

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District
August 2020 Volume 35, Issue 3

In Memoriam

Colonel Duane LaClair

November 18, 1962– August 20, 2020

ARAQMD lost a colleague and friend on August 20, 2020 with the passing of Duane LaClair. Duane started his civilian career with the City of Akron Water Department in 1987. In 1991, he transferred to ARAQMD and became part of our Air Quality family. During his years in Air Quality, Duane established or coordinated several projects including several permitting process improvements and office data management projects. He was also instrumental in the 2020 lawnmower replacement program. Duane also served at the state level on the Permitting and Enforcement Committee as the Akron representative and as the Training Coordinator for the Ohio Local Air Pollution Control Officers Association. Duane was promoted to Chief Air Quality Engineer in 2012.

Public service and answering the call of duty were hallmarks of Duane's life. In addition to serving the local community and public health, Duane honorably served his country in the US Air Force, Army and Army Reserves for 38 years, rising to the rank of Colonel, before retiring from the Army Reserves in 2018. In both 2003 & 2005, Duane answered the call to duty and served as part of military operations in the Middle East. In each of these deployments Duane served our country with dignity and determination.

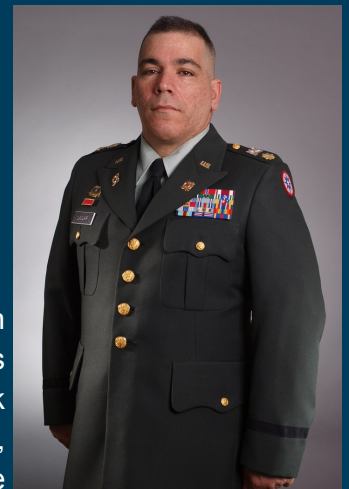
Duane was a trustworthy, knowledgeable resource for all who worked with, served with, or simply had the good fortune to know him. He leaves behind a family, including his loving wife Colleen.

All of us privileged to work with Duane admired him and will miss him terribly. Please join us in taking a moment of reflection for Duane and his family.



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US EPA Celebrates 50 Years of Protecting Our Air

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its annual report on air quality, tracking the nation's progress through 2019. "Our Nation's Air – EPA Celebrates 50 Years!" documents remarkable improvements in air quality across America since 1970.

In remarks delivered at an address in Grand Rapids, MI, US EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler previewed the air trends report. He noted that from 2017 – 2019, the number of days listed as unhealthy for sensitive groups in the Air Quality Index dropped by 34 percent as the amount of criteria pollutants in our air continued to fall:

- Carbon Monoxide 8-Hour ↓ 10%
- Lead (Pb) 3-Month Average ↓ 28%
- Nitrogen Dioxide Annual ↓ 4%
- Nitrogen Dioxide 1-Hour ↓ 2%
- Ozone 8-Hour ↓ 4%
- Particulate Matter 10 microns 24-Hour ↓ 22%
- Particulate Matter 2.5 microns Annual ↓ 7%
- Particulate Matter 2.5 microns 24-Hour ↓ 12%
- Sulfur Dioxide 1-Hour ↓ 10%

Between 1970 and 2019, the combined emissions of criteria and precursor pollutants dropped by 77%, while the U.S. economy **grew 285%**.

From 1990 to 2019, emissions of air pollutants continued to decline:

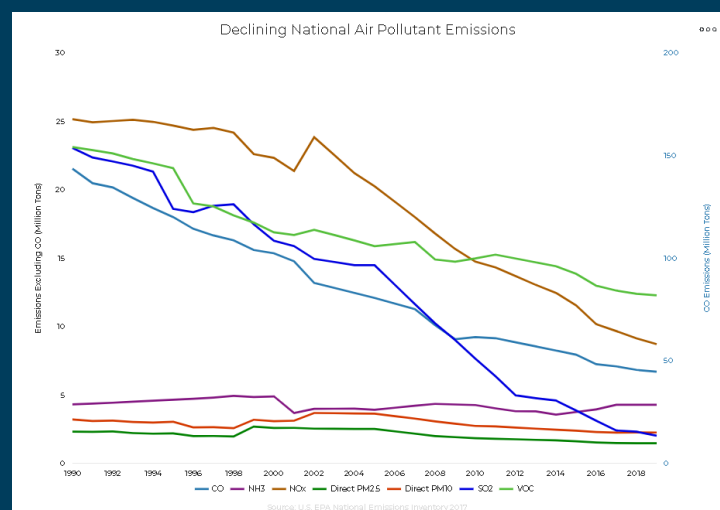
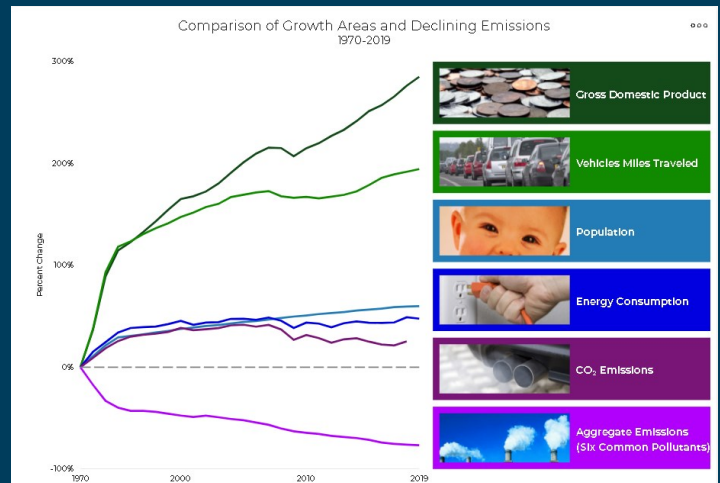
- Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) ↓ 65%
- Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) ↓ 36%
- Particulate Matter 10, including lead (PM 10) ↓ 30%
- Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) ↓ 91%
- Carbon monoxide (CO) ↓ 69%
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) ↓ 47%

Driven largely by federal and state implementation of stationary and mobile source regulations, from 1990 to 2017 emissions of hazardous air pollutants dropped 74%.

These emission reductions have resulted in considerably improved air quality. Air quality monitoring data show that national average concentrations of harmful air pollutants decreased considerably across the nation between 1990 and 2019:

- Ground-level ozone (8-hour) ↓ 25%
- Fine Particulate Matter (annual) ↓ 43% (from 2000)
- Coarse Particulate Matter (24-hour) ↓ 46%
- Sulfur dioxide (1-hour) ↓ 90%
- Nitrogen dioxide (annual) ↓ 59%
- Lead (3-month average) ↓ 85% (from 2010)
- Carbon monoxide (8-hour) ↓ 78%

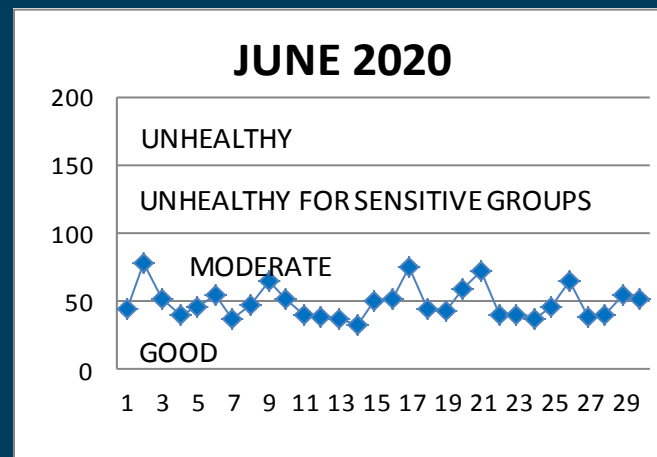
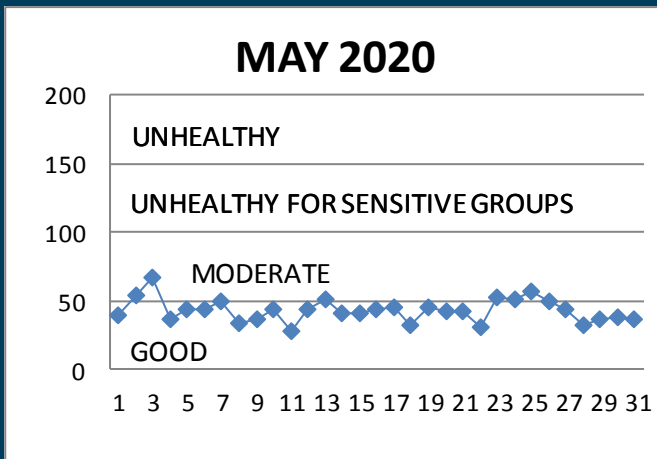
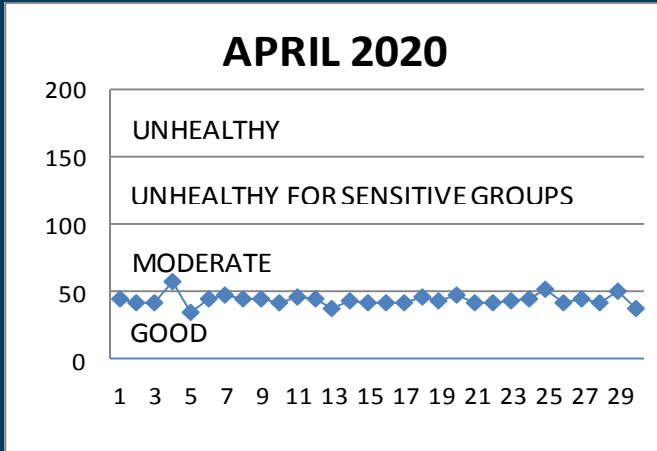
The report includes interactive graphics that enable citizens, policymakers and stakeholders to view and download detailed information by pollutant, geographic location and year. Explore the report and download graphics and data here: <https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2020/#home>



