



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

December 5, 2024, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Ohio EPA Northwest District Office located at 347 N Dunbridge Rd, Bowling Green, OH 43402

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Audio Call in [+1 614-721-2972](#) Phone Conference ID: 197 012 186#

AGENDA

- **Welcome & Meeting/Call Logistics** (Mike Pniewski, Chair)
- **VOTE: Minutes** (Chair) (5 mins)
- **US AOC Conference** (Jesse Stock, PCS) (15 mins)
 - AOC Conference Sept 16-18, 2025 update
 - Requesting Breakout Session ideas & possible speakers (Kris)
 - Requesting Poster Session reviewers (Kris)
 - Requesting Maumee AOC Outreach Team assistance (Jesse)
 - Requesting Field Trip Team assistance (Cherie)
 - Requesting DMDS Updates completed by March 1 (registration opens) and August 15 (conference)
 - Sponsorship opportunities
 - Thanks to City of Toledo
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, US EPA - GLNPO) (5 mins)
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report/Year in Review** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (30 mins)
 - BUI Status Updates
 - MAP Updates
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Jesse Stock, PCS) (10 mins)
 - Financial update
 - Future 2025 activities
 - EJ/DEI goals and activities for MAAC
 - 2024 Annual Report
 - Summer Urban Tour
- **MAAC membership** (Jesse Stock, PCS) (5 mins)
 - Current membership by category
 - Renewing members
 - New Members



- **VOTE: Applications for MAAC Membership (Chair)** (5 mins)
- **Partner Updates** (10 mins)
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)
- **Next meetings for 2025 – February 13, May 1, August 14, and December 11**



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee
December 5, 2024, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

(In-person at Ohio EPA NW District Office, Virtual via Teams)

Minutes

Attendance: Cherie Blair, Jesse Stock, Kris Patterson, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Mary Winkle, DJ Mears, Tiara Davis, Bill Burkett, Scott Butterworth, Mike Pniewski, Kristopher Barnswell, Joshua Miller, Amanda Kovach, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Zuri Carter, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Ryan Allison, Regina Collins, Paul Hotz, Lead Medley, Cassie Lovall, Deanna Bobak, Corey VanStratt, Don Nelson, LaShawna Weeks, Shawn Duke, Nicholas LaPointe, Ashlee Decker, Joe Cappel.

1. Call to Order

Mike Pniewski, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the end-of-year meeting.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mike called for a vote on the August minutes. He made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, Bill seconded, and the motion passed.

3. MAAC Membership

Jesse Stock - PCS reviewed the membership applications for Paul Hotz, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Sally Gladwell, Beth Landers, Mike Pniewski, and DJ Mears. The committee voted for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. The result was that Mike and Jenny would serve again, with no other nominations. DJ moved to confirm, Zuri seconded, and there was no further discussion.

4. Next Meetings for 2025

Jesse Stock - PCS shared the results of the survey sent to MAAC members to assess the best dates and times for meetings in 2025. The dates favored were February 13, May 1, August 14, and December 11, with all meetings scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM. Jenny moved to approve these dates, DJ seconded, and the motion carried.

5. USA EPA Task Force Leader Report

Leah Medley - US EPA GLNPO provided an update. The Action Plan IV for the next five years was approved. Additionally, Leah updated the committee on the NOAA Collins Park project funding for 2025. The funding approval process is underway and will take some time to move forward and be approved.

6. US AOC Conference

Jesse Stock - PCS updated the committee on the progress of the 2025 Great Lakes AOC Conference,

scheduled for September. He reported that the local planning team has been formed and is meeting regularly. A timeline has been established to ensure goals are met on schedule, including the website launch and Whoava registration. The website is tentatively set to launch in early 2025, with registration opening in March. Jesse encouraged the committee to watch for announcements and engage on social media to raise awareness of the conference. He also noted a need for help with field trips (planning stops, preparing materials, and determining themes) and encouraged volunteers to contact him or Cherie. A planning team for the field trips is scheduled to meet monthly starting in January 2025, leading up to the conference.

