



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

June 9, 2022 9:30am – 11:30am

### [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 614-721-2972](#) Phone Conference ID: 854 642 506#

### **AGENDA**

- **Welcome & Meeting** (Mike Pniewski, Chair) (5 mins)
- **Vote: Minutes** (Chair) (5 mins)
- **BUI 1 Removal Update and Next Steps** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (15 min)
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, GLNPO) (5 mins)
  - New allocations
  - Federal Budget Update
  - Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act distribution plan by Focus Area
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** (Cherie) (10 mins)
  - AOC Conference Report
  - MAP Updates
  - Funding Updates
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris Patterson, PCS) (10 mins)
  - Financial update
  - Support grant closed; New grant received, plans for 2022
  - Suggestions on summer activities
- **MAP Spotlight**
  - MAP projects in City of Oregon, Don Nelson (20 mins)
- **Partner Updates** (10 mins)
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)
- **Next meetings for 2022**  
*August 11 and December 8 at 930am*



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### MINUTES

- **Welcome & Meeting** Mike Pniewski, Chair greeted everyone on the virtual call.  
**Attendance:** Mike Pniewski, Cherie Blair, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Paul Hotz, Ryan Allison, Jim Carter, Kylie McElrath, Kris Patterson, John Kusnier, Amanda Kovach, Andrew Sankowski, Don Nelson, Leah Medley, Ashlee Decker, Lynn Garrity, Kari Gerwin, Lynn Ackerson, Archie Lunsey, Liv Simkins Bullock, Deanna Bobak, Josh Miller, Bryan Hinterberger, Tom Denbow, Shannon Nabors, Kris Barnswell
- **Vote: Minutes** Mike asked for a motion & vote on the February minutes. Paul motioned for approval and Ashlee seconded. Motion passed.
- **BUI 1 Removal Update and Next Steps** Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA summarized the BUI Removal document from Ohio EPA & Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The MAAC will have 2 weeks for comments before it goes out publicly for a few weeks for additional review & comments. John asked If requested by the public, could the 2 week comment period could be extended? Cherie responded yes, slightly extended. From the recommendation, "All fish species in all waters of the Maumee AOC have been identified as safe to consume at a frequency of one meal per month, or less restrictive, thus meeting the BUI Restoration Target for fish. Although turtle fat from the few turtles collected exceeded consumption advisory levels, "Snapping turtle muscle (meat) in the Ottawa River of the Maumee AOC are below the contaminant levels designated as safe to consume at a frequency of one meal per month or less restrictive, thus meeting the BUI Restoration Target for wildlife, even though an advisory remains as a precaution to minimize the possible exposure risk to contaminated fat bodies while cleaning/preparing snapping turtles for consumption." Several comments or questions were asked about ways to communicate the need for proper cleaning and only consuming meat for turtles, which is are prepared in a variety of ways.
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** Leah Medley, GLNPO said more MAP projects were submitted to funding consideration for Quarter 4. Announcements will come later. No other updates on the federal budget or new IJA funding specifics.
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** Cherie provided MAP update handouts and verbally provided further updates. AquaMAP projects are beginning to be allocated & submit applications in Grants.gov. Two additional projects were requested in this quarter. Three projects that were submitted under the NOAA Partnership through Great Lakes Commission are pending. For the AOC, that's 32 projects for 27.5M allocated so far. Ottawa River projects and more on Delaware/Horseshoe project will hopefully be available later this year. For SedMAPS, Ohio EPA and federal partners continue to collect & review data. Focused Feasibility Studies for Swan Creek and lower Maumee River area are expected to start this year. Hopefully more to share at a future meeting. For BUI 4, 7, & 8 Ohio EPA is waiting on or reviewing data. A BUI removal package is being prepared for BUI 11 and a draft will be shared at the August meeting. A number of people from our AOC attended the US ACE Conference and the session Cherie participated in showcasing the DMDS had a lot of interest.



- **Facilitating Organization's Report** Kris Patterson, PCS, gave a brief update. The ERIE19 grant closed. Kris is figuring out the final invoices and amount remaining but expects that there were some unspent grant funds. The extended time allowed for more outreach and printing of materials. Some MAP project "cards" were shared at the Penn 7 ribbon cutting and are available for other field visits or outreach programs. Kris asked for suggestions for summer activities and encouraged partners to share opportunities (such as ribbon cuttings, grand openings, field tours, etc) that they have planned.
- **MAP Spotlight**
  - Don Nelson, City of Oregon, presented on several AOC-funded projects that are either underway or coming up. Don shared a nice presentation on the stream restoration at Oregon Recreational Complex and two other upcoming projects for floodplain and stream improvement (funding pending).
- **Partner Updates:** Mike mentioned three large 2-stage ditch projects nearly complete or underway within Lucas County (Heldman, Morrison, and Van Fleet) and that a future tour might be possible. Bryan mentioned that the Army Corps helped prepare feasibility study for the lower Maumee River islands and look forward to ways to help in the future. TMACOG announced that July 19<sup>th</sup> will be the formal designation of the Portage River Water Trail.
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** None.
- **Next meetings for 2022**  
*August 11 and December 8 at 930am*

# Maumee AOC

## Removal of BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption



Lake Erie  
Commission

Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

June 9, 2022



# BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption

## Stage 1 Report:

BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption was listed as an impaired BUI in the *Maumee AOC Stage 1 Report* (1990) for three reasons:

- Fish consumption advisory for carp and catfish in all Lake Erie waters due to PCBs.
- Fish consumption advisory for all species due to PCBs in Ottawa River from RM 5.7 to mouth.
- Fish consumption advisory for all species due to PCBs in Hecklinger Pond.

