



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee
May 14, 2026, 1 pm – 2:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

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AGENDA

- **Welcome & Meeting/Call Logistics** (Mike Pniewski, Chair)
- **VOTE: Minutes** (5 mins)
- **VOTE: Proposal to Use SEP Funds** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (10 mins)
- **Update on Removal of BUI 10** (Cherie Blair) (5 mins)
- **Project Spotlight** (Zuri Carter, Metroparks Toledo) (10 mins)
 - Audubon State Nature Preserve Islands Restoration
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, US EPA - GLNPO) (5 mins)
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (15 mins)
 - BUI Status Updates
 - MAP Updates
 - AOC Program Biennial Report (2025 -2026)
 - Updating the Delisting Guidance & Restoration Targets for Ohio AOCs
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Todd Duvall, PCS) (10 mins)
 - Introductions
 - PCS Staff
 - CMOS position filed as of May 26
 - Financial Update: Ideas for Spending Down Budget
 - 19.1% of \$209K of grant has been spent down, as of last reimbursement invoice
 - NEED ASSISTANCE: Ad Hoc group to review MAAC Operating Procedures (2020)
 - 2025 Annual Report
 - Interest in a Field Trip to AOC Sites
 - Any projects or ribbon cuttings that need marketing /awareness
 - Drone photo/video partner with local HS PCS volunteer, options.
- **Partner Updates** (10 mins)
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)
- **Next meetings for 2026 – August 13 (virtual), and December 10 (hybrid) (1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.)**

Proposal to use Maumee AOC SEP funds for Assessment of Residential Wastewater Infrastructure Contributing to Beach Closings at Maumee Bay State Park – Lake Erie Beach

Background of Funding Source

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Maumee AOC was directed Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funding by various agencies from enforcement case penalties. Some of these funds were restricted in use, others were not. The MAAC has used these funds over the years to pay for outreach programs, promotional items, small on-the-ground projects, etc. PCS has managed these funds since 2007. The last time these funds were used was in 2018. As of 3/31/2026, \$18,386.86 remains of the \$108,188 total received.

Proposal Request to the Committee:

It is proposed that the Maumee AOC utilize \$10,000 of the remaining SEP funds to support the project described below. Any additional costs incurred (estimated to be \$5,000 – \$15,000) will be covered by the City of Oregon.

Project Description

Although the Maumee AOC is working to remove *BUI 10: Beach Closings (Recreational Contact)*, there are still bacteria-related issues at Maumee Bay State Park (MBSP) originating in Wolf Creek/Berger Ditch associated with sources that will not be addressed by the AOC Program. These issues are related to failing Household Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) and/or gaps in sanitary sewer infrastructure. Based on previous studies, it was determined that the potential ongoing sources are within the City of Oregon. Oregon initiated conversations with the Toledo/Lucas Co Health Dept (TLCHD) to conduct targeted household system inspections in area(s) of known concern. The TLCHD is willing to conduct this investigation (similar to how they would a storm sewer illicit connection investigation). The cost for this type of investigation is usually charged back to the jurisdiction. It is estimated to be \$15,000-\$25,000 for this project depending on how many residents participate in the investigations. Oregon has been very cooperative and responsive to this issue and the Maumee AOC over the years. They are willing to support part of the costs. TLCHD can start the investigation as soon as funding is available.

BUI Alignment & Project Significance:

This project directly supports the regulatory steps needed to continue the efforts to reduce beach closings beyond the responsibility of the AOC Program. By identifying failing septic systems and evaluating infrastructure solutions, this effort could advance the actions necessary to reduce contamination pathways impacting the Maumee Bay State Park beach.

Scope of Work:

The purpose of this investigation is to identify, assess, and diagnose sources of human-derived E. coli entering Wolf Creek/Berger Ditch and impacting the MBSP Lake Erie beach that is downstream. This study will help the City of Oregon and TLCHD determine appropriate corrective actions needed to eliminate the identified sources. This will be accomplished with such tasks as listed below.

