



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

August 15, 2024 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

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Audio Call in [+1 614-721-2972](#) Phone Conference ID: 864 401 143#

AGENDA

- **Welcome & Meeting/Call Logistics** (Mike Pniewski, Chair)
- **VOTE: Minutes** (Chair) (5 mins)
- **BUI 7 Removal Restrictions on Dredging Activities** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (10 mins)
 - [Summary Report](#)
 - [Full Report](#)
- **VOTE - BUI 7 Removal Letter of Support** (Chair) (5 mins)
- **US AOC Conference** (Kristina Patterson, OLEC) (10 mins)
 - Partners and Roles
 - Dates and a Rough Timeline
 - MAAC Assistance
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, US EPA - GLNPO) (5 mins)
 - 2025 Projections
 - Action Plan IV Status
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (10 mins)
 - MAP Updates
 - BUI Status Updates
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Jesse Stock, PCS) (10 mins)
 - Financial Update
 - Future Activities
 - Site Visit
- **MAP Spotlight** (Kat Kieffer, Water Monitor Coordinator, PCS) (10 mins)
 - Stream Restoration at Lathrop Park (MAP HTC-12.2)
- **Partner Updates** (10 mins)
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)
- **Next Meeting for 2024 – December 5 (1:30 pm – 3:00 pm)**



**Maumee AOC Coordinator Report
for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee
August 15, 2024**

- **WildMAPs (BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat)**
 - ODNR continues to work toward completing the final WildMAP in 2025.
 - No updates to the Summary Table of the WildMAPs since the last version dated 1/29/24.
 - A detailed narrative tracking of the WildMAPs is available upon request.
- **AquaMAPs (BUI 3a, 6, 14a: Fish Pops, Benthic Pops, Fish Habitat)**
 - Project Status Summary
 - Early funding/site assessment: 4 projects
 - Design/permitting: 22 projects (12 expected to start implementation in next 3 months)
 - Implementation/construction: 4 projects
 - Substantially Complete/establishment/warranty: 3 projects
 - Project complete: 5 projects
 - Several projects are working on additional funding to support their efforts, and several have requested grant extensions. Due to numerous pending changes, there are no updates to the Summary Table of the AquaMAPs since the last version dated 5/7/24.
 - 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.
 - Additional data is needed from Swan Creek in order to select a preferred remedial alternative and complete the *Swan Creek Focused Feasibility Study (FFS)*. This additional work will be collected over the next 9-12 months.
 - The Toledo/Lucas County Port Authority has hired EA as the lead consultant for the remedial design for the two Lower Maumee River GLLA sites (Sway Bridge, WWTP). The PMT is meeting weekly (as of now). The RD is expected to be complete by Fall 2025.
 - Sediment sampling is planned in the Ottawa River 4Y hot spot in October to further delineate the conditions. A feasibility study is expected to be complete this coming winter/spring with remedial design and clean up to follow.
 - No updates to the Summary Table of the SedMAPs since the last version dated 5/10/24.
 - A narrative tracking of the SedMAPs is available upon request.
- **Misc. MAPs (BUIs 4, 7, 8, 10)**
 - **BUI 4: Deformities & Tumors** – We are still awaiting data, so a full status evaluation of this BUI can be done to see if it can be removed.
 - **BUI 7: Dredging** – Public comment is complete. Once received, a MAAC letter of support will be added to the package so it will be routed through Ohio sign-off and sent to GLNPO for concurrence with the removal. Expect to see this accepted by end of September.
 - **BUI 10a: Beach Closings (advisories)** – This project is complete. Ohio would like one season of data (hopefully it will show reductions in postings), then we can consider removing this BUI.
 - **BUI 8b: Eutrophication** – I will update the committee at a future meeting.
- **AOC Program Updates**
 - U.S AOC Conference: This will be reported on as a regular MAAC agenda item from now until Fall 2025. Let's make it the best AOC Conference --- EVER!! ☺
 - Resource/Material sharing sheet: Headwaters Tenmile project (Lucas SWCD) will be sharing trees with Metroparks Toledo for two of their projects in the Oak Openings (Blue, Neis) this fall. They are coordinating construction schedules and hauling between the projects. The sharing of materials between TPS and Toledo's Bandore Park project is still pending Toledo hiring their construction contractor. Let me know if you have materials to share or if you have a need for your project.