Kris Patterson - OLEC asked the committee for recommendations on speakers for the conference. Any leads should be directed to her. She also requested assistance with posters and topic ideas. Cherie Blair also called for suggestions for speakers and topics for the conference breakout sessions. Mike suggested inviting tribes from the Great Lakes region, such as the Wyandot and Miamis. Beth Sparks-Jackson and Cherie added that if anyone needs their projects updated on the DMDS, they should reach out to PCS. Beth mentioned that not many AOCs have a DMDS, and it's a good way to stand out. To close the discussion, Jesse reminded the committee that if anyone, their organization, or any other organization would like to support the conference, they should contact him for sponsorship information. The City of Toledo has already contributed in-kind support by donating custom-made water bottles for the conference.

7. Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report

Cherie Blair - Ohio EPA shared a year-in-review PowerPoint presentation, highlighting completed AOC projects, updated ongoing projects, and sharing upcoming initiatives for 2025. (The full presentation is on the Resources page of the Maumee AOC website.) She also provided an update on the status of Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) and noted that BUI 4 Fish Tumors or Other Deformities is expected to be removed in 2025.

8. Facilitating Organization's Report

Jesse Stock - PCS provided a year-end update and financial review for the facilitating organization. He reported that \$12,808K of the Erie22 grant was spent in 2024, with the majority to expenses going to facilitating the MAAC. Jesse mentioned that the Outreach, Awareness, and Education Team reconvened in November after meeting once in January and remains open for new members. He also highlighted plans for a summer urban tour for MAAC, planned for July, which will include visits to projects and a social hour.

9. Partner Updates

Zuri Carter – Metroparks Toledo provided an update on the Oak Openings groundbreaking project. She noted that the Blue Creek portion is currently delayed, awaiting floodplain permits from the City of Maumee.

Tiara Davis – TMACOG shared that the Lake Erie Starts Here campaign in 2024 was successful and will continue in 2025. She also provided an update on the 2024 Student Watershed Watch Summit, which took place in November and involved 16 organizations and over 1,000 students.

Corey VanStratt – Ducks Unlimited updated the committee on project developments, including the completion of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and the ongoing Camp Sabroske project. The camp project is currently at 35% design completion, with tree clearing scheduled for December, pending landowner approval and permits.

Kris Patterson – Ohio Lake Erie Commission announced that the Lake Erie Environmental Justice Grant will open in late January 2025. This grant will fund "mini GLRI" projects that benefit water quality and the surrounding community.

10. Public Comments

None

11. Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM

Maumee Area of Concern

2024 End of Year Update

Presented by
Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA, Maumee AOC Coordinator
to the MAAC

