



Photo courtesy of Ohio EPA.

## Public Involvement & Outreach

### MAAC Meetings (Quarterly)

- MAAC members met quarterly to discuss the program, project planning, and updates on in-progress projects.

### Outreach

- Developed and launched a newly redesigned website.
- Developed three new educational rack cards and associated web pages highlighting aquatic and habitat restoration projects in the AOC.

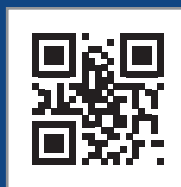
### Management Action Project Events

- Several Management Action Projects held public open house events this year, including the City of Toledo's Clark-Delaware/Horseshoe Islands, Collins Park Stream Restoration, and Bandore Park stream projects.
- Partners for Clean Streams had the first Non-Point Source Implementation Plan (NPS-IS) with chlorides mitigation strategies and projects approved by Ohio EPA.

## 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](http://maumeeaac.org).

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## Maumee AOC

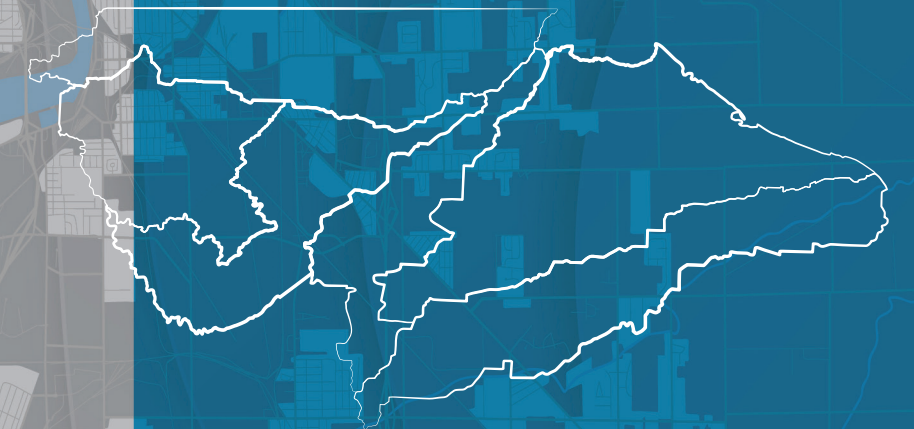
In 1987, the joint U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement formed the Area of Concern (AOC) program. This program, specific to the Great Lakes Region, defines AOCs as "geographic areas where significant impairment of beneficial uses has occurred as a result of human activities at the local level."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



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# MAUMEE AOC ★ 2023 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 three have been removed and seven 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 (2023)
BUI 1	<b>Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption</b>	
	1a: Fish: <b>Removed in 2022</b>	
	1b: Wildlife: <b>Removed in 2022</b>	
BUI 3	<b>Degradation of fish and wildlife populations</b>	
	3a: Fish: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	
	3b: Wildlife: <b>Target met in 2017</b>	
BUI 4	<b>Fish tumors or other deformities</b>	
	4a: Tumors and deformities (DELTS): In progress	
	4b: Tumors and deformities (bullhead): In progress	
BUI 6	<b>Degradation of benthos:</b> In progress (MAP List being implemented)	
BUI 7	<b>Restriction on dredging activities:</b> <b>Target met in 2023</b>	
BUI 8	<b>Eutrophication or undesirable algae</b>	
	8a: Eutrophication (dissolved oxygen): <b>Target met in 2014</b>	
	8b: Eutrophication (persistent growth): In progress a(MAP List being implemented)	
BUI 10	<b>Beach closings</b>	
	10a: Beach advisories: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	
	10b: Class-A type streams: <b>Target met in 2018</b>	
	10c: Chemical contact: <b>Target met in 2019</b>	
BUI 11	<b>Degradation of aesthetics:</b> <b>Removed in 2023</b>	
BUI 12	<b>Added costs to agriculture or industry:</b> <b>Removed in 2015</b>	
BUI 14	<b>Loss of fish and wildlife habitat</b>	
	14a: Fish: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	
	14b: Wildlife: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	

Beneficial Use Impairment



Photos courtesy of Ohio EPA, City of Oregon and Partners for Clean Streams.

## Project Work: 2023

### 4 Projects Completed

#### Wildlife Habitat Management Actions (BUI14b)

- 4 projects completed
- 19 projects completed in total
- 1160 acres completed
- 3325 acres completed in total

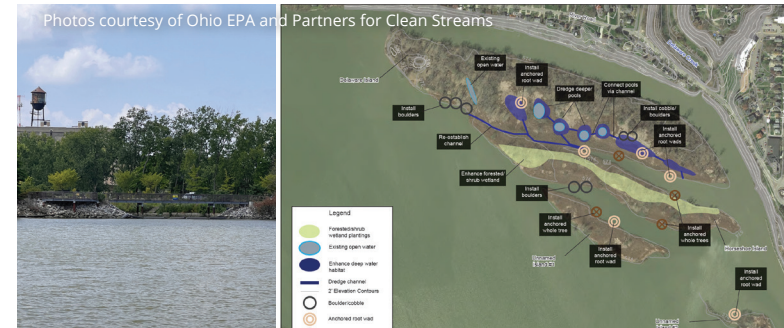
#### Aquatic Management Actions (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)

