



Photo courtesy of ACAPS

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.
- Onboarded two new members on the Awareness, Outreach, and Education subcommittee and held three meetings.

Outreach

- Attended three AOC specific outreach events, in addition to 21 PCS outreach events with MAAC and AOC materials present.
- Created rack cards for six projects and updated six with new information for completed projects.

AOC-Related Activities and Events

- The **2025 AOC Cross-Agency Partnership (ACAP) Summit** highlighted the collaborative strength behind the U.S. Areas of Concern program. This event convened **284 participants from 134 organizations**. Federal agency partners joined state agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, private-sector professionals, researchers, and community members. Seventeen members of the MAAC attended, reinforcing our strong local engagement. The three-day event combined programmatic planning, applied learning, and relationship-building through plenary sessions, panel and breakout discussions, interactive poster sessions, and guided tours across the Maumee AOC. Participants consistently emphasized that the diversity of expertise and the opportunity to connect—both in formal sessions and informal settings—strengthened partnerships and accelerated progress toward shared goals of BUI removal and AOC delisting.

- Several public events related to Management Action Projects this year included:

- o The City of Toledo held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Maumee River Islands projects (Delaware/Horseshoe and Clark).
- o Partners for Clean Streams and the Village of Berkey coordinated a public park improvement event and ribbon cutting event at the Lathrop Park project.
- o The City of Toledo held an informational open house for the Lower Ottawa River Aquatic Habitat project.
- o The City of Northwood and Northwood Local Schools sponsored a learning lab field day at the Nature Trails Park (Dry Creek) project.

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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.

Maumee AOC

In 1987, the joint U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement formed the Areas 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.

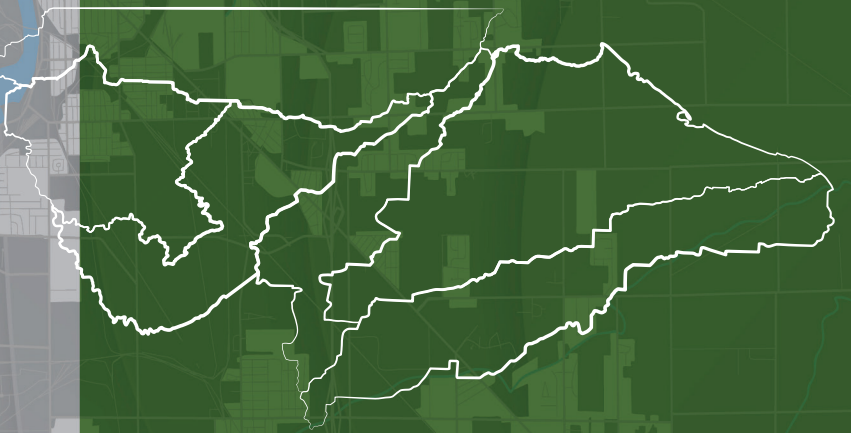


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MAUMEE AOC

2025

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 (2025)
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): Monitoring & Assessment	🔍
	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): Monitoring & Assessment	🔍
BUI 10	Beach closings	
	10a: Beach advisories: Monitoring & Assessment	🔍
	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: Target met in 2025	📊

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. In BUI Removal Process
6. In AOC Delisting Process



Project Work: 2025

1 Project Completed

- Wildlife Habitat Management Actions (BUI 14b)
 - ➔ 1 Project completed in 2025
 - ➔ 20 projects completed in total
 - ➔ 145.1 acres completed in 2025
 - ➔ 3,517 acres completed in total
- Aquatic Management Actions (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)
 - ➔ 3 projects/phases completed in 2025
 - ➔ 9 projects/phases completed in total
 - ➔ 12 projects/phases started construction
 - ➔ 14 projects/phases finished construction/substantially complete

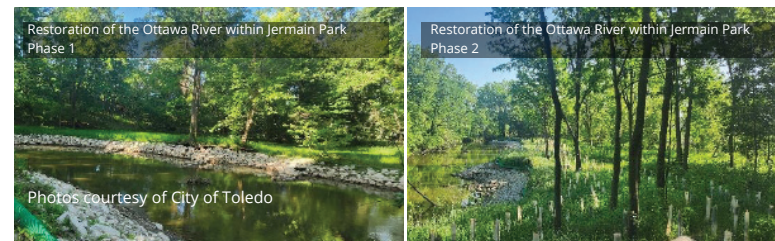
Implementation Work: 2025

The Maumee Area of Concern reached a major milestone with the completion of all Wildlife Management Action Projects (WildMAPs). In 2025, the final project — the **Maumee State Forest expansion** — **restored 145.1 acres** of habitat. Over seven years, more than **\$27 million**—including **\$19.3 million from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)** and **\$8.4 million from other sources**—restored **3,517 acres of wildlife habitat**, exceeding the original goal by 90 acres. With the completion of the WildMAPs, the target for BUI 14b has been achieved.