Turtles were “Unknown” status at that time

# BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish Consumption

## BUI Restoration Target

### Fish Target:

- In the *riverine* waters upstream from the lake affected waters (lacustrary or freshwater estuary), the fish consumption advisories issued by the Ohio Department of Health in the AOC are the same or less stringent than one meal per month;

### **AND**

- In the *lake affected* waters (lacustrary or freshwater estuary), the fish consumption advisories issued by the Ohio Department of Health in the AOC are the same or less stringent than the current Lake Erie advisories;

# BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish Consumption

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	One meal per	Contaminant	Last advisory change	Most recent data	Type of waterbody	BUI Status
Maumee River	Defiance to Perrysburg (Defiance, Henry, Lucas, Wood counties)	Channel Catfish	month	PCBs	2010	2014	river	Not Impaired
		Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass, Smallmouth Buffalo, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish	month	mercury, PCBs	2010	2014	river	Not Impaired
	Perrysburg to Interstate 75 (Lucas, Wood Counties)	Channel Catfish	<del>two months</del> month	PCBs	<del>2010</del> 2018	<del>2016</del> 2017	lacustuary	Not Impaired
		Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Bass, Smallmouth Buffalo, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish	month	mercury, PCBs	2010	2014	lacustuary	Not Impaired
	Interstate 75 to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas County)	Channel Catfish	<del>two months</del> month	PCBs	<del>2010</del> 2018	<del>2016</del> 2017	lacustuary	Not Impaired
		Smallmouth Bass	month	PCBs	1998	2014	lacustuary	Not Impaired
	Interstate 75 to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas County)	Freshwater Drum, Smallmouth Buffalo, Common Carp, Flathead Catfish	month	mercury, PCBs	2010	2014	lacustuary	Not Impaired

Note: Strikethrough is the previous status and the last time it was updated/sampled.

# BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish Consumption

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	One meal per	Contaminant	Last advisory change	Most recent data	Type of waterbody	BUI Status
Lake Erie Tributaries	All Waters (Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky Counties)	Steelhead Trout	month	PCBs	pre-2014	varies	river & lacustuary	Not Impaired
Ottawa River (Toledo)	Main Street in Sylvania to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas County)	Channel Catfish, Common Carp, Golden Shiner	month	PCBs	2017	2016	river & lacustuary	Not Impaired
Swan Creek	Weckerly Road (Whitehouse) to mouth (Lake Erie) (Lucas County)	Common Carp	month	mercury, PCBs	2010	2010	river & lacustuary	Not Impaired
		Northern Pike, Freshwater Drum, Rock Bass	month	mercury	2010	2010	river & lacustuary	Not Impaired
Toussaint Creek	U.S. 23 to mouth (Lake Erie) (Ottawa, Sandusky Counties)	Common Carp	month	PCBs	2010	2010	river & lacustuary	Not Impaired

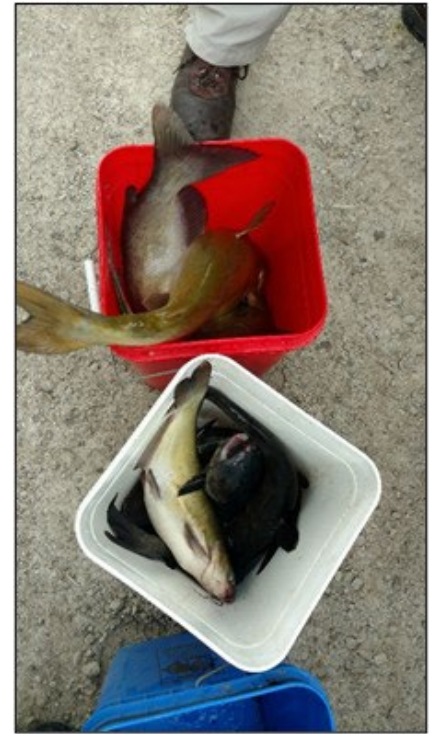
Note: Strikethrough is the previous status and the last time it was updated/sampled.



# BUI 1: Restrictions on Fish Consumption

## Status:

- Ottawa River all species reduced to one meal a month or less restrictive in all reaches in 2017
- Maumee River Channel Catfish reduced to one meal a month or less restrictive in all reaches in 2018
- ✓ Target is met
  - no areas more restrictive than one meal per month



# BUI 1: Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption BUI Restoration Target

## Wildlife Target:

- Wildlife consumption advisories issued by the Ohio Department of Health in the AOC are the same or less stringent than one meal per month.

# BUI 1: Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption

Body of Water	Area Under Advisory	Species	One meal per	Contaminant	Last advisory change	Most recent data	Type of waterbody	BUI Status
Maumee River	All waters	Snapping Turtles	week	Mercury	2002	1997	-	Not Impaired
Ottawa River (Toledo)	All waters	Snapping Turtles	DO NOT EAT <sup>^</sup>	PCBs	2002	<del>1997</del> 2017 & 18	-	Impaired
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge	All waters	Snapping Turtles	week	Lead	2002	1997	-	Not Impaired

Note: Strikethrough is the previous status and the last time it was updated/sampled.

