

PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS NOMINATION FORM



The Partners for the Environment's Partner of the Year Awards celebrate those who work to protect, preserve, and restore the environmental and agricultural resources of the Great Miami River and Little Miami River watersheds. The Awards recognize some of our victories and honors those who provide us with leadership and inspiration.

CRITERIA

- Achieved significant results
- Provided leadership and vision
- Inspired the work of others
- Utilized innovative strategies or techniques
- Collaborated with other Partner organizations
- Increased community action
- Acted in a courageous manner
- Works in the geographic area of the Great Miami River and/or Little Miami River watersheds

Award winners will be recognized at the Partners for the Environment Fall Awards Celebration on September 30, 2026, at [Learning Tree Farm](#). Details about the application process and award categories can be found below.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Anyone is eligible to submit a nomination. To nominate yourself or another individual, please submit the following information **by Tuesday, June 30, 2026**. Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of community organization representatives.

1. **Your name and contact information** – including phone and email.
2. The **nominee's name and contact information** – including phone and email.
3. **The award category**. Please select one of the following:
 - Partner of the Year Award (organization)
 - Individual of the Year Award
 - Sustainable Community of the Year Award
 - Lifetime Achievement Award
4. A **one-page description of how the nominee meets the criteria**. Tell us about your nominee and how they meet the criteria. Narrative may be up to one page in length. Please attach any supporting documentation.
5. **Any supporting documentation** to validate your nomination.

Nominators are expected to attend the Fall Awards Celebration and, if their nominee is selected, to introduce and present the award recipient during the program. Award recipients will be given time to share reflections on their career journeys, accomplishments, and advice for future professionals.

Submit to: Partners for the Environment, 38 E Monument Ave, Dayton, OH 45402 **OR:**
admin@gdpartners.org



AWARD CATEGORIES

PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Any organization who in the past 12 months represents some or all of the criteria listed above.

Previous Partner of the Year award winners:

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| 2025 – <i>Hall Hunger Initiative</i> | 2018 – <i>YSI – Xylem</i> |
| 2024 – <i>Agraria Center for Regenerative Practice</i> | 2017 – <i>Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside</i> |
| 2023 – <i>B-W Greenway Community Land Trust</i> | 2016 – <i>Upper River Fund</i> |
| 2022 – <i>Wright Memorial Public Library</i> | 2015 – <i>Glen Helen & Tecumseh Land Trust Partnership</i> |
| 2021 – <i>CO-OP Dayton – Gem City Market</i> | 2014 – <i>University of Dayton</i> |
| 2020 – <i>Glen Helen Association</i> | 2013 – <i>Beavercreek Wetlands Association</i> |
| 2020 – <i>Brukner Nature Center</i> | 2012 – <i>Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm</i> |
| 2019 – <i>Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District</i> | 2011 – <i>Hamilton Soil and Water Conservation District</i> |

THE INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Any individual (board member, staff, volunteer, or private citizen) who in the past 12 months represents some or all of the criteria listed above while working with an organization.

Previous Individual of the Year award winners:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2025 – <i>Christa Wheeler</i> | 2018 – <i>Terry Staley</i> |
| 2025 – <i>Rhett Rohrer</i> | 2017 – <i>Stephen Mackell</i> |
| 2025 – <i>Gail Plunkett</i> | 2016 – <i>Jim Mason</i> |
| 2024 – <i>Michelle Comer</i> | 2016 – <i>Terry Lavy</i> |
| 2023 – <i>Gayle Covington Fowler</i> | 2015 – <i>Bill Schieman</i> |
| 2022 – <i>Jennifer Wentzel</i> | 2014 – <i>David Fisher</i> |
| 2021 – <i>Matthew Lawson</i> | 2013 – <i>Larry Frimerman</i> |
| 2020 – <i>Jess Evans</i> | 2012 – <i>Cal Conrad</i> |
| 2020 – <i>Meredith Florkey</i> | 2011 – <i>Aaron Rourke</i> |
| 2019 – <i>Alexis Faust</i> | |

THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AWARD

Any political jurisdiction that made significant progress during the last 12 months to become more sustainable. Sustainable actions include but are not limited to: enacting development policies that encourage installation of green infrastructure; protecting open space, farmland, or natural habitats; increasing public access to nature; reducing discharges from stormwater or wastewater; increasing recycling and waste reduction programs; sourcing local food; creating complete streets; developing urban service boundaries.

Previous Sustainable Community of the Year award winners:

2024 – *Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association and McCook Field Neighborhood Association*
2022 – *City of Fairborn*
2021 – *City of Dayton*
2020 – *Village of Yellow Springs*
2018 – *Montgomery County*
2016 – *Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission*
2015 – *Warren County Regional Planning Commission*

THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Any individual (board member, staff, volunteer, or private citizen) whose life's work represents some or all of the criteria listed above while working with an organization.

Previous Lifetime Achievement award winners:

2025 – <i>June Drieling</i>	2018 – <i>Jean Bindeman</i>
2025 – <i>Marvin Olinsky</i>	2018 – <i>Bob Jurick</i>
2025 – <i>Mary Klunk</i>	2018 – <i>Dave Nolin</i>
2024 – <i>Charlie Shoemaker</i>	2017 – <i>Ralph Dull</i>
2024 – <i>Jim Schneider</i>	2017 – <i>Dan Jackson (posthumous)</i>
2024 – <i>George Bieri</i>	2016 – <i>Barbara Rion</i>
2023 – <i>Sally Keys & Jean Ryan</i>	2015 – <i>Irv Bieser</i>
2023 – <i>Ellis Jacobs</i>	2014 – <i>Charity Krueger</i>
2022 – <i>Douglas "Dusty" Hall</i>	2013 – <i>Jim Amon</i>
2022 – <i>Tom Allen</i>	2012 – <i>Julia Cady</i>
2021 – <i>Krista Magaw</i>	2011 – <i>Dane Mutter</i>
2020 – <i>Hope Taft</i>	2011 – <i>Don Geiger</i>
2019 – <i>Jo Granzow</i>	