

Public Involvement & Outreach:

MAAC Meetings (Quarterly)

- MAAC members met regularly virtually to discuss program and project planning, and the status of projects in progress

6th Annual Water Quality Boat Cruise

- Was not held this year due to Covid-19.

Released Maumee AOC Progress Video: Benefiting our Community, Restoring our Waters

- Over 100 people attended two online premiere events in October 2020
- 4 Social Media 1- minute videos were also released

Advisory Committee Members

The MAAC is composed of representatives across many types of organizations, including nonprofits, academia, business/industry, local government, and the general public. For a complete list of current members or to learn more about how to get involved, please visit maumeeaac.org.

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Maumee AOC

In 1987, the joint U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement formed the Area of Concern (AOC) program. This program, specific to the Great Lakes Region, defines AOCs as “geographic areas where significant impairment of beneficial uses has occurred as a result of human activities at the local level.” Due to significant habitat alteration, industrial impacts, uncontrolled sewage overflows, and struggling wildlife in the greater Toledo and outlying areas, the Maumee AOC was designated. Waterways included in this AOC are the lower Maumee River, Ottawa River, Swan Creek, Toussaint River, and numerous smaller tributaries.

Since its AOC designation, an active group of community members and representatives from local nonprofit organizations, businesses and government have worked to address the Maumee AOC’s 10 designated BUIs. This group, currently called the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee (MAAC), works as an advisory committee to Ohio EPA, identifying solutions to improve fishable, swimmable and drinkable waters within the AOC. MAAC members help to organize public education opportunities and identify valuable restoration projects. This ongoing collaboration of partners and volunteers is organized by the MAAC’s facilitating organization, Partners for Clean Streams.



This product or publication was financed in part or totally through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The contents and views, including any opinions, findings, or conclusions or recommendations, contained in this product or publication are those of the authors and have not been subject to any Ohio Environmental Protection Agency or administrative review and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred.

MAUMEE AOC

★ 2020
ANNUAL REPORT



What is a BUI?

A beneficial use impairment (BUI) refers to an impairment of a specific condition in an Area of Concern (AOC). BUIs can reference negative conditions in a chemical, physical or biological component of an area, and these conditions are typically significant enough to result in harm to specific segments of our waterways. There are 14 BUIs in total but not all are applicable to each AOC. The Maumee AOC began with 10 BUIs, but one has been removed and nine remain. All BUIs designated for an AOC must be removed before that AOC can be considered for delisting (i.e., removed from the AOC program).

		Status (2020)
BUI 1	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	
	1a: Fish: Target met in 2018	
	1b: Wildlife: Target met in 2020	
BUI 3	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	
	3a: Fish: In progress (MAP List Submitted for Approval)	
	3b: Wildlife: Target met in 2017	
BUI 4	Fish tumors or other deformities	
	4a: Tumors and deformities (DELTs): In progress	
	4b: Tumors and deformities (bullhead): In progress	
BUI 6	Degradation of benthos: In progress (MAP List Submitted for Approval)	
BUI 7	Restriction on dredging activities: In progress	
BUI 8	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	
	8a: Eutrophication (dissolved oxygen): Target met in 2014	
	8b: Eutrophication (persistent growth): In progress	
BUI 10	Beach closings	
	10a: Beach advisories: In progress (MAP List Submitted for Approval)	
	10b: Class-A type streams: Target met in 2018	
	10c: Chemical contact: Target met in 2019	
BUI 11	Degradation of aesthetics: In progress	
BUI 12	Added costs to agriculture or industry: Removed in 2015	
BUI 14	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	
	14a: Fish: In progress (MAP List Submitted for Approval)	
	14b: Wildlife: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	

Beneficial Use Impairment

AOC Delisting Process

Each AOC may be delisted after undergoing steps 1-6 below for each designated BUI:

1. Monitoring and Assessment
2. Management Action Project (MAP) List in Development/Approval
3. Project Implementation
4. Meet BUI Restoration Targets
5. Formal BUI Removal
6. Formal AOC Delisting