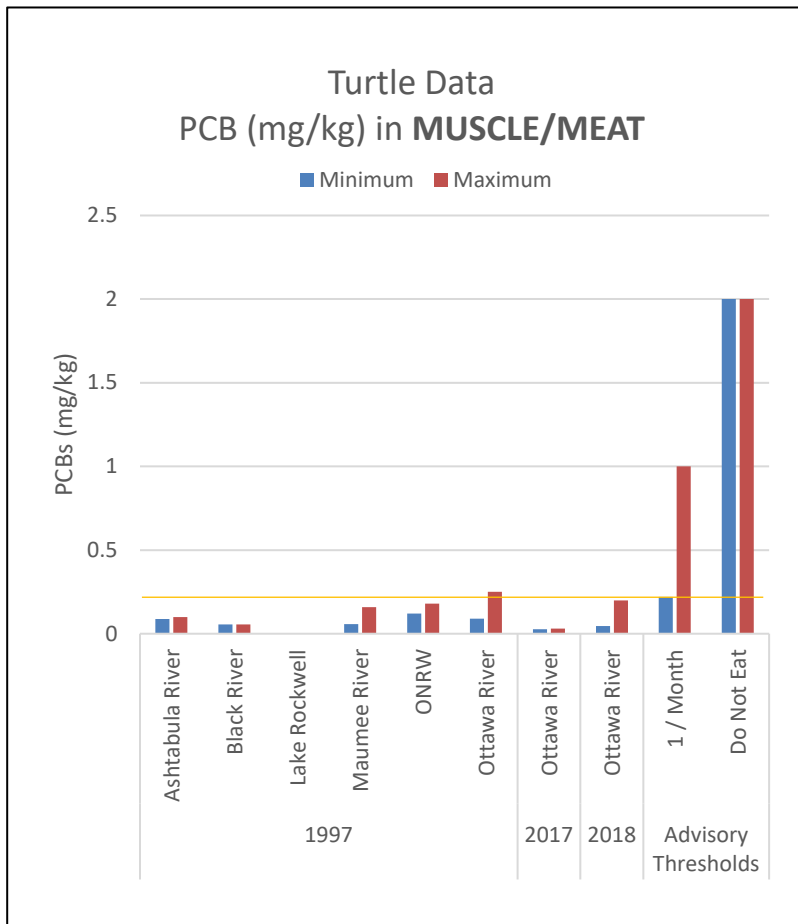
<sup>^</sup>: The State of Ohio has maintained the "Do Not Eat" consumption advisory in order to be protective and minimize risk due to high levels of PCBs in the fat bodies, even though the meat (muscle) is below the one meal/week threshold.

# BUI 1: Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption

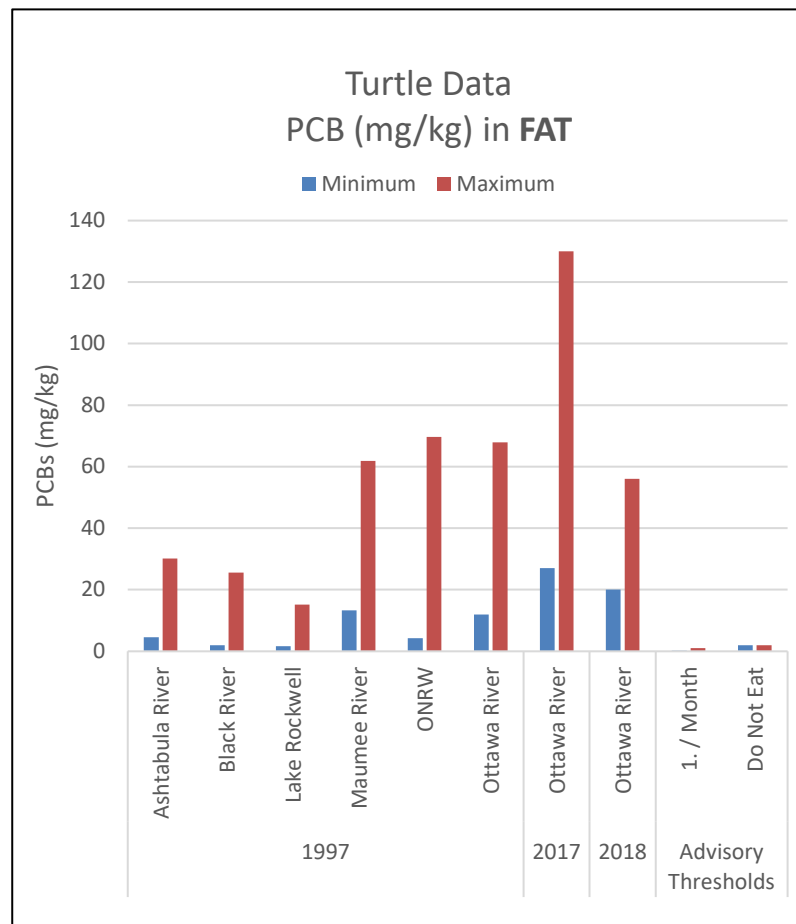
## Important Facts to Consider:

- PCBs concentrate primarily in adipose tissue (fat) of turtles
- PCBs are often transferred from females to eggs in utero
- Turtle age, length, weight, and gender influences PCB accumulation, with male snapping turtles typically being larger and heavier than females
- 2017 & 2018 sampling event collected only males
- Life expectancy of snapping turtles in the wild ranges from 11 to 45 years
- Due to longevity and relatively large lipid reserves, snapping turtles have the potential to accumulate and store contaminants throughout their life

# BUI 1: Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption



*Figure 4: Snapping Turtle Muscle (Meat) Body Data (Dabrowska 2006, TestAmerica, 2017, TestAmerica 2018)*



*Figure 5: Snapping Turtle Fat Bodies Data (Dabrowska 2006, TestAmerica, 2017, TestAmerica 2018)*

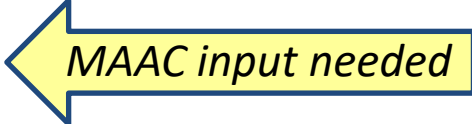
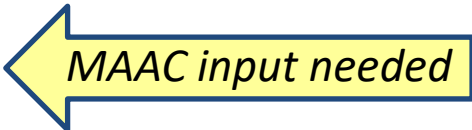
# BUI 1: Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption

## Status:

- Based upon data from 2017 & 2018, snapping turtle meat is within the safe to consume levels at a frequency of “one meal per month” or less restrictive
- Snapping Turtles in Ottawa River still have a “Do Not Eat” consumption advisory issued by the state of Ohio as a precaution to minimize the possible exposure risk to contaminated fat bodies when cleaning/preparing snapping turtles for consumption (*Note: precautionary statement added to annual state consumption advisory documents after 2017/18 studies*)
- ✓ Wildlife Consumption should be removed, as it has met the intent of BUI Restoration Target (consumable meat)



# Removal Process & Timeline

- ✓ Internal Agency Review
- ✓ GLNPO Technical Resource Lead (TRL) Review
- MAAC Review
  - 14-day review, Started June 6 (*when sent to committee*)
  - Ends June 21
- Public Review in July (*requesting MAAC input*)
  - 14- or 30-day Public Comment Period 
  - Public Meeting 
- Final Removal Package Compiled
  - Request letter of support from MAAC (August meeting)
  - Submit in Aug/early Sept, pending length of Public Review

# QUESTIONS



Lake Erie  
Commission





Wolf Creek Stream  
Restoration at Oregon  
Recreation Complex (BD –  
2.0)



Otter Creek Stream  
Restoration in Maumee  
AOC (OC – 3.2, OC –  
3.3)

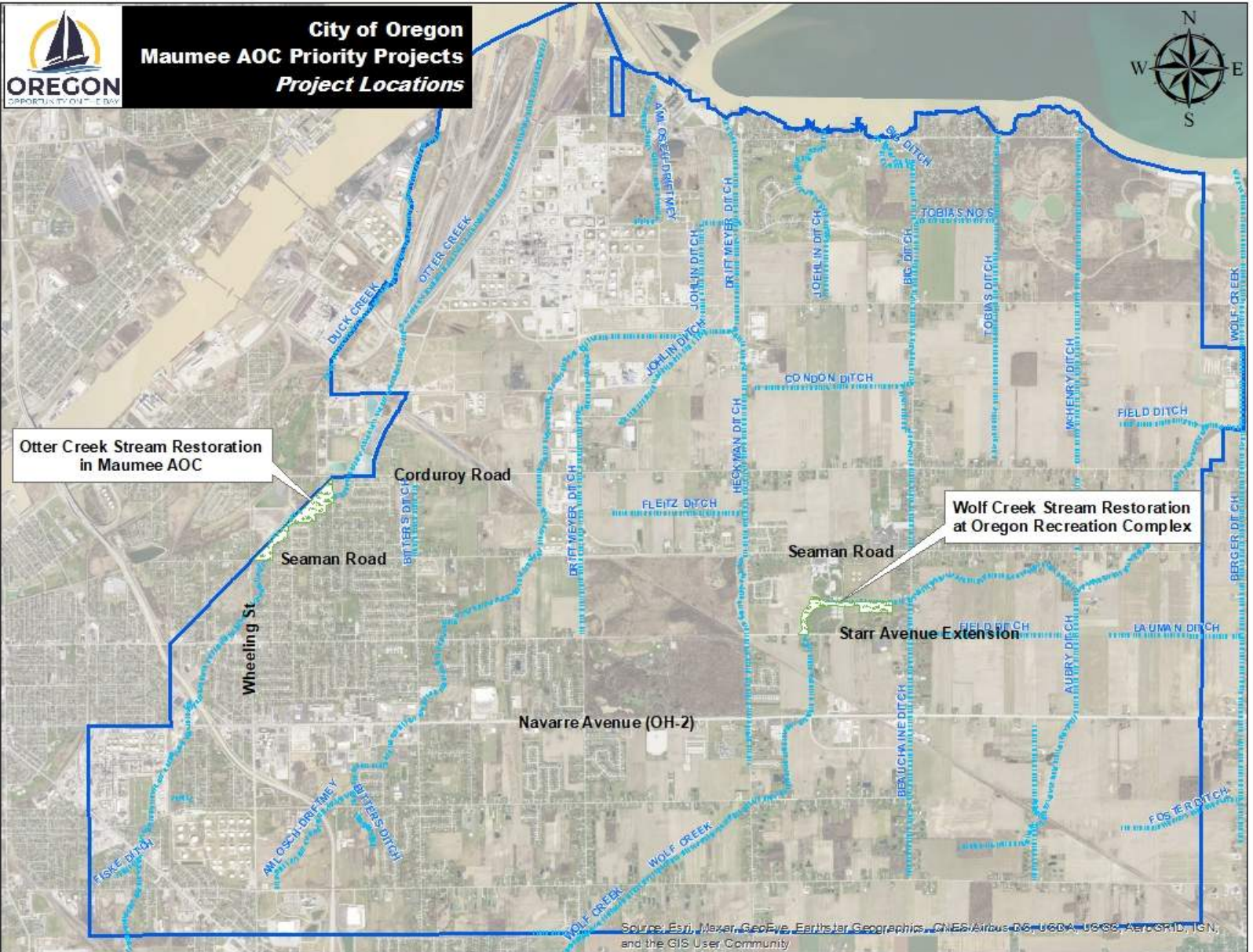
Project Updates

Maumee AOC Advisory  
Committee Quarterly  
Meeting – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Don Nelson  
Environmental Specialist  
City of Oregon



# Project Locations – City of Oregon



# Stream Restoration at Oregon Recreation Complex – Existing Conditions

- Oregon Recreation Complex
- OEPA monitoring completed in 2017 just downstream of project site (Stadium Road)
- Wolf Creek found to be in non-attainment for BUI 6 – Degradation of Benthos and BUI 14a – Loss of Fish Habitat
- QHEI of 29 poor, ICI invertebrate community score of 6 (very poor) for benthic communities
- Steep almost vertical stream banks, active erosion, silt cover and embeddedness, no floodplain
- More or less has become an ag drainage ditch – invasives, etc



