change 2022 brought us. It has been a year full of change for me, both personally and professionally. I am thankful to find myself working alongside the great team at Buckeye Hills Regional Council to improve the lives of citizens across our eight counties and build strong partnerships with communities throughout the region. I have spent the last 23 years of my career working in and around Southeast Ohio, and never have I experienced such an exciting time in our region's history. I'm excited to continue to use my skills to lead the council and encourage our communities to envision and build a brighter tomorrow as we move forward together.

Chasity Schmelzenbach
Executive Director

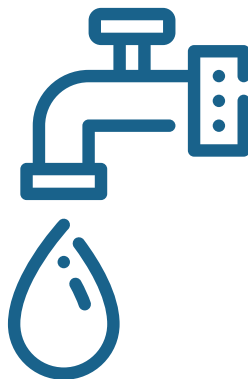


2022 SNAPSHOT

\$130.7 MILLION

2,260

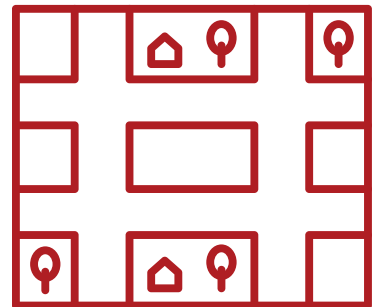
Households received improved water and wastewater service.



Investments of \$5.2 million from the Ohio Public Works Commission and Appalachian Regional Commission helped leverage additional funding totaling \$84 million for 16 water and wastewater projects.

27

Transportation projects



The Ohio Public Works Commission supported 22 projects totaling \$23 million to improve 77 roads and replace 2 bridges. In addition, the new State Transportation Block Grant Program funded 5 projects totaling \$5 million to improve roadway safety and pedestrian mobility.

4,729

Individuals received Older Americans Act Services



These services included meals, transportation, adult daycare services, support for family caregivers, and more, totaling \$2 million.



1,011

Individuals received In-Home Care

More than \$8.9 million in services were provided through Ohio's PASSPORT and Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Programs, allowing individuals to age in place in their homes and communities.

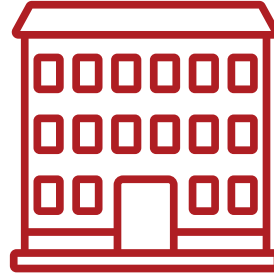
INVESTED IN SOUTHEAST OHIO



1,925

Students served

by career readiness
and career exploration
programs.



3

Building evaluations

provided through
RISE Ohio.

78

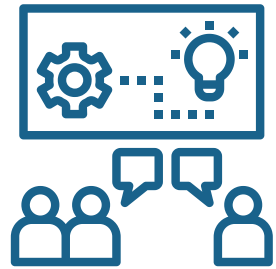
**Data and mapping
projects**



to help communities make informed decisions.

8

**Downtown
revitalization
workshops**



to help communities reimagine their
downtowns and realize their potential.



\$117,110

In fresh local produce

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program provided 2,413 with \$50 in vouchers to purchase fresh local produce from more than 40 local farmers and markets.



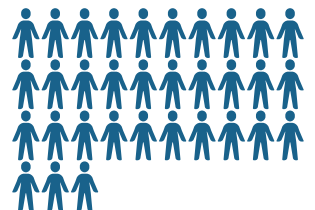
1,393

Front door screenings

Our information assistance team helped individuals in need connect with local services.

33

**Enrolled in
Project Lifesaver**





2022

HIGHLIGHTS



AGING & DISABILITY PROVIDER ROUNDTABLE

Southeast Ohio providers of home- and community-based care gathered in December to discuss the workforce shortage that is leading to long waitlists for much-needed services for older adults. The roundtable discussion took place during a meeting of the Buckeye Hills Aging & Disability Regional Advisory Council. In addition to providers working directly with older adults in Southeast Ohio, the discussion included perspectives from the Ohio Department of Aging and the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging. The group discussed the need to increase the reimbursement rate for personal care services for the state's PASSPORT Medicaid waiver program by 50%, integrated with a \$20 per hour wage for direct care staff, which would bring these workers into parity with other care providers.