December 5, 2024

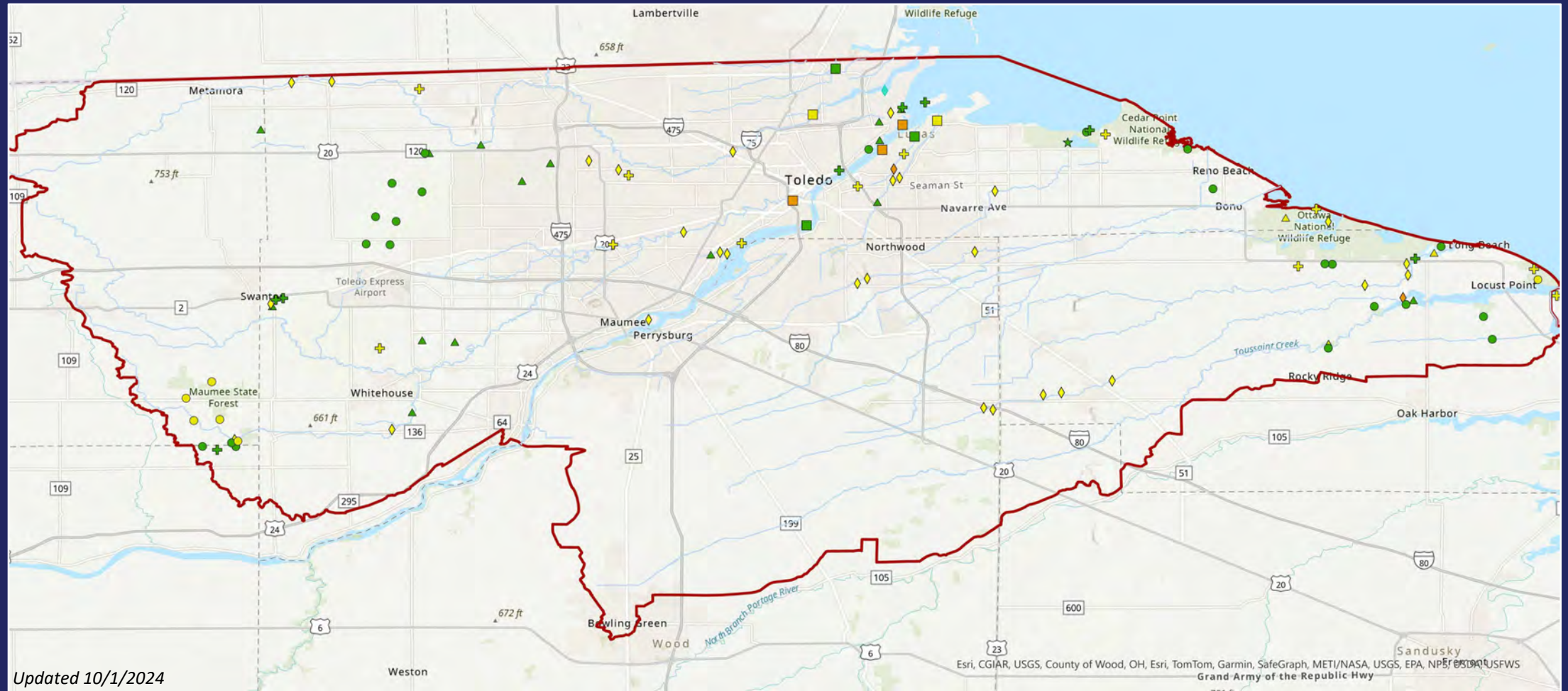
Maumee AOC - BUI Status

BUI #	BUI Name	Target Achieved	Current Status	MA Completed	Projected BUI Removal
1a	Restrictions on Fish &	✓	Target Achieved. BUI Removed.	Complete	REMOVED 2022 8/22
1b	Wildlife Consumption	✓	Target Achieved. BUI Removed.	Complete	
3a	Degradation of Fish &		Management Action Project list approved; projects are being funded and implemented	2027	2028
3b	Wildlife Populations	✓	Sentinel species target is met (2017)	Complete	
4	Fish Tumors & Other Deformities	✓	<p>Bullhead tumors were impaired in 2 assessment units; they are no longer impaired.</p> <p>→ Toussaint/Packer (2013=17.5% 2021 = 5.9% 2023 = 0%)</p> <p>→ Otter (2013 = 17.1%) (2024 = population no longer in Otter post-GLLA)</p> <p>DELTs were impaired in 2 of 31 assessment units (Sibley [lower Ottawa R] & Turtle HUCs); those HUCs were sampled by FWS in Sept 2023; data looks good but needs to be recalculate with other data for respective aquatic life use(s);</p> <p>→ Expectation is this BUI will be removed in 2025.</p>	Complete	IN PROCESS 2025
6	Degradation of Benthos		<p>Management Action Project list approved; projects are being funded and implemented</p> <p><i>NOTE: Ohio revisiting this target for the lacustuaries. Working with FWS & USGS to get funding for a study of these areas for evaluate a possible target tweaking</i></p>	2027	2028