*Channelized and steep banks, Wolf Creek flows through the City of Oregon's Recreation Complex, located off of Starr Avenue Extension*

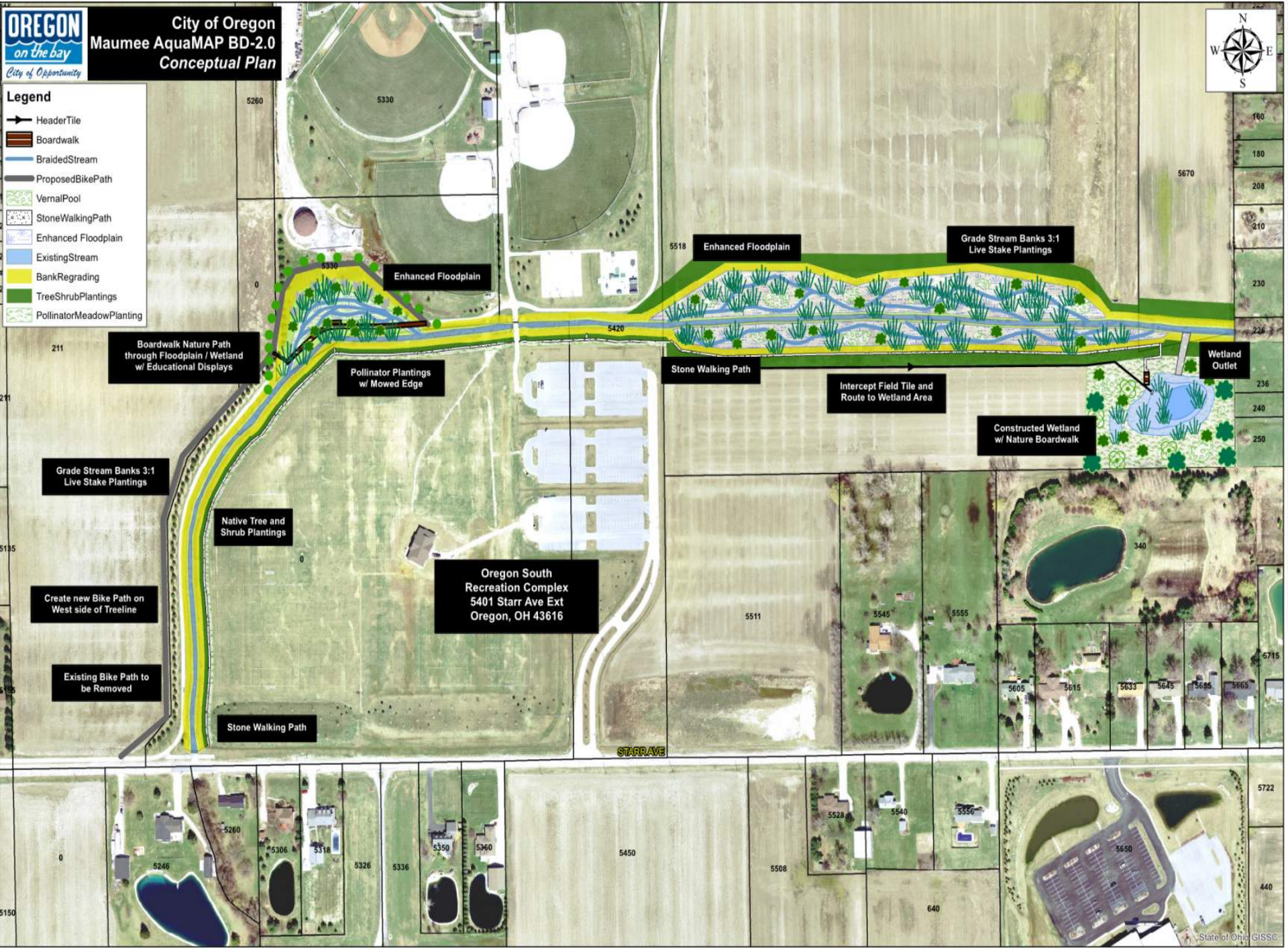
# Proposed Plan of Restoration

- City of Oregon Property
- Two-stage channel design to widen floodplain access
- Regrade stream banks to 3:1 side slope for stability
- Restore approximately 3.5 ac of floodplain habitat
- Install 2.5 acres of riparian upland area
- Intercept ag field tile and route through created wetland system prior to discharge to Wolf Creek
- Public Access & Education
  - Walking path