- Oregon and TLCHD will hold public information session(s) and will send letters to communicate the project with area residents. (*tentatively planned for early June 2026*)
- The TLCHD will schedule and conduct inspections of approximately 61 residential septic systems (HSTS) within a single Wolf Creek/Berger Ditch neighborhood.
- Oregon and the TLCHD will keep the Maumee AOC apprised of the project's progress via email with Ohio EPA's Maumee AOC Coordinator and/or the Facilitating Organization's Executive Director. In addition, they may be asked to present the findings/next steps to the MAAC upon completion of the study.

The outcomes of the study will determine:

- Whether individual septic systems are failing.
- Are there cross-connections and/or illicit connections.
- The extent to which these failures contribute to bacterial contamination.
- Whether installation of a sanitary sewer line is an appropriate long-term solution or would repair/replacement of individual septic systems be sufficient to address the problem.
- Future actions, including compelling residents to address any failing HSTS, will be the responsibility of Oregon and the TLCHD.



**METROPARKS
TOLEDO**

Update Audubon Islands Habitat Restoration Project

5/13/2026



Overview

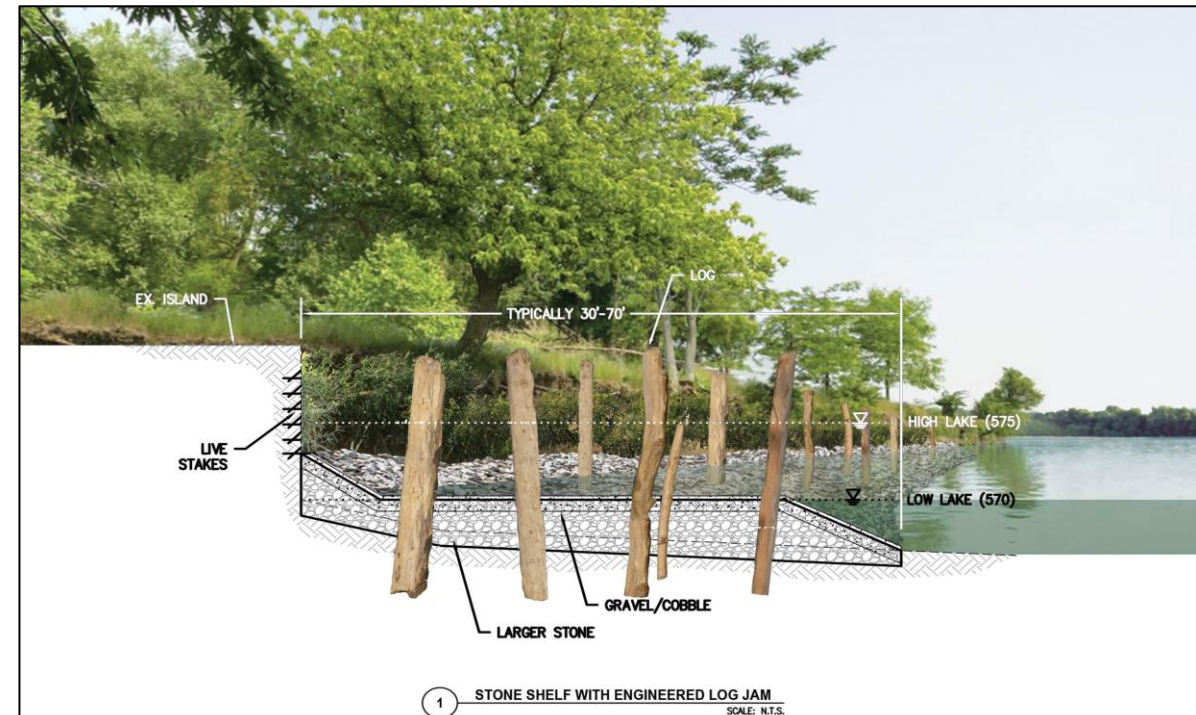
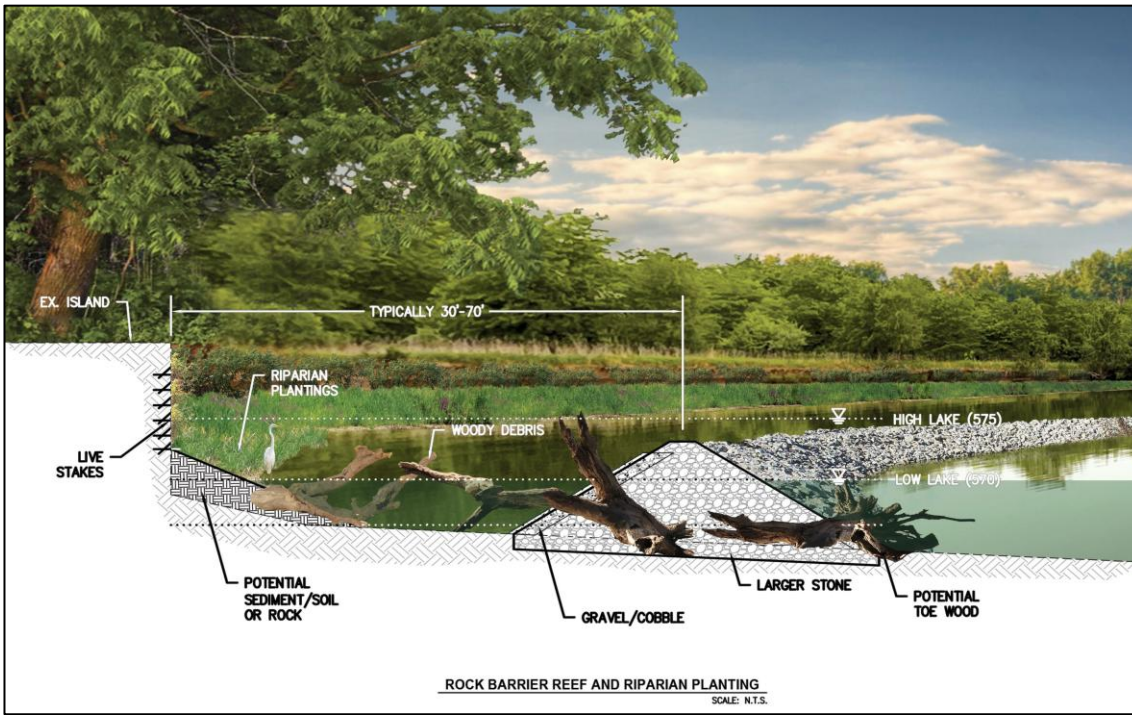
An estimated cost of \$3.9 million focusing on implementing nature-based solutions to enhance habitat diversity and improved quality with added riverbank stability to reduce erosion.