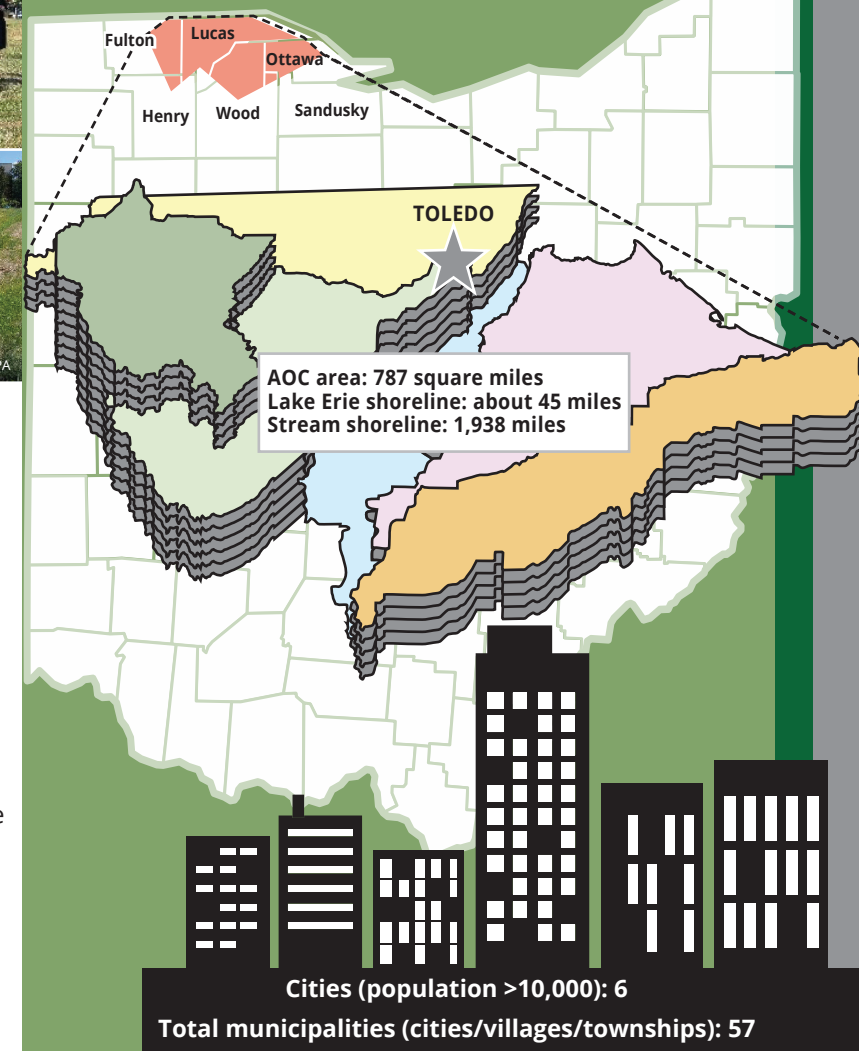
Of the **59 Aquatic** projects/phases of projects, all but one are fully funded. A request to fund the last phase that needs funded will be made in early 2026. **Three Aquatic MAPs** were completed in 2025.

The contaminated sediment remediation efforts advanced within the Maumee AOC as Ohio continued coordinating with federal and local partners to address legacy contamination. Funding will be requested in early 2026 to remove contaminated sediments from Maumee River and development engineered plans to removal contamination from a discrete reach of the Ottawa River.

Completed MAPs represent meaningful progress toward addressing BUIs and restoring ecological function to the AOC. Continued collaboration among state, federal, and local partners remains essential.



Maumee AOC Metrics



Number of independent watersheds: 11



Land Usage

- Agricultural: 51%
- Developed land: 34%
- Forest/Forested wetland: 9%
- Other wetland/grass/shrub/open water: 6%

Number of people living in AOC: ~558,000