Maumee AOC - BUI Status

BUI #	BUI Name	Target Achieved	Current Status	MA Completed	Projected BUI Removal
7	Restrictions on Dredging Activities	✓	Target Achieved. BUI Removed.	Complete	REMOVED 2024 8/24
8a	Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae	✓	D.O condition of target is met (2014)	Complete	2027
8b			Watersheds sampled summer 2020; Persistent growth condition could be considered Not Impaired; Ohio EPA collected water chemistry data in Maumee R./Bay in summer 2021	Complete	
10a	Beach Closings (Recreational Use)		Management Action Project list approved; project funded (2021); project completed (June 2024); removal pending project success (observation 2025-26)	2024	2026
10b		✓	Paddling Stream (Maumee R. in AOC) not on 303(d) list, target is met (2014)	Complete	
10c		✓	Ottawa River “No Contact Advisory” for PCBs was rescinded (2018); Hecklinger Pond (Duck Crk.) sign removed (2019)	Complete	
11	Degradation of Aesthetics	✓	Target Achieved. BUI Removed.	2021	REMOVED 2023 7/23
14a	Loss of Fish &		Management Action Project list approved; project are being funded and implemented	2027	2028
14b	Wildlife Habitat		Local target of 3427 acres set (late 2016); Management Action Project list approved (2018); all projects fully funded (2020) and being implemented; last project to be complete in June 2025.	2025	

Maumee AOC - MAP Distribution



Updated 10/1/2024

- Over 80 MAPs plus 20 GLLA cost-share projects
- >\$96M in projects funded since 2018
- \$45M in MAPs are currently in progress

All Management Action Projects

WildMAP

- Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding

AquaMAP

- ◆ Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- ◆ Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- ◆ Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding
- ▲ Project Completed - Other Funding
- ▲ Project Funded - Other Funding
- ▲ Funding Needed - Other Funding

SedMAP

- Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding
- Project Completed - Other Funding
- Project Funded - Other Funding
- Funding Needed - Other Funding

MiscMAP

- ★ Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- ★ Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- ★ Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding
- Maumee AOC

Maumee AOC - Fall 2024 MAP Update

WildMAPs (BUI 14b)

- Target to acquire, enhance and/or improve = 3,427 acres
- All 20 projects are funded
- 19 completed
- Totals 3,372 acres as of December 2023
- Only one project left (152 acres) to be completed in 2025



Cedar Point NWR Pool 2 (Gradel Marsh)
(WildMAP 14-16)

Maumee AOC - Fall 2024 MAP Update

AquaMAPs (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)

- Received \$32.1 M since 2021 for 34 aquatic habitat projects
- Most are completely funded
- One needs GLNPO funding for implementation
- Several need implementation funding under NOAA Partnerships
- Many working on RFPs, QAPPs, field data collection, design, permits
- 9 substantially complete this year
- 7 in implementation
- 3 more to start in next few months



*Hill Ditch Restoration at Toledo Natural Science Technology Center
(AquaMAP HDOR-9.0)*



Stream Restoration at Oregon Recreational Complex (AquaMAP BD-2.0)

