



Photo courtesy of Partners for Clean Streams.

Public Involvement & Outreach:

MAAC Meetings (Quarterly)

- This year, MAAC members continued to meet virtually to discuss program and project planning, as well as the status of in-progress projects.

Sandpiper Boat Trip (Summer 2021)

- MAAC members and invited partners met aboard the Sandpiper boat and got a chance to view projects, both recently completed and future project locations, that will help improve Beneficial Use Impairments in the AOC.

Conceptual Designs for Maumee River Islands Open House (Fall 2021)

- Seeking feedback on conceptual designs intended to protect and enhance habitat at several Maumee River island areas, the MAAC hosted an open house at Walbridge Park to share posters and an opportunity for discussion with interested stakeholders.

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 maumeeaoc.org.

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Maumee AOC

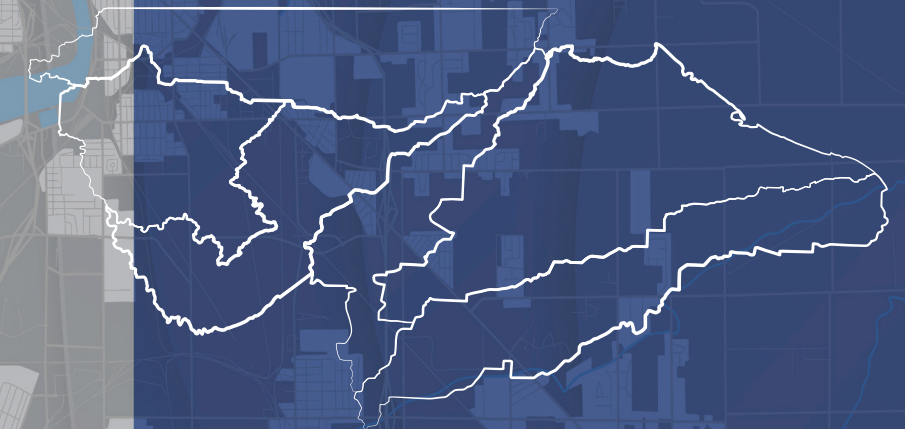
In 1987, the joint U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement formed the Area of Concern (AOC) program. This program, specific to the Great Lakes Region, defines AOCs as “geographic areas where significant impairment of beneficial uses has occurred as a result of human activities at the local level.” 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.



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MAUMEE AOC 2021 ★ 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 (2021)
BUI 1	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	
	1a: Fish: Target met in 2018 - Projected BUI removal in 2022	
	1b: Wildlife: Target met in 2020 - Projected BUI removal in 2022	
BUI 3	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	
	3a: Fish: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	
	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 being implemented)	
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 being implemented)	
	10b: Class-A type streams: Target met in 2018	
	10c: Chemical contact: Target met in 2019	
BUI 11	Degradation of aesthetics: Target met in 2021	
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 being implemented)	
	14b: Wildlife: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	

Beneficial Use Impairment



Photos courtesy of Partners for Clean Streams.

Project Work: 2021

11 Projects Completed

Wildlife Habitat Management Actions (BUI14b)

- 5 projects completed
- 282 acres completed

Aquatic Management Actions (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)

- 4 projects completed

Sediment Management Actions (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)

- 2 projects completed

Planning Work: 2021

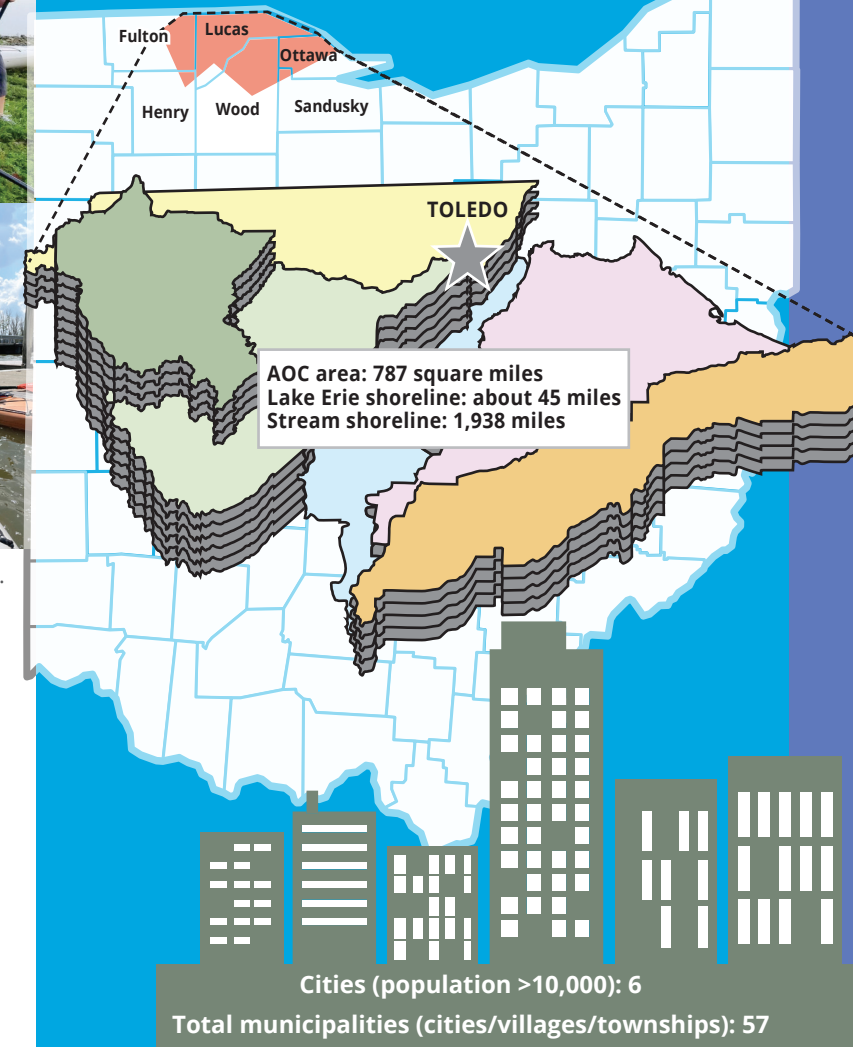
Out of 80 total Management Action Plans (MAPs), 56 (70%) have funding fully allocated, with a further 7 (9%) partially funded. All 20 Wildlife MAPs are funded, with 9 projects projected for completion in 2022-2023. Out of 51 Aquatic MAPs, 32 are funded, 2 are partially funded, and 17 still need funding. Out of 8 Sediment MAP areas, 3 next steps are fully funded and 5 are partially funded.

In 2022, the MAAC expects to propose the removal of BUI 1 "Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption" and BUI 11 "Degradation of Aesthetics." Years of effort by many partners have gone into completing and management actions associated with these BUIs.

Photo courtesy of U.S. EPA-ORD



Maumee AOC Metrics



Number of independent watersheds: 11

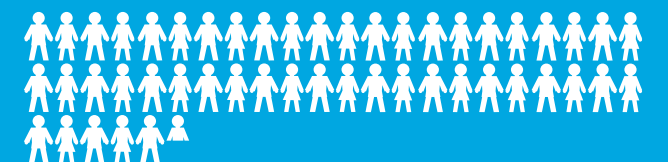
Land Usage

Agricultural: ~60%

Developed land: ~30%

Wetland/forest/grassland/
shrub/open water: ~10%

Number of people living in AOC:
~ 494,625



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