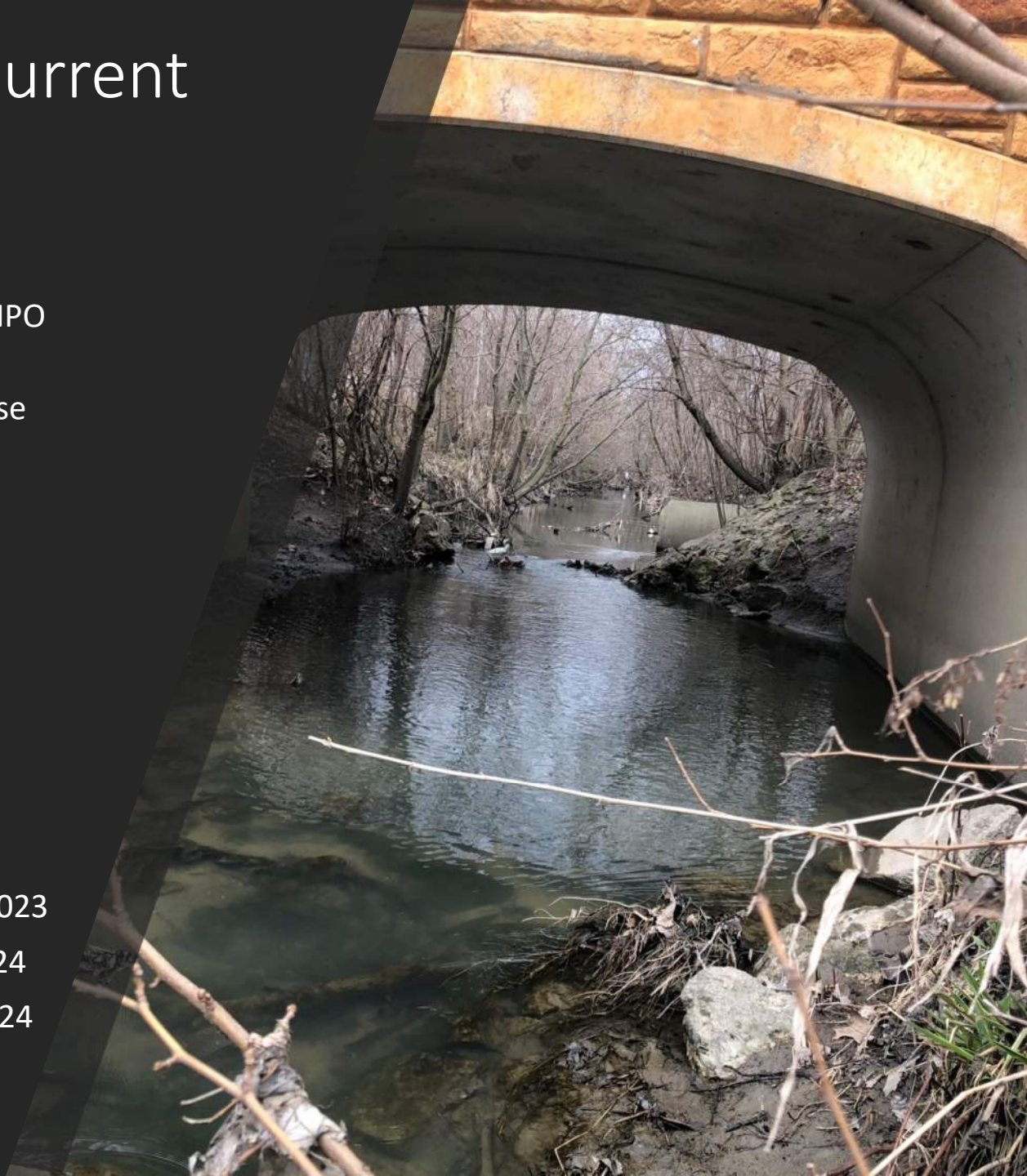


- Legend**
- HeaderTile
  - Boardwalk
  - BraidedStream
  - ProposedBikePath
  - VernalPool
  - StoneWalkingPath
  - Enhanced Floodplain
  - ExistingStream
  - BankRegrading
  - TreeShrubPlantings
  - PollinatorMeadowPlanting



# Wolf Creek - Current Project Status

- Project was funded through GLNPO GLRI in July of 2021
- Currently in the final design phase
- QAPP Conditionally approved
- Field work taking place
  - Survey
  - Geotech borings
  - Wetland delineation
  - Ecological determinations
- Design to be completed by December 2022
- Bid in Spring 2023
- Construction Summer and Fall 2023
- Plantings and warranty work 2024
- Grant period ends December 2024



# Otter Creek Stream Restoration in Maumee AOC – Existing Conditions

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OEPA monitoring completed in 2017 just downstream of project site (Corduroy Road)

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Otter Creek found to be in non-attainment for BUI 6 – Degradation of Benthos and BUI 14a – Loss of Fish Habitat

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QHEI of 41.5 below 43 goal, ICI invertebrate community score of 6 (very poor) for benthic communities