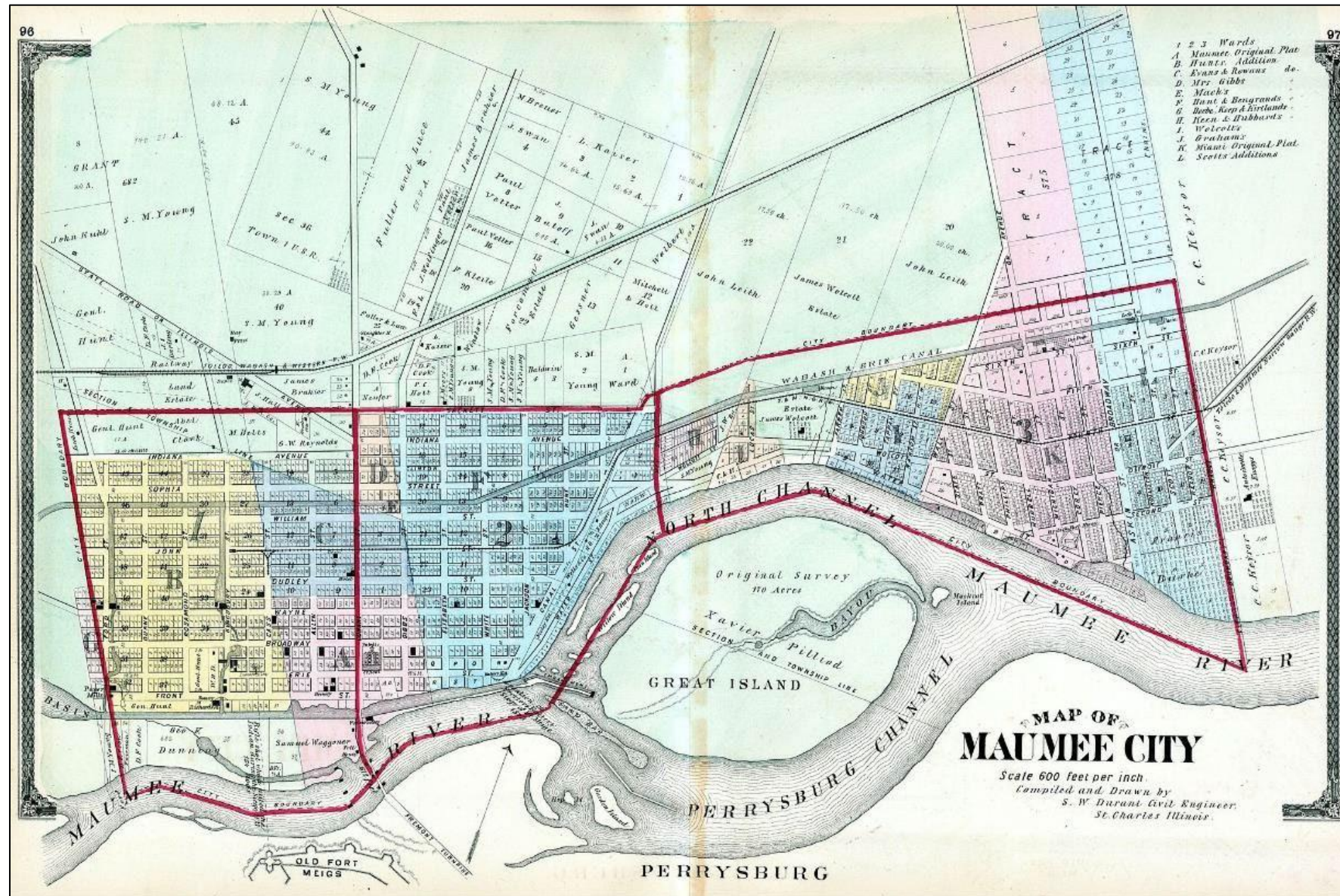
Audubon Island

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding \$3,600,000
- Ohio EPA 319 fund \$330,201
- This project addresses:
 - 3a: Degradation of fish populations
 - 6: *Degradation of Benthos*
 - 14a: *Loss of Fish Habitat*