August 15, 2024

Anne M. Vogel, Director
Ohio EPA – Director’s Office
P. O. Box 1049
Columbus OH 43216-1049

Joy Mulinex, Executive Director
Ohio Lake Erie Commission
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus OH 43126-1049

RE: Support to Request to GLNPO for Removal of Beneficial Use Impairment for Restrictions on Navigational Dredging Activities

Dear Directors Vogel and Mulinex,

The Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) Advisory Committee (MAAC) reviewed the removal recommendation document for the beneficial use impairment (BUI) for Restrictions on Navigational Dredging Activities (BUI 7). The MAAC supports the Ohio AOC Program’s BUI 7 removal recommendation documentation submittal to the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) requesting their approval consideration.

Upon removal of this BUI, four of the original ten BUIs would be removed from the Maumee AOC. If approved, the following impairments would remain:

- BUI #3: Degradation of Fish & Wildlife Populations
- BUI #4: Fish Tumors or Other Deformities
- BUI #6: Degradation of Benthos
- BUI #8: Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae
- BUI #10: Beach Closings (Recreational Contact)
- BUI #14: Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat

The MAAC looks forward to continuing to work in coordination with the Ohio AOC Program and GLNPO to complete the work necessary to remove remaining BUIs.

Sincerely,

Mike Pniewski, Chair
Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

cc: Kris Patterson, OLEC and Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA

AOC Conference

Toledo, September 2025



Overview

- Pre-conference field trips (3 or 4 routes), AOC 101 sessions, & gathering (optional)
- Conference sessions – 1.5 days
- Extra evening activity/reception during conference – additional cost and sign up
- Keep conference registration low (under \$100) and provide scholarships & optional gatherings
- Around 320 attendees (or more), mostly government and AOC committee members



Partnership

- This conference has a long history, set of expectations, and collaborative approach
- US EPA & State AOC reps across Great Lakes will lead the content, structure, call for presenters, and provide input on optional activities and field trips (and provide people power during it)
- Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) is state lead, in conjunction with US EPA
- Ohio EPA will support the AOC planning & showcasing
- OLEC will subaward to PCS to support the conference planning & logistics

OLEC & Ohio EPA Role

OLEC

- Liaison with US EPA and other state AOC coordinators
- Overall planning
- Oversee grant to PCS
- Overall logistics during conference

Ohio EPA

- Liaison with MAAC
- Support field trip planning
- Oversee Erie 22 grant & how it intersects or augments the conference grant
- Back up OLEC on EPA-States team
- Additional support during the conference

PCS Role

- Lead conference logistics
 - Secure venues for conference & hotels & on-site resources (food, A/V)
 - Set up & manage online registration, promoting the conference, digital agenda & session management platform
 - Handle all payments, bills, and scholarship distribution
 - Set up logistics for field trips (buses and/or boat rental)
 - Provide materials & supplies (tripods, oversized printing, posters)
 - Arrange for supplemental activities (non-grant funded) to augment the conference with networking & showcasing the AOC
 - Liaison with sponsors to augment the grant support for the conference basics
- Maintain regular, frequent communication with OLEC
- Administer this grant per federal reporting & fiscal management rules and per the scope in the workplan



MAAC Role

- Open for ideas and active engagement!
 - Ideas to consider:
 - Field trip planning, presenting, in kind support?
 - New signage, materials to highlight AOC at sites or for field trips?
 - Assist at conference?
 - Evening activities support?
 - Sponsors?