- 1 Acquisition completed
- 1 Feasibility Study completed
- 1 Engineering and Design completed
- 2 projects under construction
- Full funding secured for multiple island restoration projects

## Implementation Work: 2023

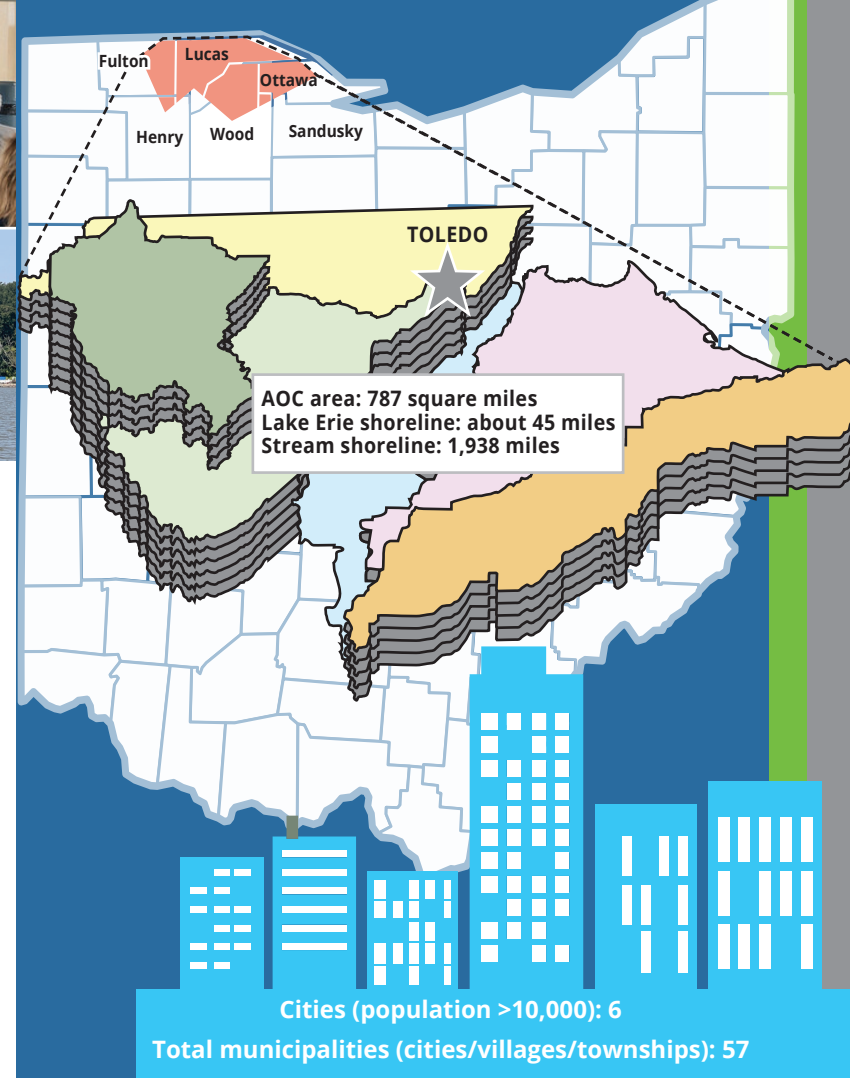
All 20 Wildlife MAPs are funded with four projects completed this year. Only one remains and is expected to be complete in 2025. 33 projects are fully funded, two are partially funded, and one project is yet to be funded. Five Aquatic MAPs have been completed. Sediment Management Projects are complex but are making progress, with over \$70 million committed to contaminated sediment clean-up. The Army Corps of Engineers held a public information session this year to share the cleanup plan for the two lower Maumee River Great Lakes Legacy sediment projects.

In 2023, the MAAC celebrated the removal of BUI 11: Degradation of Aesthetics. Next year in 2024, the MAAC anticipates the removal of BUI 7: Restrictions on Dredging Activities. Years of effort by many partners have gone into improving the conditions associated with these BUIs.



Photos courtesy of Ohio EPA and Partners for Clean Streams

## Maumee AOC Metrics

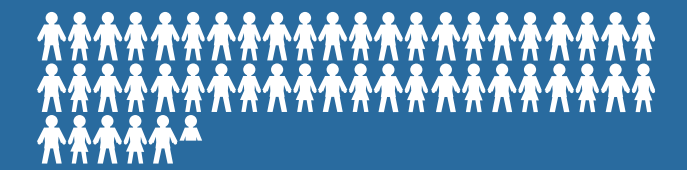


## Number of independent watersheds: 11

## 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