



Maumee AOC

Maumee AOC covers 787 mi, encompassing the greater-Toledo area and large tracts of land to the west and southwest of Toledo. In total, 57 communities of all sizes are spread across this area, and roughly 558,000 people call it home. The Maumee AOC includes approximately 45 miles of Lake Erie shoreline and over 1900 miles of stream in 11 independent watersheds. Land use in the AOC is diverse, representing urban and rural developments, agriculture, and pockets of native forests, prairies, and wetlands. This area is designated as an AOC due to human activities (industry, agriculture, shipping, etc.) that have impaired the human use (i.e., drinking water, fish consumption, recreation) and ecological use (i.e., habitat, aquatic population, wildlife diversity).



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Photos courtesy of the City of Toledo, Ohio EPA, Hull & Associates, LLC., Partners for Clean Streams, Ohio DNR, Metroparks Toledo, and NOAA.

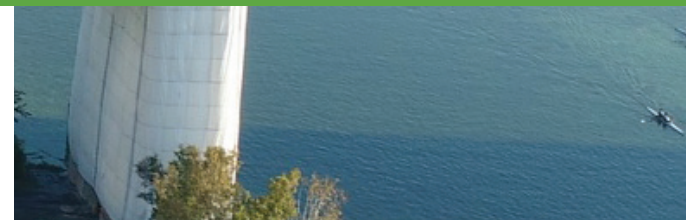


AOC Program

In 1987, the joint US-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement amendments formed the Area of Concern (AOC) program. This program, specific to the Great Lakes Region, identified 43 "Areas of Concern" surrounding the Great Lakes that exhibited such degrees of environmental degradation that they posed risks to the overall health of the Lakes, the wildlife that depend on them, and the people that use the resources.

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11 Independent Watersheds
45 Miles of Lake Erie Shoreline
787 Square Miles



Delisting the Maumee AOC

Delisting or removing the Maumee from the AOC program list requires the restoration of a suite of impaired environmental uses. These impairments are called beneficial use impairments (BUIs), which are defined as reductions of the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of the waters of an Area of Concern sufficient to cause one of fourteen impairments identified in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. A BUI may be removed from a discrete area (AOC-wide or individual watershed) when the applicable target value for that area (e.g., habitat score, chemical concentration, etc.), set by the State of Ohio, is met.

The Maumee AOC began with the 10 BUIs listed below. As work to remove the remaining BUIs is a dynamic process, the status of a BUI can change from one year to another. Please see the Data Management and Delisting System (DMDS; <https://dmds.maumeerap.org>) for the most up-to-date information regarding a particular BUI.

- BUI 1:** Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
- BUI 3:** Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- BUI 4:** Fish tumors or other deformities
- BUI 6:** Degradation of benthos
- BUI 7:** Restriction on dredging activities
- BUI 8:** Eutrophication or undesirable algae
- BUI 10:** Beach closings
- BUI 11:** Degradation of aesthetics
- BUI 12:** Added costs to agriculture or industry:
- BUI 14:** Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

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
- 3. MAP Implementation
- 4. Meet BUI Restoration Targets
- 5. Formal BUI Removal
- 6. Formal AOC Delisting

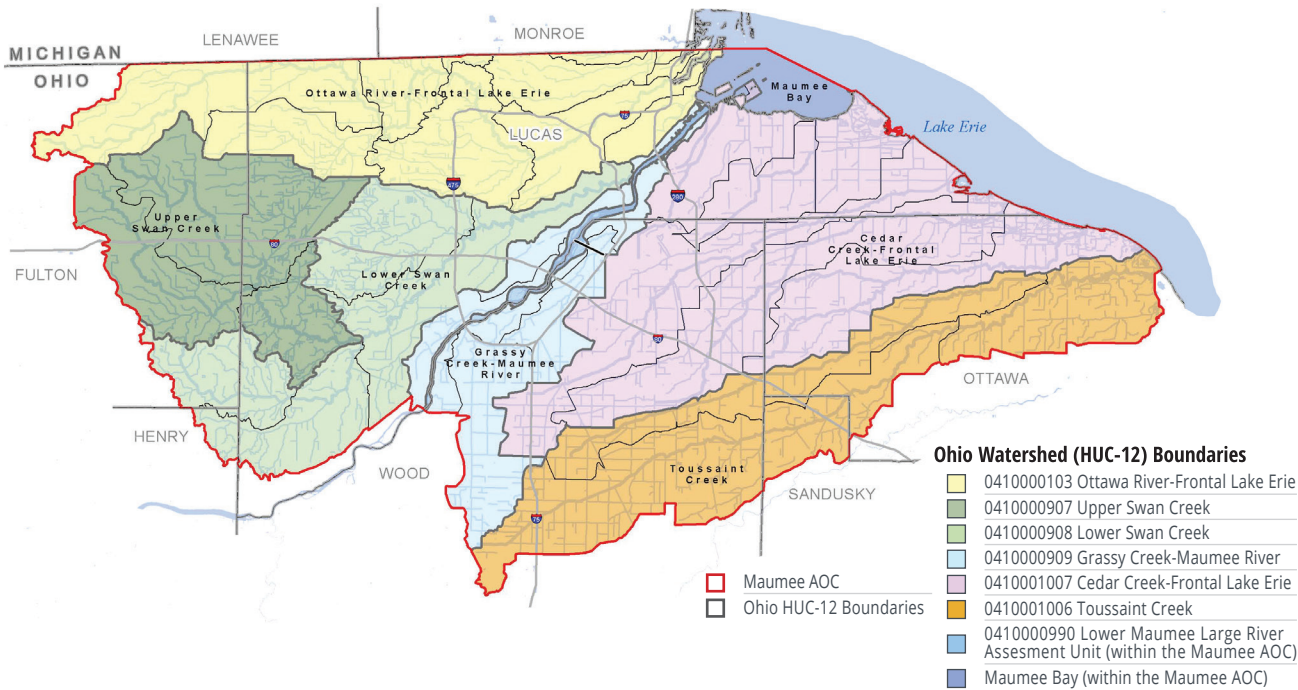


What Are Partners Doing?

Projects to help the AOC recover can use a variety of strategies and approaches. These can include addressing sediment contamination, creating healthier habitat for fish and wildlife, and restoring degraded habitat. Larger projects are usually facilitated through successful community and organizational partnerships.

Some of the general strategies that have been employed to address/remove various BUIs are listed to the right.

- Restoration and enhancement of native forest and prairie habitat
- Restoration and enhancement of instream habitat
- Enhancement of stream and river riparian buffers
- Enhancement of wetland and stream connectivity
- Removal of contaminated sediment
- Reduction of bacterial contamination
- Reduction of sediment and nutrient runoff



Invitation to Join

There are many ways to learn more or to get involved in the Maumee AOC. Visit MaumeeAOC.org or follow @MaumeeAOC on Twitter and Facebook. For answers to your questions, please email the facilitating organization at admin@partnersforcleanstreams.org.

Partnerships

The Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee (MAAC) represents the voice of the Maumee AOC community, acting as an advisory group to entities such as Ohio EPA, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, and U.S. EPA. Members of the MAAC represent three main sectors; academic institutions/non-profit organizations/general public, business/industry, and local government. This group collaborates throughout the year, setting goals and objectives regarding BUI removal and to determine effective strategies necessary to meet them.

Total municipalities (cities/villages/townships): 57

Community Outreach & Engagement

An important goal of the MAAC is to engage with the community and raise awareness for the AOC. As such, MAAC members and its facilitating organization (Partners for Clean Streams) work to share the history of the AOC program, promote restoration projects and successes, and educate community members on the value of healthy waterways