1875





Audubon Islands 1940's





Invasive species





Historical









Erosion





Acres Lost



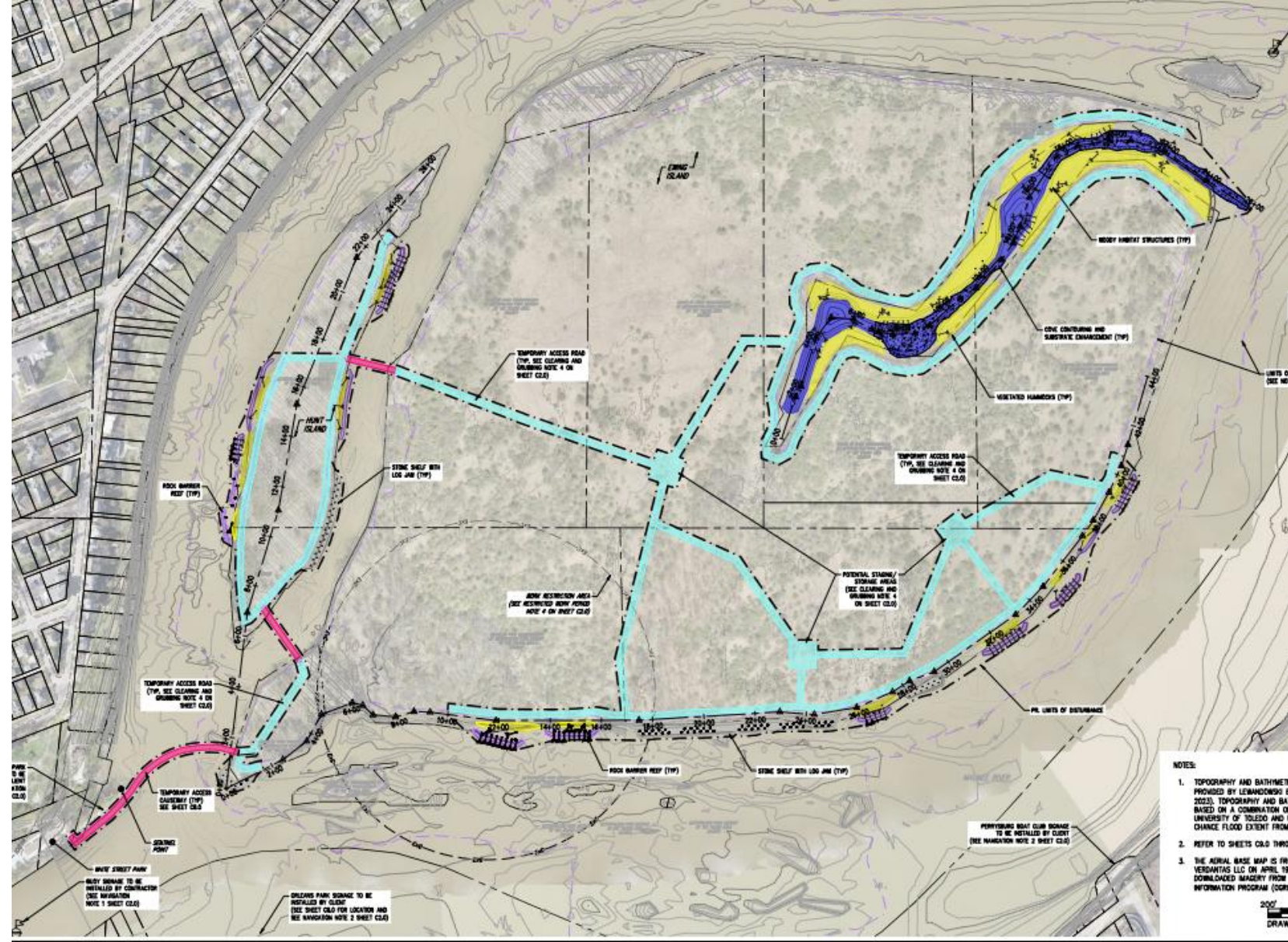


Cove sedimentation and existing habitat



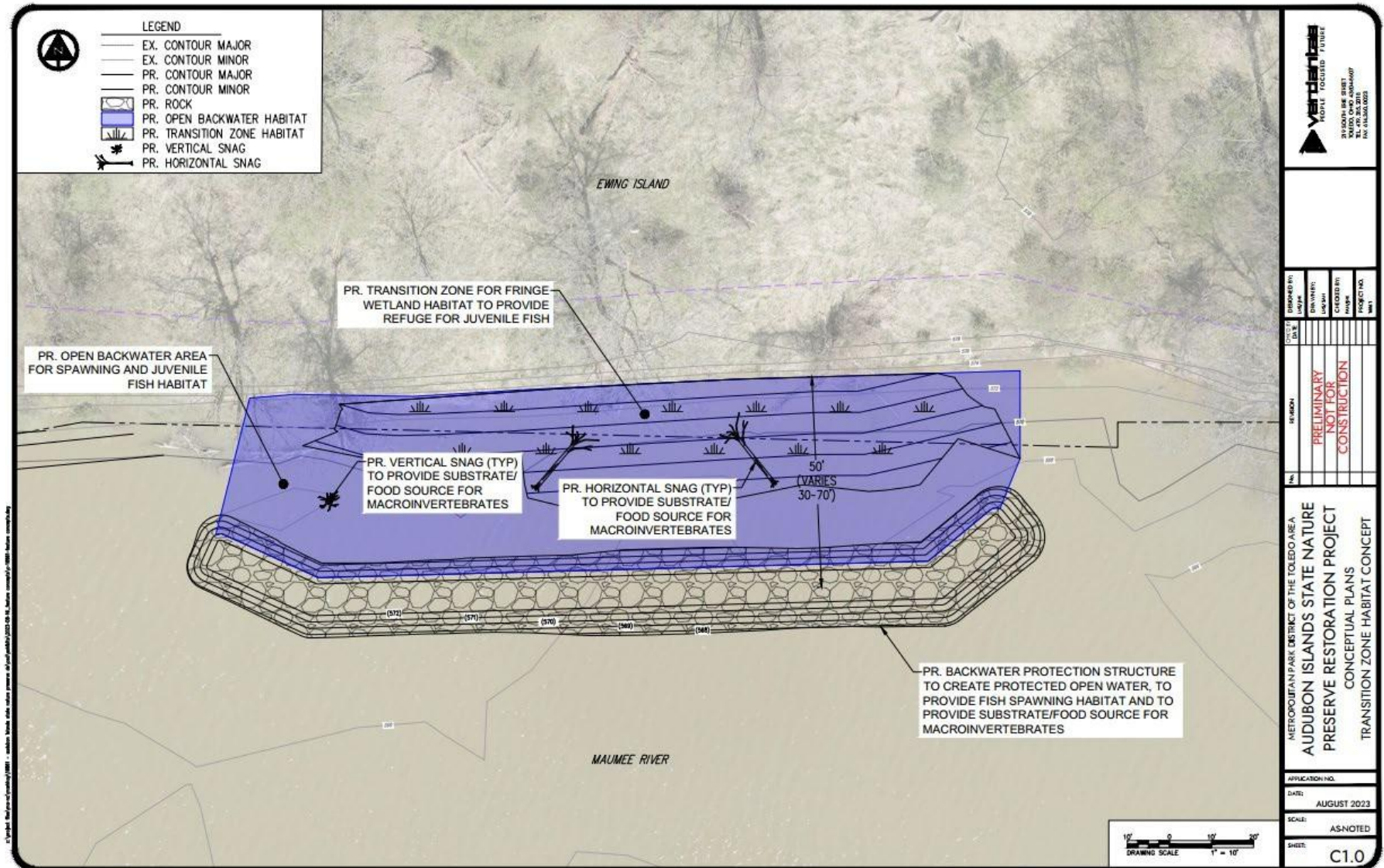


Conceptual Plan





Rock Barrier Reef Conceptual Plan View







Original Schedule

- Design - 2023
- Construction - 2024
- Restoration - 2025





Current Schedule

- Design - 2023
- Construction - 2025
- Restoration – 2026
- Mitigation and invasives management five years post project





Causeway Installation





Engineered Log Jams

- Capture additional woody debris
- Rocky habitat
- Vegetation to reduce erosion

Rock barrier reefs

- Rocky habitat
- Vegetation reduce erosion





Overview of woody debris behind a rock barrier reef along Ewing Island; facing southeast.





