



Photo courtesy of TMACOG.

Public Involvement & Outreach

MAAC Meetings (Quarterly)

- MAAC members met quarterly to discuss the program, project planning, and updates on in-progress projects.

Management Action Project Events

- Several Management Action Projects held public grand opening events this year, including The Nature Conservancy's Sandhill Crane Wetlands, the City of Toledo's Penn 7 Habitat Restoration, and Metroparks Toledo's Howard Marsh Phase 2.
- To seek public feedback on design ideas intended to protect and enhance habitat, open houses for MAPs were held regarding the Hill Ditch Restoration at Paisley/Bandore Park, the Delaware Islands restoration project and the Toledo Public School's Natural Science Technology Center for a campus stream restoration project.
- TMACOG, the University of Toledo and Partners for Clean Streams co-hosted a Road Salt BMP workshop for public works and road maintenance staff discussing salt management to protect freshwater, fish, and benthos.

Project Highlight Rack Cards

- The MAAC facilitating organization, Partners for Clean Streams, developed three new educational rack cards and associated web pages highlighting aquatic and habitat restoration projects in the AOC.

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.

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Maumee AOC

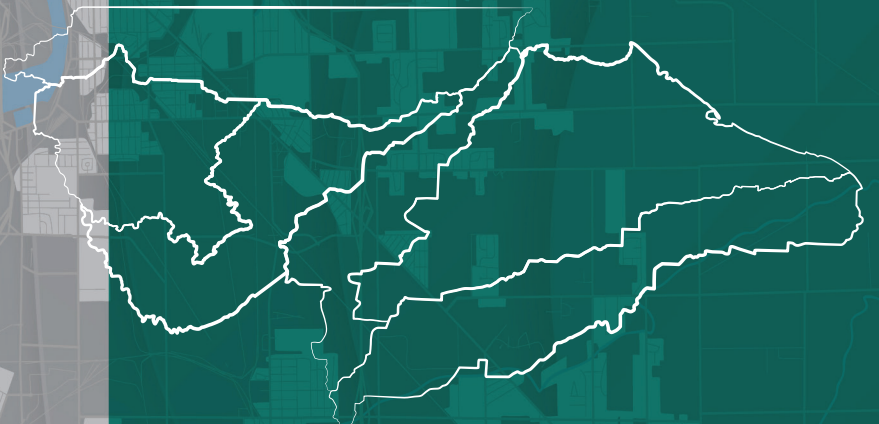
In 1987, the joint U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement formed the Area of Concern (AOC) program. This program, specific to the Great Lakes Region, defines AOCs as "geographic areas where significant impairment of beneficial uses has occurred as a result of human activities at the local level." 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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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 one has been removed and nine 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 (2022)
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): In progress	
BUI 6	Degradation of benthos: In progress (MAP List being implemented)	
BUI 7	Restriction on dredging activities: In progress	
BUI 8	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	
	8a: Eutrophication (dissolved oxygen): Target met in 2014	
	8b: Eutrophication (persistent growth): In progress	
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: Target met in 2021	
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



Photos courtesy of Ohio EPA and Partners for Clean Streams.

Project Work: 2022

8 Projects Completed

Wildlife Habitat Management Actions (BUI14b)

→ 5 projects completed

→ 1739.9 acres completed

Aquatic Management Actions (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)

→ 3 projects completed

Implementation Work: 2022

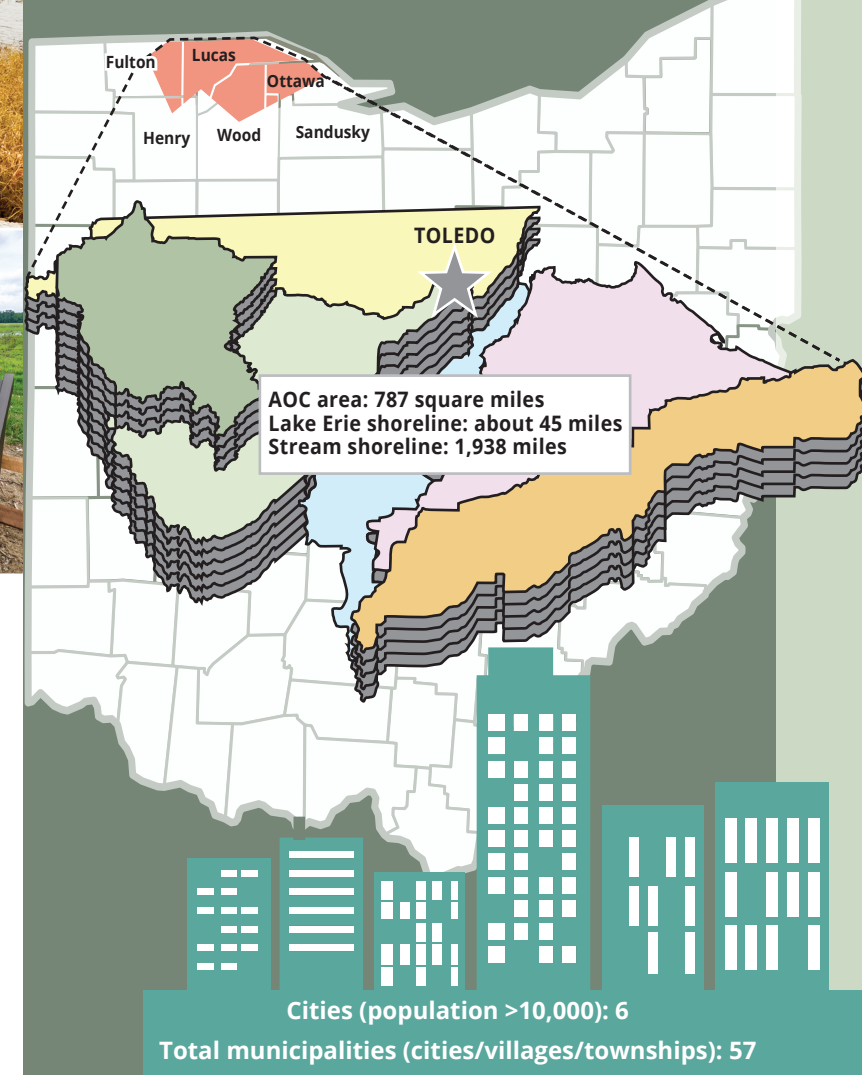
Out of 83+ total Management Action Projects (MAPs), 73 (88%) have funding fully allocated, with a further seven (8%) partially funded. All 20 Wildlife MAPs are funded; five projects were completed this year, with the remaining four projects expected to be completed by the end of 2024. Out of 53+ Aquatic MAPs, 50 are fully funded, two are partially funded, and one project is yet to be funded. Sediment MAPs are complex but are making progress, with nearly \$20 million committed to the remaining contaminated sediment clean-up projects.

In 2022, the MAAC celebrated the **removal** of BUI 1, Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption. Next year in 2023, the MAAC anticipates the removal of BUI 11, Degradation of Aesthetics. Years of effort by many partners have gone into improving the conditions associated with these BUIs.

Photo courtesy of Ohio EPA.



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:
~ 494,625

