



Photo courtesy of Ohio EPA

Public Involvement & Outreach

MAAC Meetings (Quarterly)

- MAAC members met quarterly to discuss program and project planning, as well as the status of in-progress projects.

Outreach

- Attended 3 AOC specific outreach events, in addition to 19 PCS outreach events with MAAC and AOC materials present.
- Established the Awareness, Outreach, and Education subcommittee.

Management Action Project Events

- Several Management Action Projects held public open house and ground breaking events this year, including the City of Toledo's Clark-Delaware/Horseshoe Islands and Detwiler Golf Course projects, as well as the City of Oregon's Floodplain and Stream Improvement project.
- Partners for Clean Streams collaborated with the University of Toledo and TMACOG to publish 25 updated Non-Point Source Implementation Strategic (NPS-IS) Plans that were approved by the Ohio EPA. These plans included new sections regarding nutrients and chlorides, as well as new mitigation strategies and projects to address these and the usual nonpoint source pollution issues. Notably, these are the first Version 2.0 plans in the State, as well as the first to include chloride-specific goals and objectives.

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.

maumeeaac.org

419-874-0727

admin@partnersforcleanstreams.org



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Maumee AOC

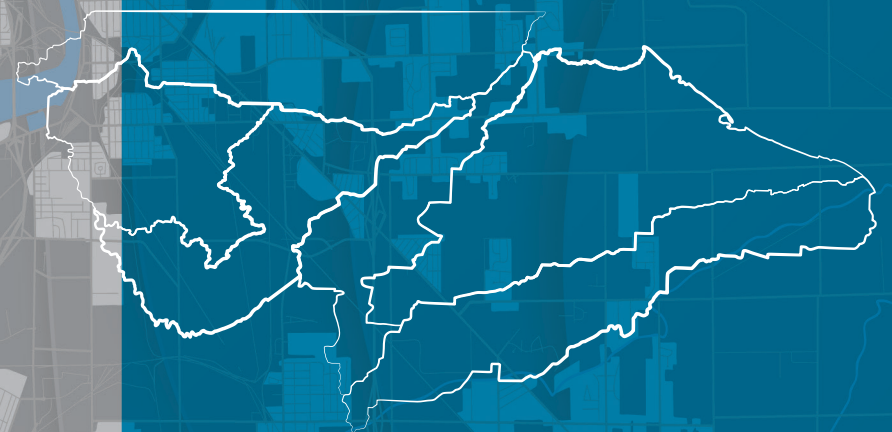
In 1987, the joint U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement formed the Area of Concern (AOC) program. This program, specific to the Great Lakes Region, defines AOCs as "geographic areas where significant impairment of beneficial uses has occurred as a result of human activities at the local level." 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 2024 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 four have been removed and six 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 (2024)
BUI 1	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	
	1a: Fish: Removed in 2022	✓
	1b: Wildlife: Removed 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): Target met in 2024	📊
BUI 6	Degradation of benthos: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	🔧
BUI 7	Restriction on dredging activities: Removed in 2024	✓
BUI 8	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	
	8a: Eutrophication (dissolved oxygen): Target met in 2014	📊
	8b: Eutrophication (persistent growth): In progress a (MAP List being implemented)	🔍
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: Removed in 2023	✓
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)	🔧

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



Project Work: 2024

1 Project Completed

- Wildlife Habitat Management Actions (BUI 14b)
 - ➔ 0 projects completed
 - ➔ 19 projects completed in total
 - ➔ 0 acres completed in 2024
 - ➔ 3372 acres completed in total
- Aquatic Management Actions (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)
 - ➔ 15 projects/phases of projects started construction
 - ➔ 12 projects/phases of projects finished construction/substantially complete
 - ➔ 1 project completed in 2024

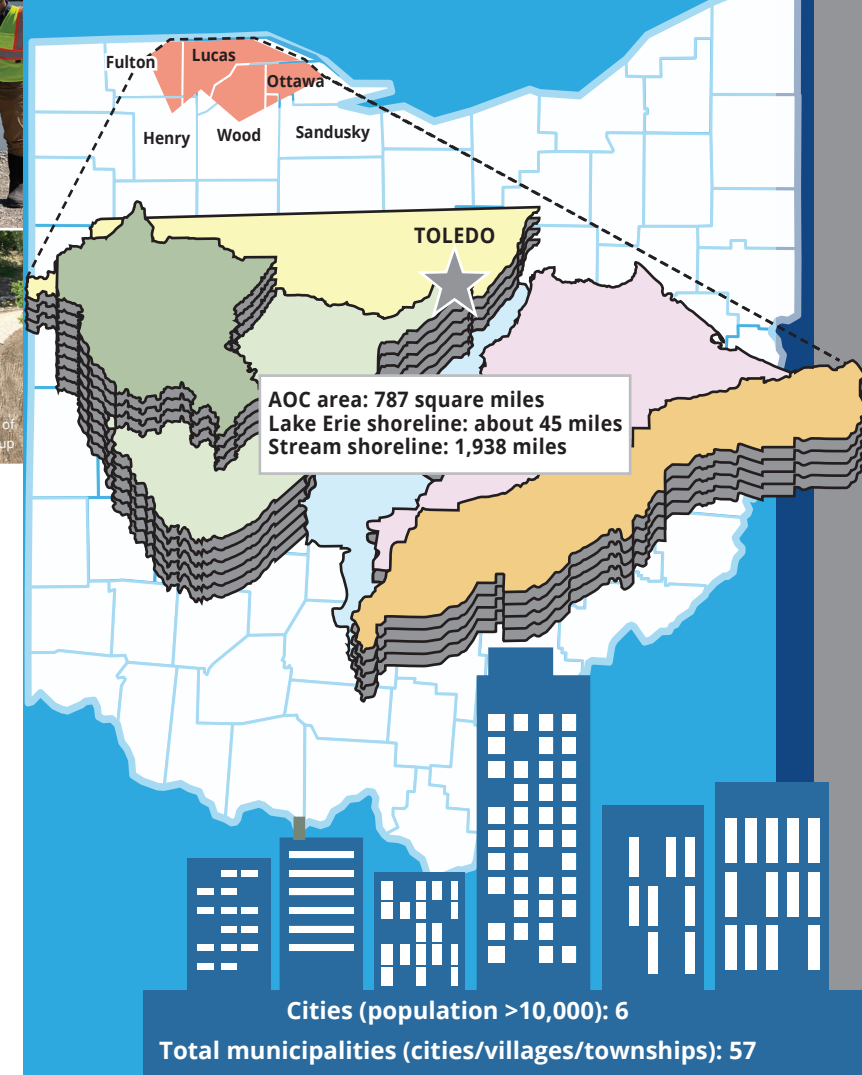
Implementation Work: 2024

All 20 Wildlife MAPs are funded with the last one expected to be complete in 2025. Of the 38 Aquatic projects/phases of projects most are fully funded with three phases that will need implementation funding once the engineering phase is finalized. One Aquatic MAP was completed in 2024. Sediment Management Action Projects are complex but are making progress toward cleaning up contaminated sediments in the Lower Maumee River, Ottawa River, and Swan Creek.

In 2024, the MAAC celebrated the **removal** of BUI 7: Restrictions on Dredging Activities. Years of effort by many partners have gone into improving the conditions associated with the BUIs. The conditions of the Maumee AOC continue to improve and more BUIs are expected to achieve their targets in the coming years.



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: ~424,249