**AquaMAP
HDOR-9.0:
Hill Ditch
Restoration at
Toledo
Natural
Science
Technology
Center**

*GLRI-AOC [\$250k] and
H2Ohio [\$100k]*



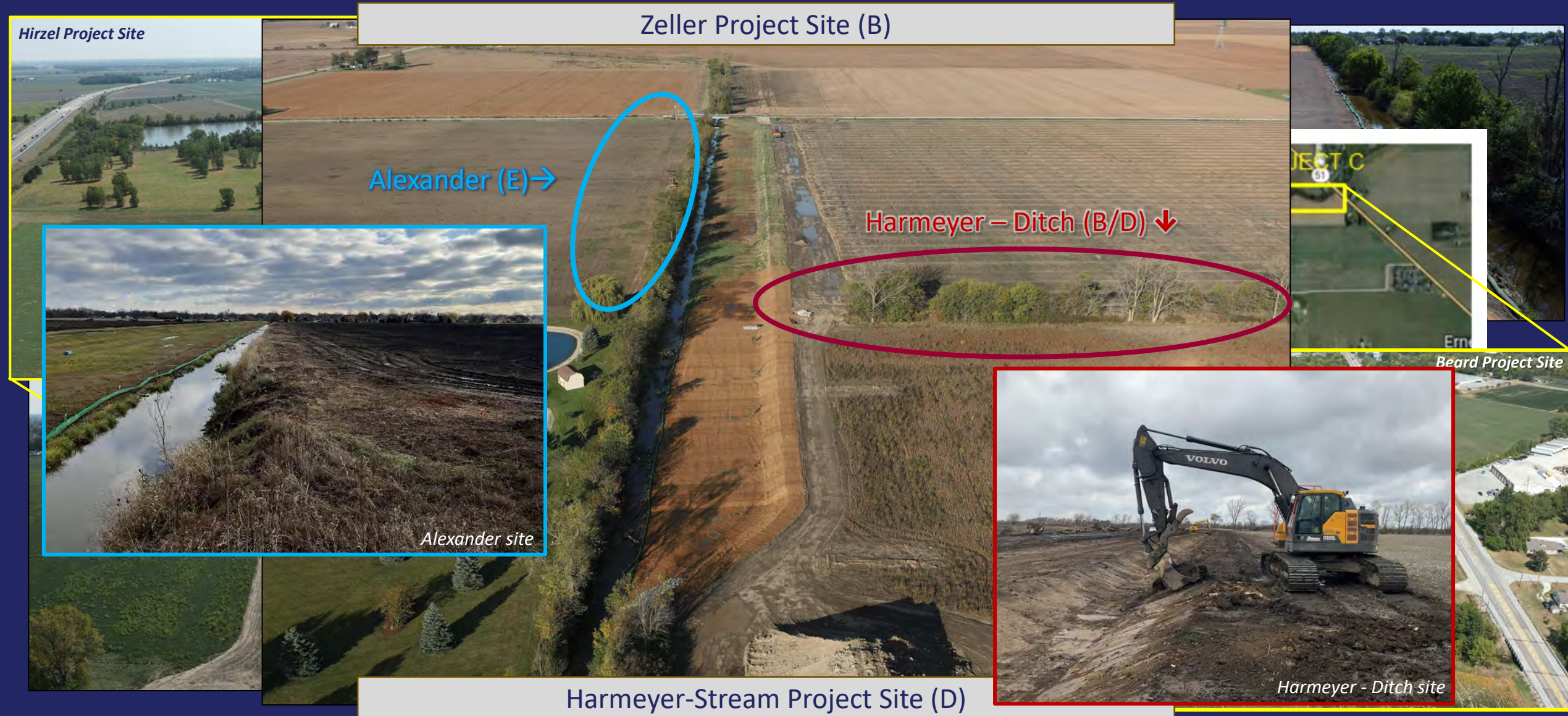
August 2024



**AquaMAP
BD-2.0:
Stream
Restoration
at Oregon
Recreational
Complex**

*GLRI-AOC [\$1.3M] and
H2Ohio [\$104k]*

AquaMAP PC-2.0: Packer Creek Stream Restoration Zeller and Harmeyer sites *GLRI-AOC [\$3.3M]*



AquaMAP HTC-12.2: Stream Restoration at Lathrop Park GLRI-AOC [\$450,000]



AquaMAP UBC-13.0: Maumee State Forest Blue Creek Stream Restoration *GLRI-AOC* [\$668,000]