PREVENTING FALLS ONE STEP AT A TIME

Buckeye Hills Regional Council staff and partners distributed more than 700 pairs of socks across Southeast Ohio to raise awareness about Falls Prevention and protect older adults from injury in their homes. The effort began in September, which is designated as Falls Prevention Awareness Month, to raise awareness about older adults' falls and how to reduce fall-related injuries. The non-slip socks were distributed with helpful information on how to prevent falls in the home. These resources were distributed to senior centers throughout Southeast Ohio, through in-home assessments conducted by Buckeye Hills staff, and at community events like the Southeast Ohio Foodbank Distribution in Marietta and a Veterans Day resource fair in Middleport.

APPALACHIAN

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

In April, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced details of their proposal to make a long-overdue, comprehensive investment in the Appalachian region of Ohio. The \$500 million investment would support local initiatives to revitalize downtown districts, enhance quality of life, and help rebuild the economies of Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties. In the months that followed, Buckeye Hills convened meetings across Southeast Ohio that brought together more than 500 local stakeholders to help develop a vision for regional applications. In December, the Buckeye Hills Development Division submitted a Technical Assistance grant to the program encompassing more than 170 projects with the support of more than 200 communities and organizations with the goal of helping these partners prepare for Development grants in 2023.

2022

HIGHLIGHTS

BROADBAND

EXPANSION & EQUITY

Buckeye Hills Regional Council continued working with communities to expand broadband access throughout Southeast Ohio and joined state and national efforts to ensure residents have equitable and affordable access to service. In February, Buckeye Hills joined the Broadband Access Ohio Coalition, which represents municipalities, townships, associations, and other public entities across the state that are committed to investing in high-speed internet access for all. Through Connecting Appalachia, Buckeye Hills supported the release of updated county broadband profiles that provide estimates of the investment needed to reach unserved and underserved households. Around this same time, BroadbandOhio announced the first awards under the new Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion program, many of which will help build out service in the region over the next few years.



SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Aging to allow income-eligible seniors the opportunity to purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs from participating farmers' markets. In 2022 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program ended the year strong, serving 2,342 individuals who redeemed coupons for more than \$110,000 in fresh, nutritious produce grown by more than 40 local farmers. The program serves individuals at least 60 years of age with household incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. In addition, The Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is designed to aid in the development of farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agricultural programs.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



PROJECT LIFESAVER

Retired Major Scott Trussell led staff from the Perry and Washington counties' sheriffs' offices and Caregiver Advocate Darlene Hambel on Project Lifesaver training and instructor certification. Participants completed classroom training, a written test, a timed search for transmitters, and two mobile searches. Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated by public safety agencies. It is strategically designed for at-risk individuals who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The method uses radio technology and specially trained search and rescue teams. Individuals enrolled in the program wear a small transmitter that emits a unique frequency signal. If an enrolled individual goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds using the individual's unique frequency to locate them.

MAKING THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITY ZONES

The RISE Ohio (Resilience Initiative for Southeastern and Eastern Ohio) is a U.S. EDA Assistance to Coal Communities program led by Ohio University's Voinovich School, Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC), and the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) focused on economic diversification; Opportunity Zone planning, development, and investment; and assistance to communities impacted by coal-fired power plant closures. This partnership sought technical assistance and training to provide educational resources and guidance on harnessing the Opportunity Zone incentive. Part of this work included a series of workshops offered to the counties within the BHRC and OMEGA jurisdictions. These workshops included presentations and interactive forums to explore the potential of the Opportunity Zone incentive and project possibilities across Appalachian Ohio.