Dredging the cove





Spring Rains





Cove













Engineered log jams







Rock barrier reefs











**Maumee AOC Coordinator Report
for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee
May 14, 2026**

- **WildMAPs** (*BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat*)
 - The last WildMAP was completed in May 2025.
 - The Final Summary Table of the WildMAPs is dated 6/15/2025. It is available on the Maumee AOC website under the Projects Tab.
 - The Final detailed narrative tracking of the WildMAPs is available upon request.
- **AquaMAPs** (*BUI 3a, 6, 14a: Fish Pops, Benthic Pops, Fish Habitat*)
 - We currently have 9 projects/phases that are complete
 - The funding for the last project that needs implementation funds has been allocated and is going through the process to be awarded soon. This is \$2.6M for the Lower Ottawa River Nearshore project.
 - The current status of projects:
 - Assessment, Engineering & Design: 6
 - Under construction: 5
 - Additional mobilizing in 2026: 6
 - Substantially complete: 20
 - Phase 1 complete: 3
 - Fully complete: 6
 - Projects expected to put out RFPs this spring/summer:
 - Design/Build: USFWS-TLCPA/Crane Creek Lacustuary
 - Build: USFWS-DU/Minier, USFWS-DU/Sabroske, Toledo-Lwr Ottawa, UT-UTMC Swan Creek
 - The most recent update to the Summary Table of the AquaMAPs was dated 5/6/26. It is available on the Maumee AOC website under the Projects Tab, or I can send it as a PDF upon request.
 - A narrative tracking of the AquaMAPs is available upon request.
- **SedMAPs** (*BUIs vary by project site, GLLA/contaminated sediment*)
 - Ohio continues to work with federal partners to make progress on these sediment projects.
 - **LMR-Sway Bridge:** The remedial design and construction bid documents are nearly complete. The Sway Bridge project has been allocated GLRI funding. GLNPO is expected to fund ~\$32.4M. The State of Ohio is contributing ~\$1.75M in cash (for disposal) and ~\$15.7M of in-kind credit (thru H2Ohio, Clean Ohio Fund, MTA projects). The TLCPA is preparing a workplan for this project. The project is expected to be funded in Sept 2026. We are still working on SHPO mitigation requirements for the shipwrecks in the Maumee River. An MOA between US EPA and Ohio SHPO is in development along with a list of mitigation activities. A public information session for both LMR sites is being planned for this summer.
 - **LMR-WWTP:** Once the Sway Bridge remedial design and construction bid documents are complete the consultant will be working on the documents and permit applications for this project. Unfortunately, it may have to wait a few years in order to have the 65/35 match required for the ~\$35M project.
 - **Ottawa River-Area 4Y/4X:** The final report for the Preliminary Design Investigation was completed in February. Ohio EPA has been allocated \$1M in GLRI funding from GLNPO for a Feasibility Study/Remedial Design project for this reach of the Ottawa River. Ohio is contributing \$538,462 of in-kind credit (thru H2Ohio, Clean Ohio Fund, MTA projects).
 - **Swan Creek:** This project is currently paused while efforts ramp up on the LMR and Ottawa projects.
 - The most recent update to the Summary Table of the SedMAPs was dated 5/6/26. It is available on the Maumee AOC website under the Projects Tab, or I can send it as a PDF upon request.
- **Misc. MAPs** (*BUIs 4, 8, 10*)
 - **BUI 4: Deformities & Tumors** – Still impaired for DELTs in the lacustuary of the Ottawa River.
 - **BUI 8b: Eutrophication** – Unable to remove this BUI at this time.
 - **BUI 10: Beach Closings (Recreational Contact)** – Hope to have a draft document to MAAC for review by June, then public comment in July. I will ask for a MAAC letter of support at the August meeting. Removal expected before Sept 30, 2026.

- **AOC Program Updates**
 - **AOC Program Biennial Report (2024-25):** Ohio released this report on April 29, 2026 along with links to each of the AOCs annual report. (<https://lakeerie.ohio.gov/programs-and-projects/areas-of-concern/01-program+overview>)
 - **Updating the Delisting Guidance & Restoration Targets for Ohio's AOCs:** The Ohio EPA and OLEC are adding some clarifications to the targets and rationale of this document. No major target revisions at this time.