Anything else?

Supporting Progress on Lathrop Park Stream Restoration Project

AquaMAP Project Updates
MAAC Quarterly Meeting, Aug. 15, 2024
Kat Kieffer, Partners for Clean Streams

Project Location

- Lucas County - Berkey, OH
- Public park + adjacent stream corridor on Tenmile Creek, ~1500 linear feet
- Submitted and approved by GLNPO as an Aqua MAP in 2020; grant funding began Nov. 2023



Conditions Prior to Project

- Southern bank stabilized in areas with broken concrete, some plant growth
- Erosion occurring on bends with no stabilization, bend in the middle of the site has highest erosion rate
- Flashy flows indicated by drift deposits and undercutting on banks
- BUI Status for Headwaters Tenmile HUC-12
 - BUI 6 (Degradation of Benthos) - Impaired, 88% of target
 - BUI 14a (Loss of Fish Habitat) - Impaired, 67% of target



Undercut bank at the upstream end of the site



Highly eroding bank along the bend in the middle of the site

Restoration Plan Goals

- Restore 900 feet (~0.75 acres) of riparian buffer
- Stabilize 600 feet of eroding streambank
- Create/enhance 165 feet of riffle habitat
- Restore riffle-pool sequence across the site
- Enhance in-stream habitat

ICI



2 to 6 points

QHEI



12 to 18 points

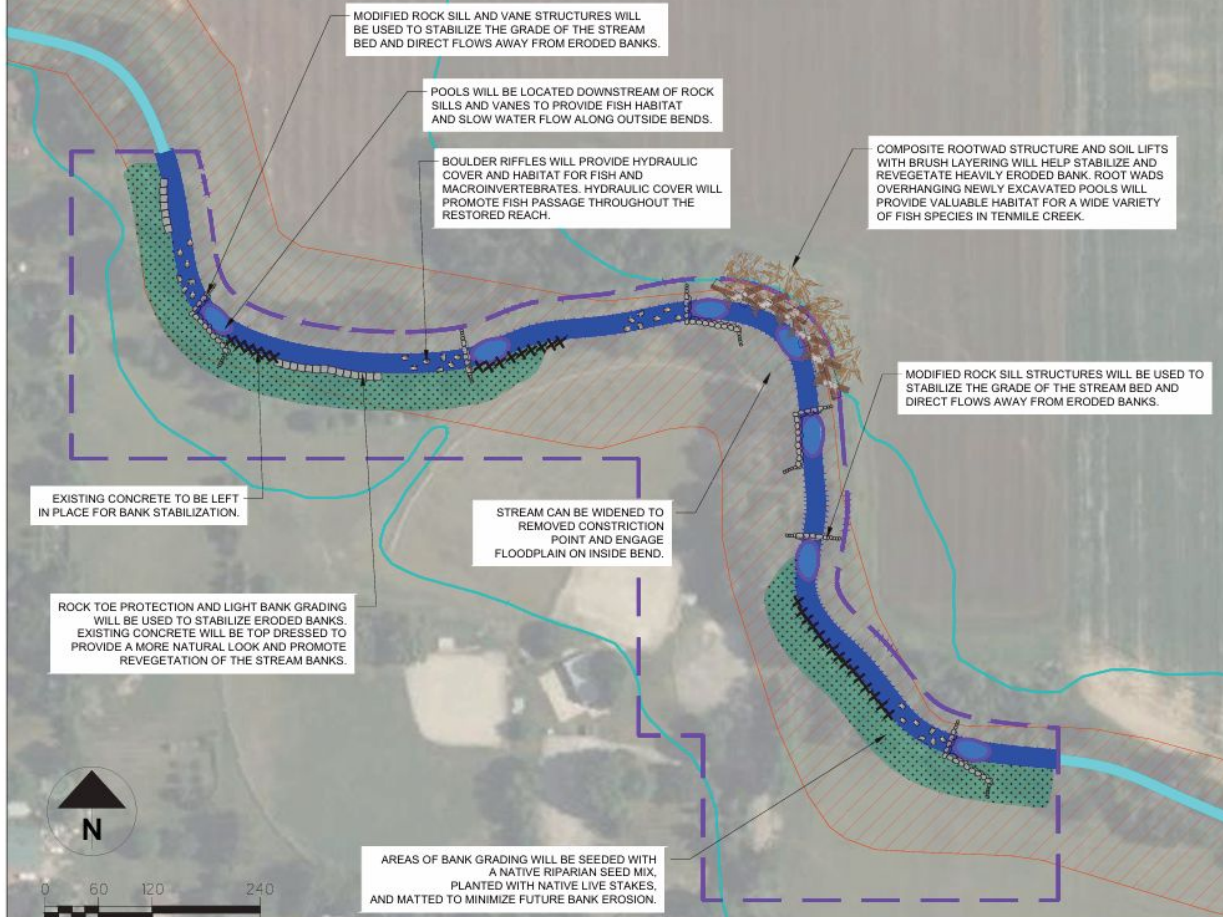
IBI



0 points

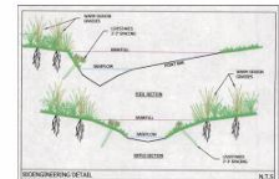