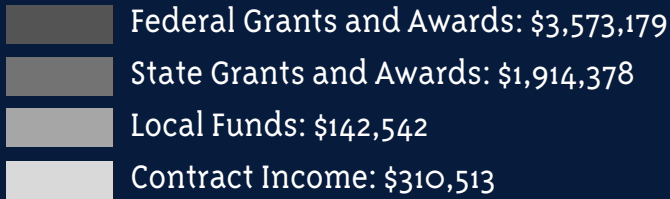
2022 HIGHLIGHTS

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

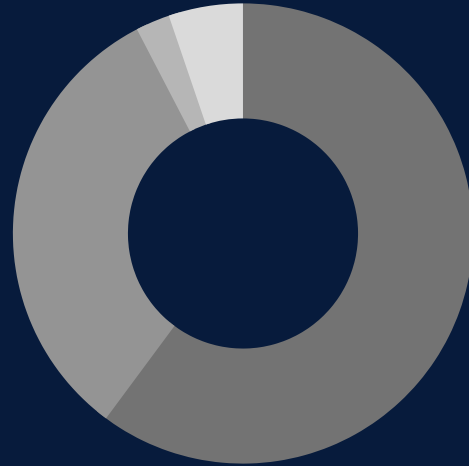
Buckeye Hills Regional Council partnered with Designing Local to host a series of eight workshops aimed at helping communities reimagine their downtowns. The series was free and open to all Southeast Ohio community leaders, elected officials, nonprofits, and anyone working to make their community a better place to live, work, and play. Each workshop covered the topics of Outdoor Recreation, Historic Preservation, Public Art, Streetscapes, Pedestrian Infrastructure, and more. Designing Local guided communities through the best practices of developing both small- and large-scale revitalization projects. The workshop series, which attracted more than 400 attendees, earned an Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations.

2022 OPERATIONS

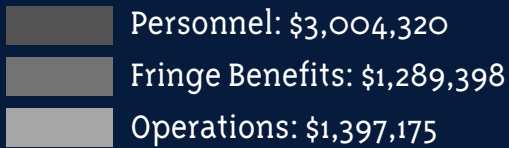
REVENUE



TOTAL: \$5,940,612

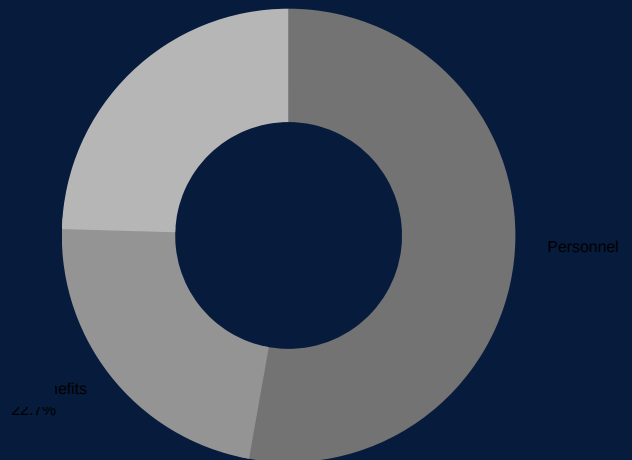


EXPENDITURES



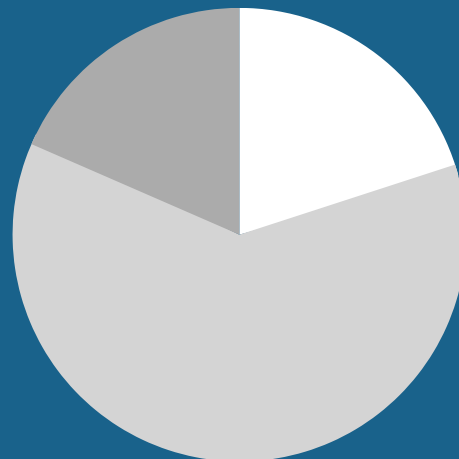
TOTAL: \$5,690,893

BALANCE: \$249,719



EMPLOYEES

In 2022, Buckeye Hills employed 65 staff members.



2022 BUCKEYE HILLS LEAD STAFF

CHASITY SCHMELZENBACH
Executive Director
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RICK HINDMAN
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Information Technology Director
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ABOUT BUCKEYE HILLS

Buckeye Hills Regional Council serves as a forum through which local communities work cooperatively to improve our region. Founded in 1968, we work closely with government leaders, state and federal partners, and community partners to serve Ohio's Appalachian region.

Our organization is a designated Area Agency on Aging, District Liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission, Economic Development District, Local Development District, Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and Aging & Disability Resource Center.

Since our inception, Buckeye Hills has brought more than \$1.4 billion in programs and services to Southeast Ohio communities.



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800.331.2644

BUCKEYEHILLS.ORG



Improving the quality of life in Southeast Ohio



BUCKEYE HILLS
**regional
council**

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