Zizania aquatica (southern wild rice) THREATENED in Ohio



AquaMAP HTC-2.0: Headwaters Tenmile Creek *GLRI-AOC [\$505,000]*

← Pre-project

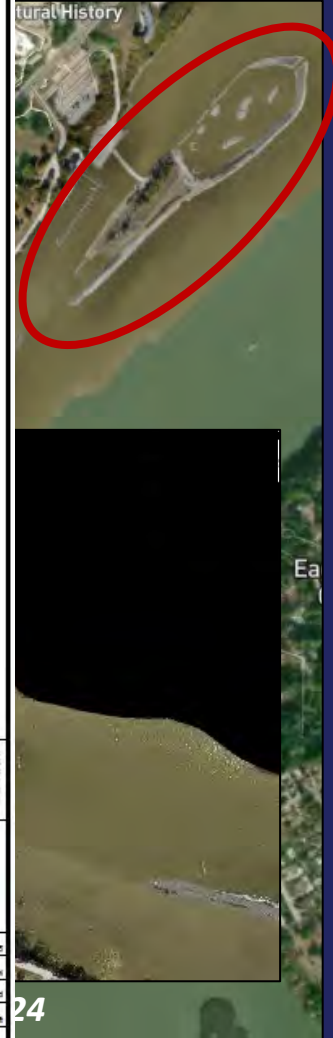
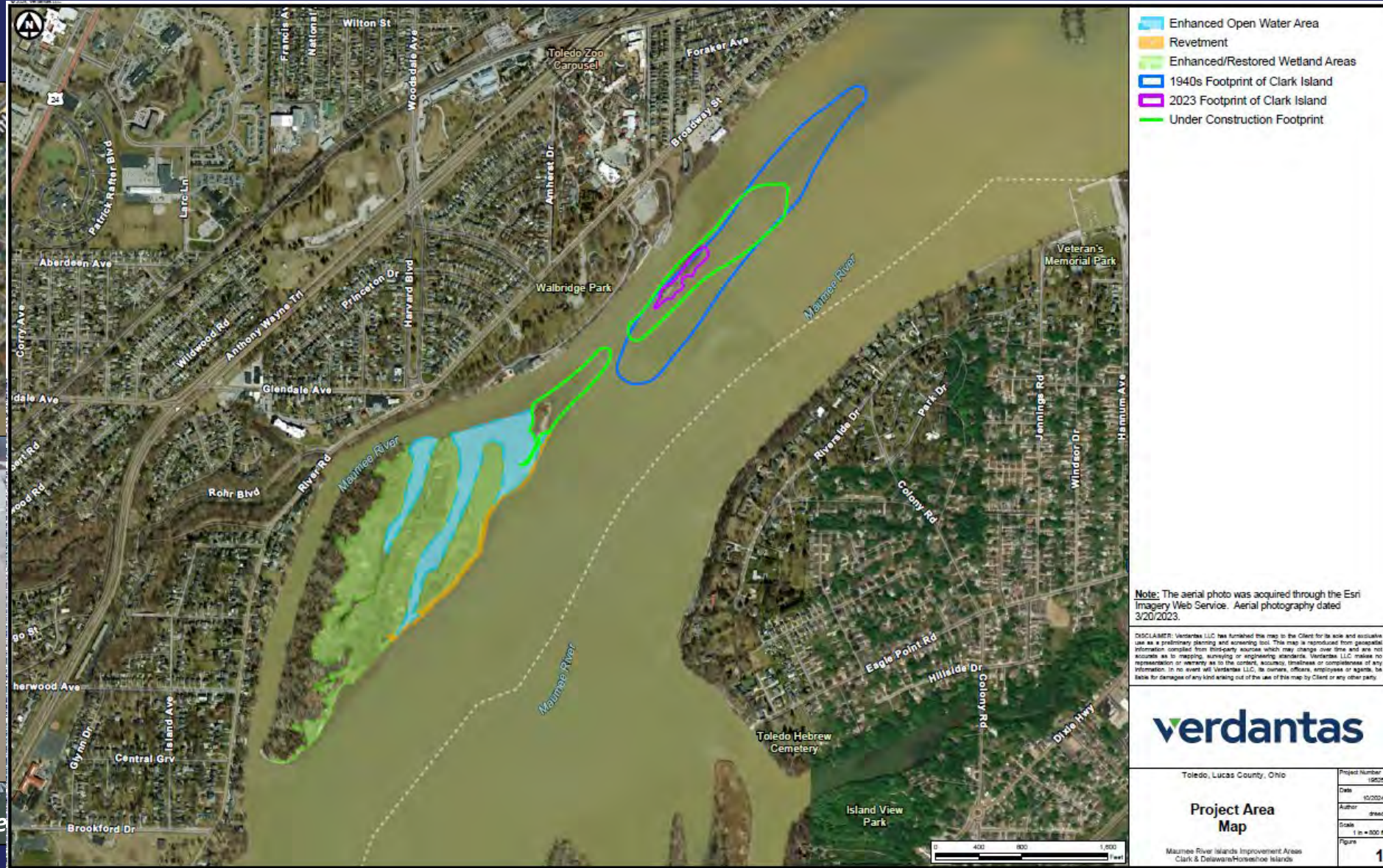
Post-project →



AquaMAP CeC-1.0: Nature Trails Park Riparian Restoration and Wetland Creation *GLRI-AOC [\$357,000]*