APPENDIX A: CONCEPT PLAN

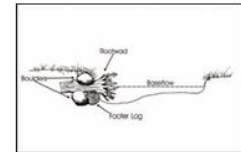


CONCEPT PLAN LEGEND

PROPOSED PROJECT AREA	
EXISTING STREAM (TO REMAIN)	
PROPOSED STREAM RESTORATION (1,500 LF)	
FEMA FLOODZONE AE	
REGULATORY FLOODWAY	
PROPOSED LIVE STAKES	
PROPOSED LIGHT BANK GRADING AND RIPARIAN PLANTINGS (1.15 AC)	
PROPOSED COMPOSITE ROOTWADS AND SOIL LIFTS WITH BRUSH LAYERING (BANK STABILIZATION AND FISH HABITAT)	
PROPOSED BOULDER RIFFLE (FISH HABITAT AND HYDRAULIC COVER)	
PROPOSED ROCK SILL (GRADE CONTROL)	
PROPOSED ROCK SILL WITH VANE (GRADE CONTROL AND THALWEG REALIGNMENT)	
PROPOSED POOL (FISH HABITAT)	
PROPOSED ROCK TOE PROTECTION (BANK STABILIZATION)	



CORN MATS, NATIVE RIPARIAN SEEDS, AND NATIVE LIVE STAKES AND POLES SUCH AS WILLOW AND DOGWOOD WILL BE INSTALLED ON THE NEWLY GRADE BANKS. AFTER ESTABLISHMENT, THIS RIPARIAN BUFFER WILL PROVIDE STABILITY TO THE STREAM BANKS AND SHADY COVER ALONG THE STREAM CHANNEL. ADDITIONALLY, THE VARIOUS PLANT COMMUNITIES WILL ABSORB NUTRIENTS FROM THE ADJACENT FIELDS BEFORE THEY CAN REACH THE STREAM.



ROOTWADS INSTALLED IN AREAS OF HIGH EROSION WILL RETAIN TOP TOP-STRIP BANK INTERIORS WITH CHANNEL TO THE

Great Lakes RESTORATION

FUNDED BY:

PREPARED BY:

PREPARED FOR:

LATHROP PARK STREAM AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION CONCEPT PLAN

DATE: 2023.05.17

Before



After (DRG rendering)