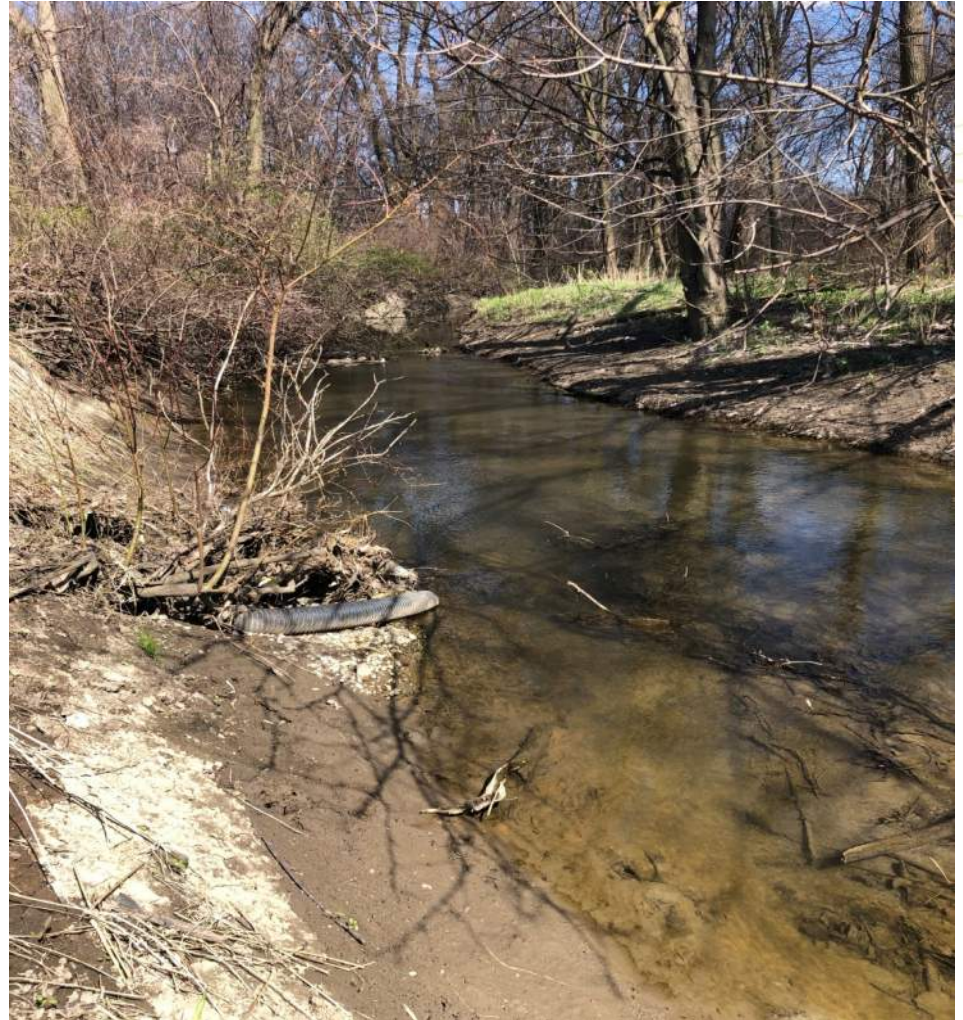
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Active stream bank erosion, silt cover and embeddedness, lack of instream structure, riffles etc., flashy flows

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Classic urban stream with multiple MS4 outfalls in area, draining 53 acres of urban area, no detention or retention

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*Recovering channel within large adjacent floodplain area, bare stream banks contributing to sediment loading and silt cover of channel bottom*



# Proposed Plan of Restoration

- Property Acquisition – Four (4) Landowners
- Streambank stabilization by grading, live stake planting, and utilization of instream structures such as rootwads
- Establishment of instream habitat structures such as riffles and pools
- Reestablishment of connection to adjacent floodplain area
- Enhancement of existing approximate 4 acre wetland adjacent to creek
- Divert 53 acres of urban stormwater drainage to proposed forebay ponds and stormwater wetland system to reduce stream flow velocities, sediment and nutrient discharge
- Public Access – Walking Path