Photos courtesy of U.S. EPA-ORD and Partners for Clean Streams

Project Work: 2020

Progress on approved BUI 14b Wildlife Habitat Management Action Projects

Target acreage is 3,427 acres

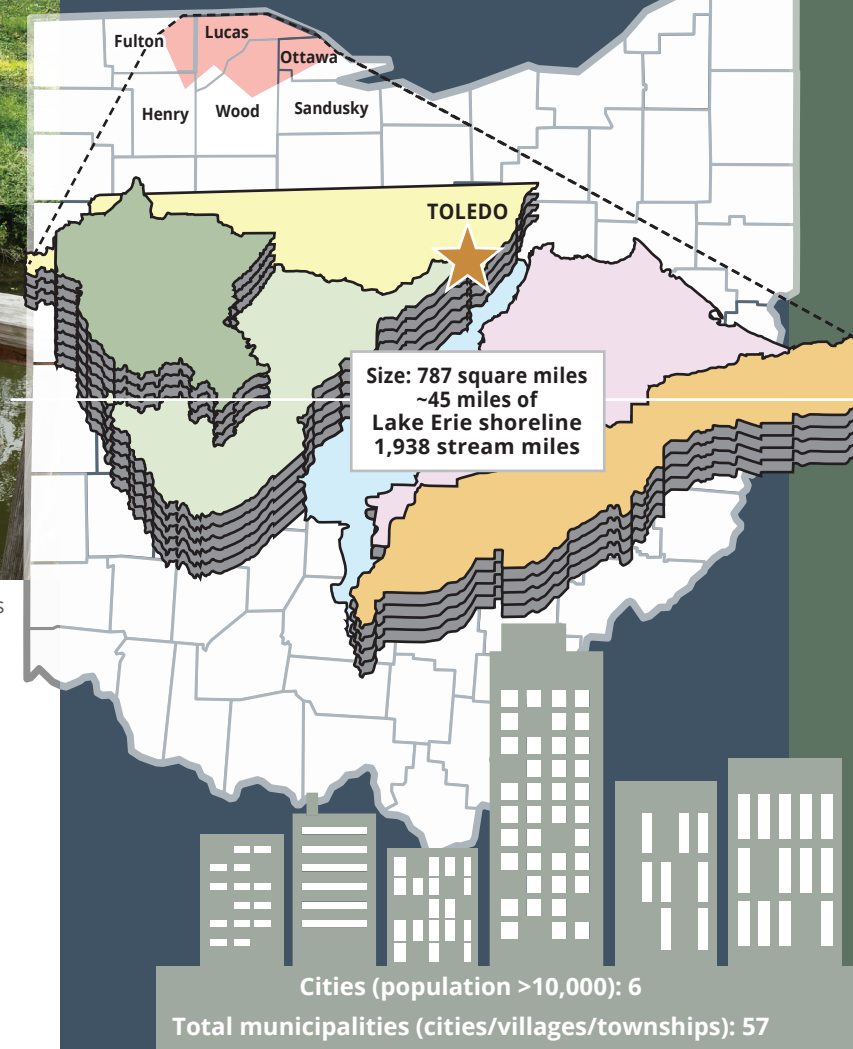
- 21 projects (some with multiple parts/phases)
- ➔ 4 projects are complete = 30 acres (1%)
- ➔ 16 Design/Build In Progress = 3,157 acres (92%)
- ➔ 1 Engineering/Design In Progress = 240 acres (7%)

Planning Work: 2020

The Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee (MAAC) completed significant project planning work in 2020 to address BUIs focused on aquatic health and recreational use, such as BUI 1b, 3a, 6, and 10a. Implementation also continued on wildlife habitat projects prioritized to support BUI 14b. The goal over the course of the year was to develop a set of comprehensive Management Action Project (MAP) Lists that contained restoration projects designed to resolve these impairments. This included the work needed from state and federal agencies to support complex BUIs, such as addressing historic sediment contamination that impacts the dredging and benthos BUIs.

Throughout the year, the MAAC Aquatic BUI Subcommittee met many times to identify, refine, and prioritize projects and strategies to address three BUIs (3a, 6, 14a). Next steps in this process, to be carried out from 2020-2024, include finalizing project funding & lead agencies, project design & implementation, and project monitoring. Restoration work should begin in 2021 on many new fish habitat and benthos projects. Contaminated sediment sampling and cleanup work is also planned for 2021 at several locations.

Maumee AOC Metrics



Number of independent watersheds: 11



Land Usage

- Agricultural: ~60%
- Developed land: ~30%
- Wetland/forest/grassland/shrub/open water: ~10%

Number of people living in AOC: ~558,000