AquaMAP MR-14.2: Delaware Islands Complex Restoration *GLRI-AOC* [\$5.3M] and Clark Island Restoration and Nutrient Reduction Project *H2Ohio* [\$8.7M]



AquaMAPs Under Construction this Fall/Winter



*MAP HDOR-13.0: Hill Ditch
Restoration at Paisley Park
(Bandore Park)*

STARTS in JANUARY



*MAP PC-2.0: Packer Creek Stream Restoration
(Hirzel site)*



*MAP OC-3.2:
Berlin Avenue Floodplain
and Stream
Improvements*

*MAP OC-3.3 Taylor Rd. and
Yarrow St. Floodplain and
Stream Improvements*



*MAP SiC-3.0: Restoration of the Ottawa River
within Jermain Park - STARTS in EARLY DECEMBER*

Maumee AOC - Fall 2024 MAP Update

Misc. MAPs (BUI 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11)

- Only 1 MAPs for the listed BUIs
- BUI 10: Beach Closings
 - Waterfowl Deterrent at Maumee Bay State Park
 - GOAL: Reduce *E. coli* from waterfowl at inland lake beach
 - Shoreline stabilization (850'), spillway repaired
 - Planted 21 acres of buffer around lake (May 2023)
 - Planted 10-15 trees and reseed bare areas (Spring 2024)
 - Treated invasives during establishment
 - Installed 12 sitting rocks at inland lake access points
 - Completed (June 2024)



Maumee AOC - Fall 2024 MAP Update

SedMAP Updates (BUI 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 14)

- Swan Creek
 - VE study completed for Feasibility Study (March)
 - Final FS delayed due to more field data collection (expected Summer 2025)
- Lower Maumee River (Sway Bridge, WWTP)
 - Remedial Design in progress (expected complete in Fall 2025)
 - Field data collection (conducted Oct/Nov)
 - Section 106 Phase 2 investigations (divers were in river in November)
- Ottawa River
 - 4Y Sediment Sampling (delayed due to low water levels, conducted in Nov)
- Otter Creek
 - Remedy Evaluation by ORD

Maumee AOC - MAPs in Summary

	Total # Projects*	Estimated Total Cost*	Needs Funding	Funding Allocated	Expected Complete 12/31/24
WildMAPs	20	\$27,733,891	--	--	19
<i>GLRI-AOC Funding</i>	--	\$19,332,759	0	<i>All of 14 Part of 6</i>	--
<i>Non-AOC Funding</i>	--	\$8,401,132	0	<i>Part of 6</i>	--
AquaMAPs	54-56	\$49,908,455	--	--	23
<i>GLRI-AOC Funding</i>		\$36,196,675	<i>Part of 3-4</i>	<i>Part of 11 All of 26</i>	--
<i>Non-AOC Funded</i>		\$13,711,780	0	<i>Part of 31</i>	--
SedMAPs – GLLA/GLRI	8	\$126,273,869	--	--	3
<i>GLLA/GLRI-AOC Funding</i>	--	\$85,136,078	<i>Part of 5</i>	<i>Part of 5 All of 3</i>	--
<i>Non-Federal Funding</i>	--	\$41,137,791	<i>Part of 5</i>	<i>Part of 5 All of 3</i>	--
MiscMAPs	1	\$167,200	0	1	1
TOTALS =	83+	\$204,083,415	6+	78+	46

GLLA/GLRI-AOC Funding = \$140,832,712  **\$63,250,703 = Non-AOC Funding**

*Projects and cost estimates include all MAPs regardless of funding source

2025 MAAC Focus

- Continue supporting habitat and aquatic MAPs
- Work with Ohio AOC Program on BUI removals (BUI 4 in 2025)
- Work with Ohio EPA to determine future BUIs removals
- Continue EJ/DEI efforts to enhance the MAAC & its efforts
- Assist PCS with outreach, awareness and information sharing
 - Showcasing projects & AOC Program momentum underway
 - Celebrating milestones & project completions
 - Organizing tours & public outreach (site visits, open houses, etc.)
 - Continuing to engage partners working on related AOC projects
- Support the Great Lakes AOC Conference (Sept 16-18)
 - Need support for Field Trip Team and other TBD conference activities