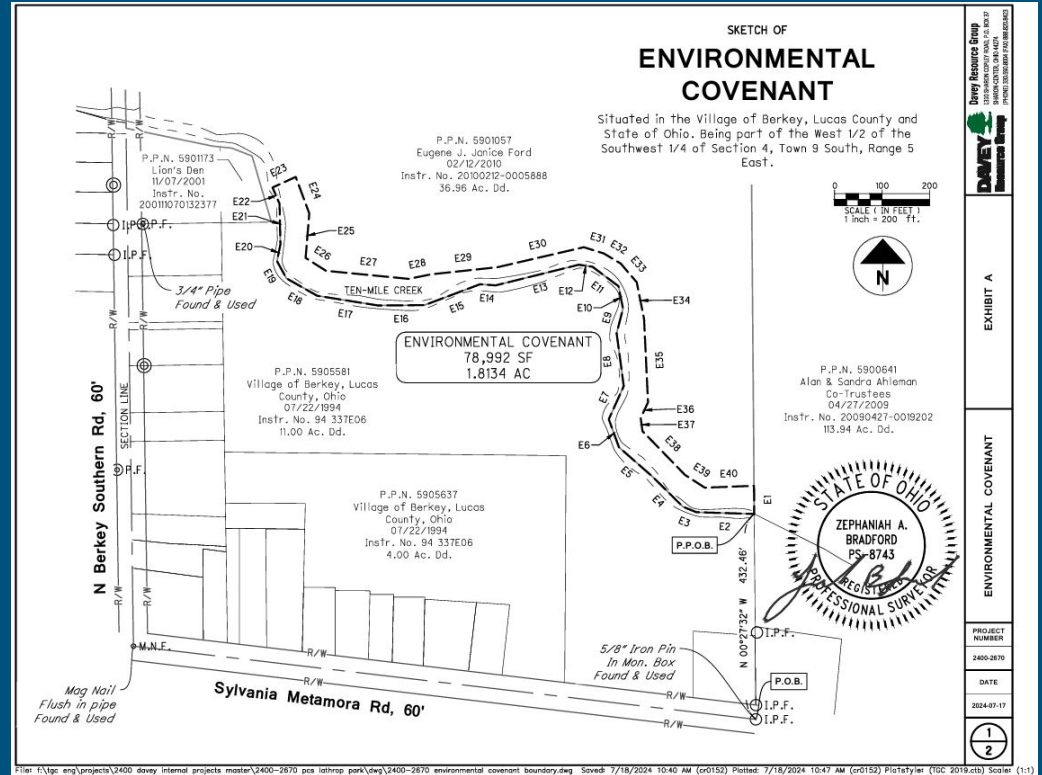
Timeline + Progress

- Project on target with grant timeline through July 2024
- Highlights:
 - Community meeting + informational mailing sent in March 2024
 - Site preparation:
 - Tree removal/topping - March
 - Initial invasive species treatment - June
 - Native mussel survey/relocation - June
 - All permits complete (Floodplain in progress)
 - Staging underway this week (August)



Updates

- Worked with property owners to add additional acreage (~1.8) for restoration on the northern streambank
- Environmental covenant completed August 2024



Looking Ahead

- Construction kickoff set for August 20th
- On track to meet all project implementation goals



Timeline	Description	Responsible Party
July 30, 2024	Progress report due	PCS to Ohio EPA
August/Sept 2024	Project implementation begins	PCS/Contractor
Fall 2024	Project Implementation as weather allows	PCS/Contractor
Winter 2024	Operations and Maintenance Plan developed, once project complete	Contractor with support of PCS and PMT
Jan. 30, 2025	Progress report due	PCS to Ohio EPA
Spring 2025	Monitor plantings for acceptable hardiness and density; and replant as needed if acceptable hardiness and density have not been achieved per QAPP	PCS/Contractor
Summer/Fall 2025	Monitor site for issues or maintenance	PCS
July 30, 2025	Progress report due	PCS to Ohio EPA
September 30, 2025	Design/Build contract ends	PCS
Fall 2025	Conduct ribbon cutting celebration event for community	PCS, with support from PMT and Ohio EPA
November 30, 2025	Subaward grant with PCS ends	Ohio EPA
Jan. 15, 2026	Final report submitted to Ohio EPA for subaward	PCS provides to Ohio EPA

Thank you!

