



DATE: December 2012  
TO: AASHE STARS  
FROM: Laura Shinn, Physical Planning and Real Estate  
RE: Olentangy River Restoration Project: Low-head Dam Removal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Shinn".

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to endorse The Ohio State University's Olentangy River Restoration Project: Low-head Dam Removal project as a fulfillment for AASHE STARS Innovation Credit.

The 20-year Olentangy River Restoration project began with the removal of a lowhead dam in August 2012. Major commitments from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and The Ohio State University have allowed the Columbus Department of Public Utilities to move forward with plans to remove the Fifth Avenue lowhead dam and restore the natural flow of the Olentangy River through the university area. This \$6.9 million project, which includes natural channel design techniques and native planting along the Olentangy, would not be possible without more than \$3.6 million in grant funding from Ohio EPA and \$2 million from OSU.

"This project is an example of our commitment to provide responsible stewardship of our natural resources," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "We are grateful to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and The Ohio State University for the funding they have pledged toward this plan."

The removal of the dam, along with planned shoreline restoration, will result in the return of a more natural habitat and ecosystem along the Olentangy between the area north of the OSU campus and downtown Columbus.

The Olentangy River Restoration Project: Low-head Dam Removal project is another example of the short-term and long-term vision of The Ohio State University's commitment to being a community leader of environmental and natural resource sustainability endeavors.

Reference:

<http://fod.osu.edu/dam/>

[http://fod.osu.edu/dam/files/2012\\_6-25\\_press-release.pdf](http://fod.osu.edu/dam/files/2012_6-25_press-release.pdf)