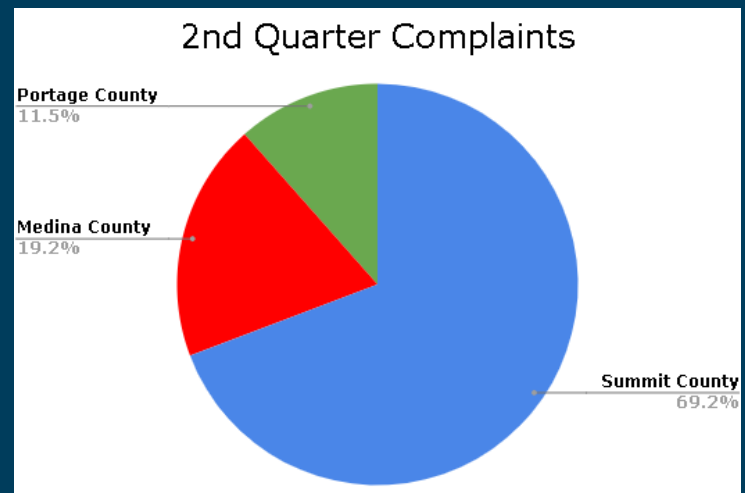
AQ by the Numbers: 2nd Quarter 2020

Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	11	25	26
Medina County	1	9	10
Portage County	1	5	6
Kent	0	0	0



Site Visits **	2nd Quarter 2020
FEPTIO	0
Title V	0
Non Title V	5
Full Compliance Evaluations	0

**** Reflects Ohio EPA restrictions on inspections due to COVID-19.**

Additional Stats

Permits Issued **							
2nd Quarter 2020	Permit to Install		Permit to Install & Operate		Title V		Permit by Rule
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	
**Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits	0	0	3	25	0	0	4

Asbestos	
2nd Q—Notifications	33
2nd Q—Inspections	45



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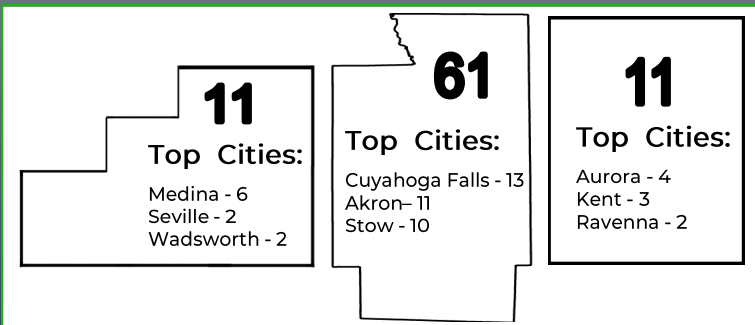
A service of Summit County Public Health

Mow GREENER Wrap Up

2020 has thrown some serious curveballs at many things, and the Mow GREENER inaugural lawnmower exchange was no different. We launched in February with a full program design in place and then had to scramble many times to try to zig as the world zagged. We were unsure how many people would be able to participate, and, at one point if people would even be wise to leave the house to shop for a battery powered mower!!

We had a robust response with our goal of 100 registrants being met (even exceeded as some early registrants withdrew and allowed for others to sign on). When everything was done, 83 lawnmowers were scrapped and replaced with cleaner running battery powered mowers.

Here are some of the highlights of the program.



The removal of 83 mowers equals approximately **8.5 TONS** of pollutants not emitted ANNUALLY!
(Pollutants include: CO, NOx, NMHC & VOCs.)

As mentioned on page one, this project was the result of Duane LaClair seeing this as a need and pushing our organization to make it a reality. Duane's impact on local air quality will be an enduring impact!!