Questions?

Contact Kat Kieffer

kat@partnersforcleanstreams.org



Removal Recommendation for the Restrictions on Navigational Dredging Activities Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI 7) in the Maumee AOC



MAAC Update – August 15, 2024

State of Ohio Restoration Target

State of Ohio Listing Guideline

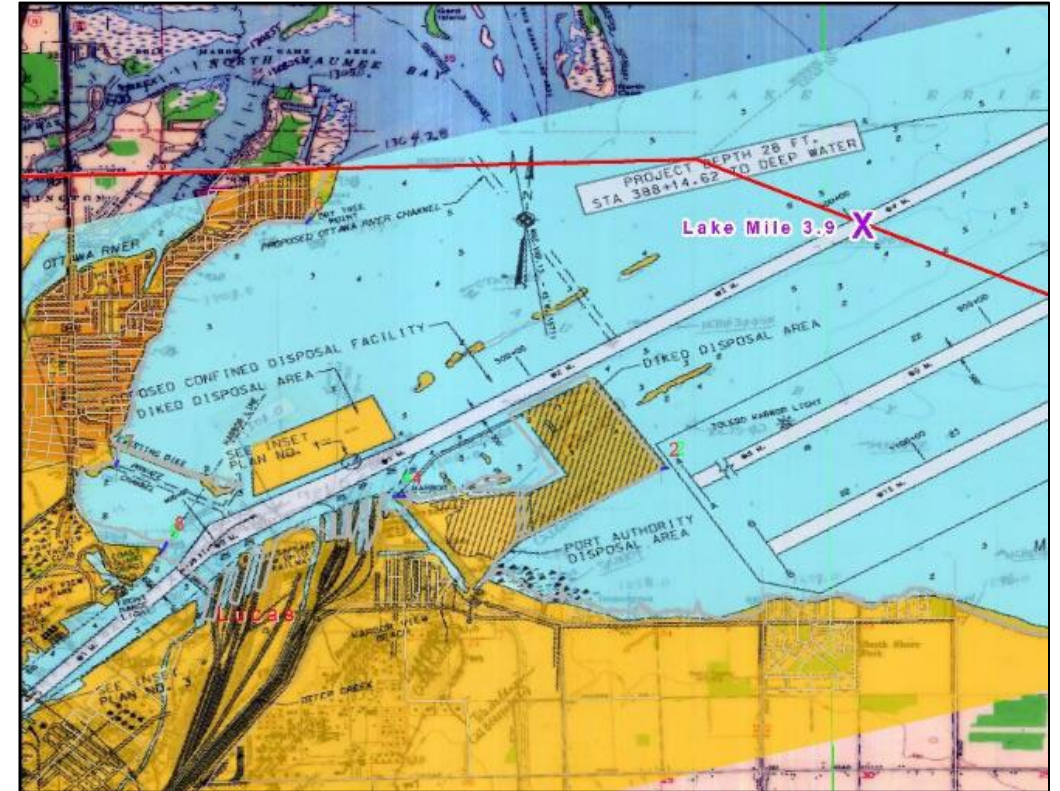
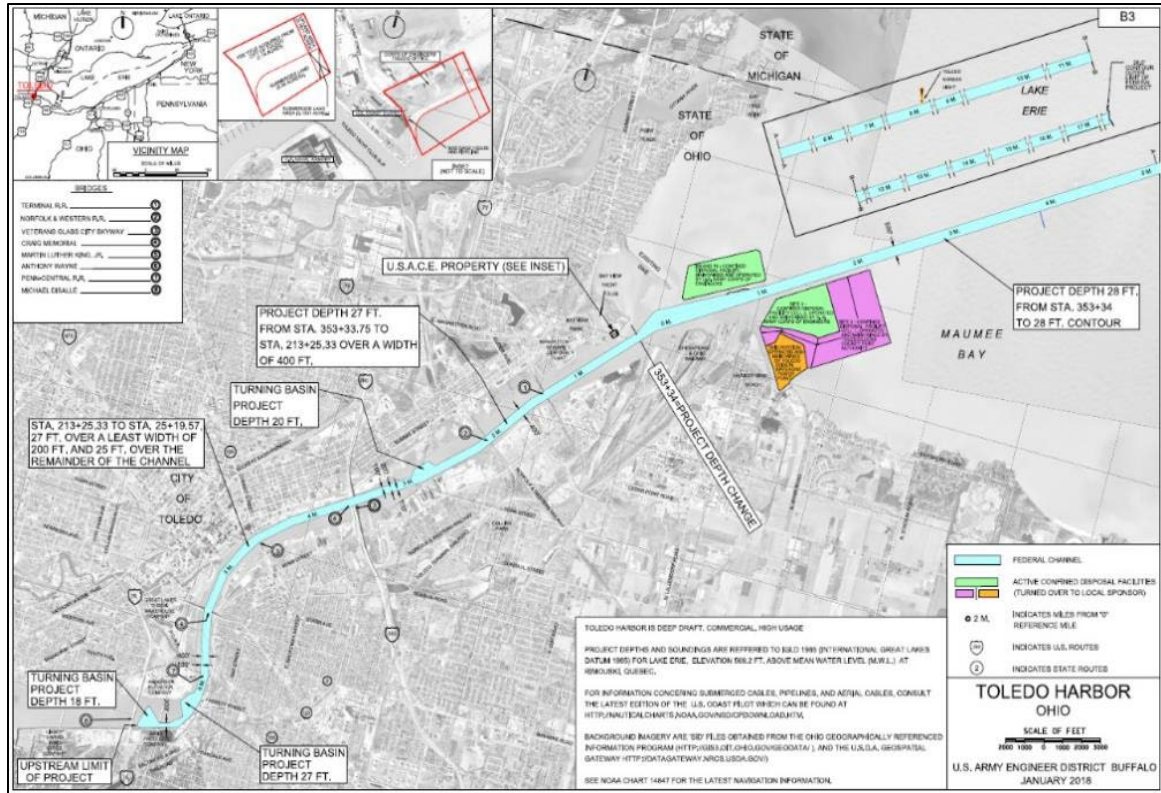
This beneficial use shall be listed as impaired if:

- Contaminants in sediment exceed sediment quality guidelines used by the State such that there are restrictions on navigational dredging or disposal activities.

State of Ohio Restoration Target

- There are no restrictions on navigational dredging or disposal activities due to contaminants in sediment, such that there are suitable options available for reuse or disposal of the material.

Toledo Harbor Federal Navigation Channel within the Maumee AOC



The Toledo Harbor federal navigation channel includes the lower seven miles of the Maumee River and a Lake Approach Channel extending approximately 18-miles out into Lake Erie.

The Maumee AOC includes the lower seven miles of Maumee River and up to Lake Mile 3.9.

State of Ohio Target Evaluation Criteria

- To evaluate this BUI for the Maumee AOC, Toledo Harbor dredged sediment data were compared to several standards and screening levels, including:
 - Residential and industrial soil U.S. EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs); and
 - Information regarding ambient background conditions for the upland beneficial use of dredged sediment.

➔ *If the sediment was found suitable for upland beneficial use based on this evaluation, then the restoration target for this BUI would be met.*
- An alternate evaluation method for achieving the restoration target for this BUI is related to the aquatic beneficial use of dredged sediment such as in-water habitat restoration projects.

➔ *If the sediment would be permissible for aquatic beneficial use based on the 401-certification process, then the restoration target for this BUI would be met.*

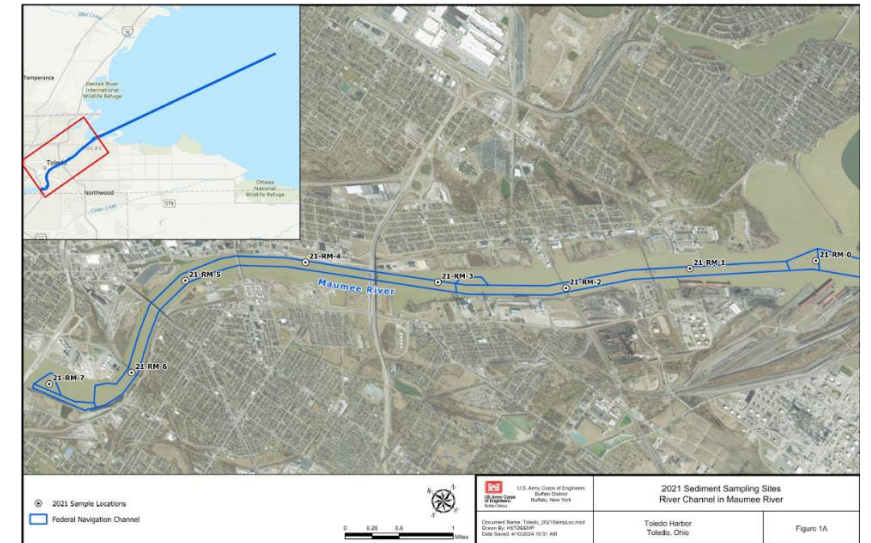
Process and Data for BUI Status Evaluation

Sediment Data Evaluation

- Review of previous sediment data: USACE 2016, 2018
- Evaluation of recent sediment data: USACE 2021

BUI Evaluation

- Sediment Risk-Based Screening Evaluation:
 - U.S. EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) for residential and industrial soil;
 - Ohio Voluntary Action Program (VAP) generic standards for residential, commercial, and industrial land uses
- Comparison to Background Levels
- Comparison to Ecological Soil and Sediment Screening Levels



Lower Maumee River Sediment Sampling Locations.



Lake Approach Channel Sediment Sampling Locations.

Sediment Data Evaluation Results

Based on the risk-based screening evaluation of residential use for the Toledo Harbor sediment data within the Maumee AOC, it was determined that:

- **Metals** concentrations are **below U.S. EPA's residential soil RSLs** or are similar to ambient background soil and sediment concentrations;
- **PAH** concentrations are **less than the cumulative risk goals for residential soil RSLs**;
- There was **only one low level detection of total PCBs** at 0.038 mg/kg, below screening levels;
- **Pesticides** were **not detected**;
- Sediment concentrations are **below Ohio VAP residential soil standards** or are similar to ambient background soil and sediment concentrations;
- Toledo Harbor sediment is **suitable for residential upland beneficial use**, as well as commercial, industrial, and recreational land use, and the restoration target for this BUI has been met; and
- Toledo Harbor sediment **may be permissible for aquatic beneficial use projects** based on the 401-certification process.

Conclusions

- **All dredged sediment** from the Toledo Harbor federal navigation channel within the Maumee AOC **has the potential to be beneficially used upland** based on the evaluation of the sediment data to the U.S. EPA residential soil regional screening levels, information regarding ambient background conditions, and ecological screening levels.
- Dredged sediment may be able **to be used for aquatic beneficial uses such as in-water habitat restoration projects**, in accordance with the 401 water quality certification process.



Metroparks Toledo has beneficially used Toledo Harbor dredge sediment at Glass City Metropark, a former brownfield.

Next Steps

- Maumee AOC Advisory Committee (MAAC) review (early July)
- Public comment period (late July/early August)
- MAAC letter of support (August 15)
- Official submittal to GLNPO for review (late Aug/early Sept)