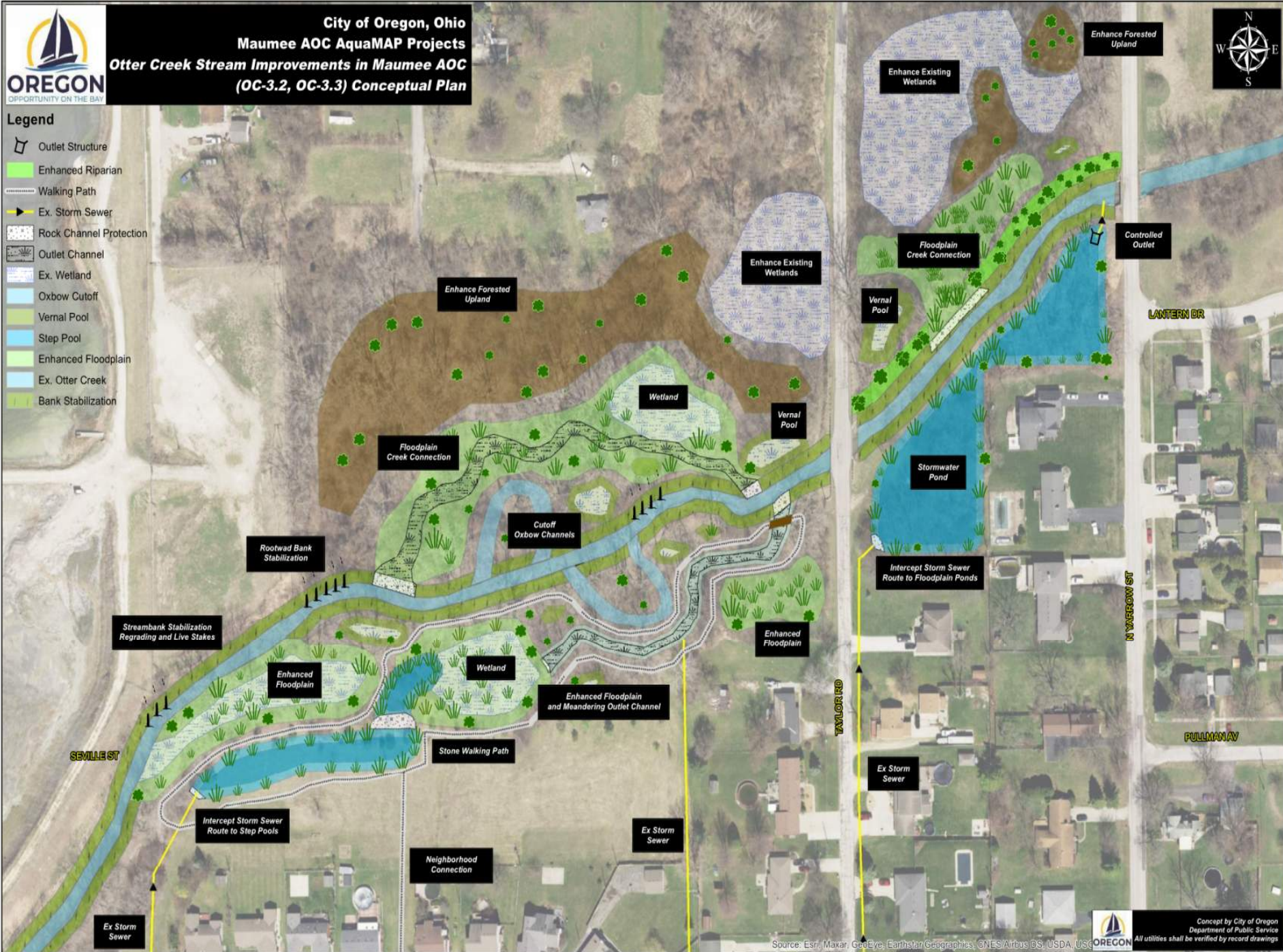


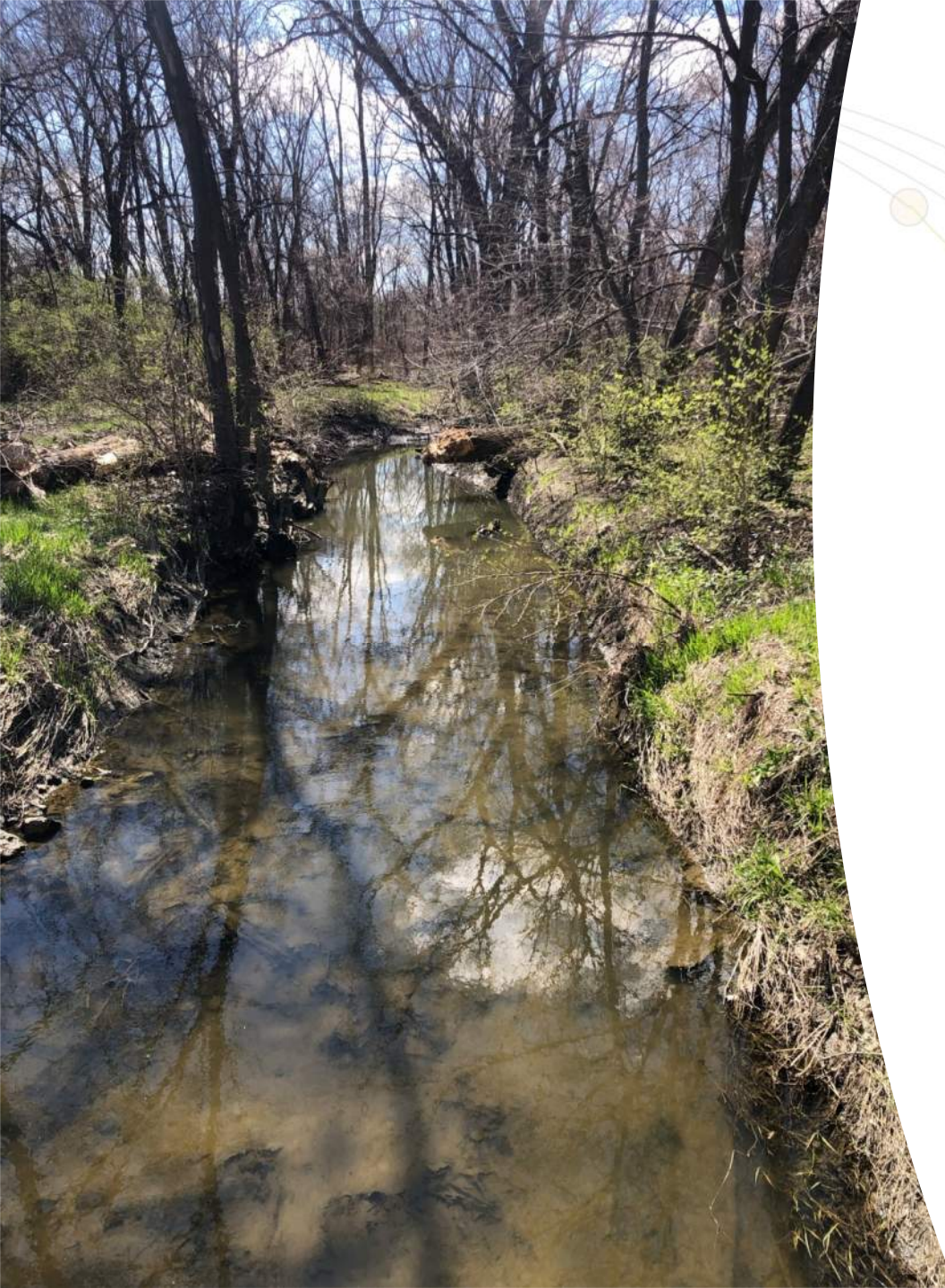
**City of Oregon, Ohio**  
**Maumee AOC AquaMAP Projects**  
**Otter Creek Stream Improvements in Maumee AOC**  
**(OC-3.2, OC-3.3) Conceptual Plan**



**Legend**

- Outlet Structure
- Enhanced Riparian
- Walking Path
- Ex. Storm Sewer
- Rock Channel Protection
- Outlet Channel
- Ex. Wetland
- Oxbow Cutoff
- Vernal Pool
- Step Pool
- Enhanced Floodplain
- Ex. Otter Creek
- Bank Stabilization





# Otter Creek - Current Project Status

- Project was selected for funding and application has gone through review locally and at US EPA
- Following reviews City was asked to submit into Grants.gov
- Awaiting further review from Grants.gov submittal
- Working on Section 106 Review Application in meantime
  - Ohio Historic Preservation Office: Resource Protection and Review application
- Similar timeline to Wolf Creek Project (1 year behind)
  - Design 2023
  - Construction 2024
  - Warranty tree planting 2025
  - Finalize December 2025

# Thanks!!

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