



## Maumee Corps: Putting People to Work Restoring Habitat in the Maumee AOC

### Summary

Partners for Clean Streams (PCS), the non-profit supporting the Maumee Remedial Action Plan (RAP), was awarded \$800,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in FY 2012 to help us fuel our area's economy and create seasonal, part-time, temporary and/or full time jobs. Teams of workers, known as the "Maumee Corps," are focused on habitat restoration in the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) - primarily the Ottawa River and Swan Creek watersheds. PCS is working in partnership with The Metroparks of the Toledo Area and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as sub-award recipients.

### Goals of the Project

- Improve more than 1,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat
- Restore at least 250 acres of fish and wildlife habitat
- Create 26 jobs (total over 10,000 labor hours)

### Early Project Success

Surpassing our original goals, 29 workers have been hired, and have totaled more than 19,000 labor hours so far. The workers hired by PCS are performing fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities with The University of Toledo, The Olander Park System, and the Boy Scouts of America. Workers hired by TNC and Metroparks are conducting restoration activities on their respective organization's properties. The hard work of the Maumee Corps has put us well ahead of our scheduled goals. In the first year alone, over 1,400 acres of habitat was improved through the project. The main habitat improvement activities were invasive plant species removal and re-planting with native plants and hardwood trees within floodplain forest, wet prairie, and riparian habitat. In addition, workers harvested and relocated willow whips and native seed, and re-planted areas devastated by tornadoes and Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle.

## Looking Forward

This project supports a long-term goal established in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan to protect and restore habitat. More specifically, the Maumee Corps' work will result in long-term outcomes that will bring the Maumee AOC closer to delisting two Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs): the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat (BUI #14) and Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations (BUI #3).

The Maumee Corps would not be the success it already is without the outstanding leadership and

cooperation of our partners. There is much more on deck for PCS and our partners in restoration, as we are only half-way through this project. Crews will continue work through the end of this year, and will be back again in the summer of 2014. PCS is looking forward to continuing our work to remove invasive plant species and plant native vegetation, further stimulating long-term habitat restoration in the Maumee AOC.

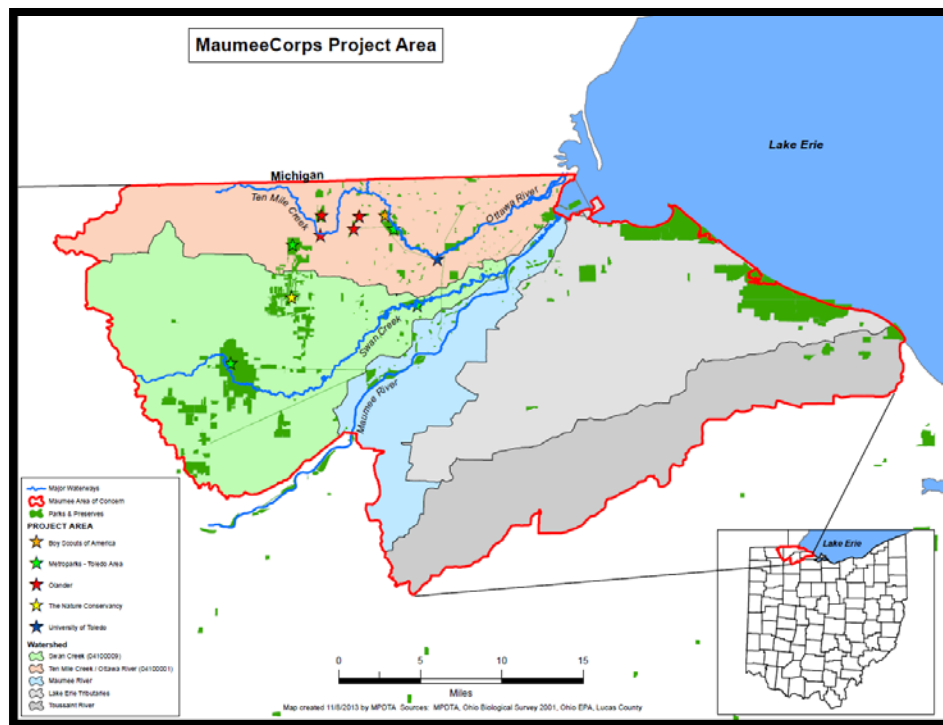


Figure 1: Representative map of project locations for Maumee Corps

"I view this internship as an excellent opportunity for me to gain valuable environmental field experience that will help me accomplish my career goal of becoming an environmental consultant. I believe this internship will also allow me to hone my leadership abilities and provide me with valuable knowledge in habitat restoration practices and plant identification skills."

*Craig Krajewski – Maumee Corps Team Member, recent graduate of The University of Toledo*

## Want to Learn More?

PCS would love to tell you more about this or our other projects and answer your questions.

Call us to schedule a presentation for your group or club and let us tell you how you can become a Partner for Clean Streams by donating or volunteering for one of our many programs.

Contact PCS at 419.874.0727 or visit our website at: [www.PartnersForCleanStreams.org](http://www.PartnersForCleanStreams.org)

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