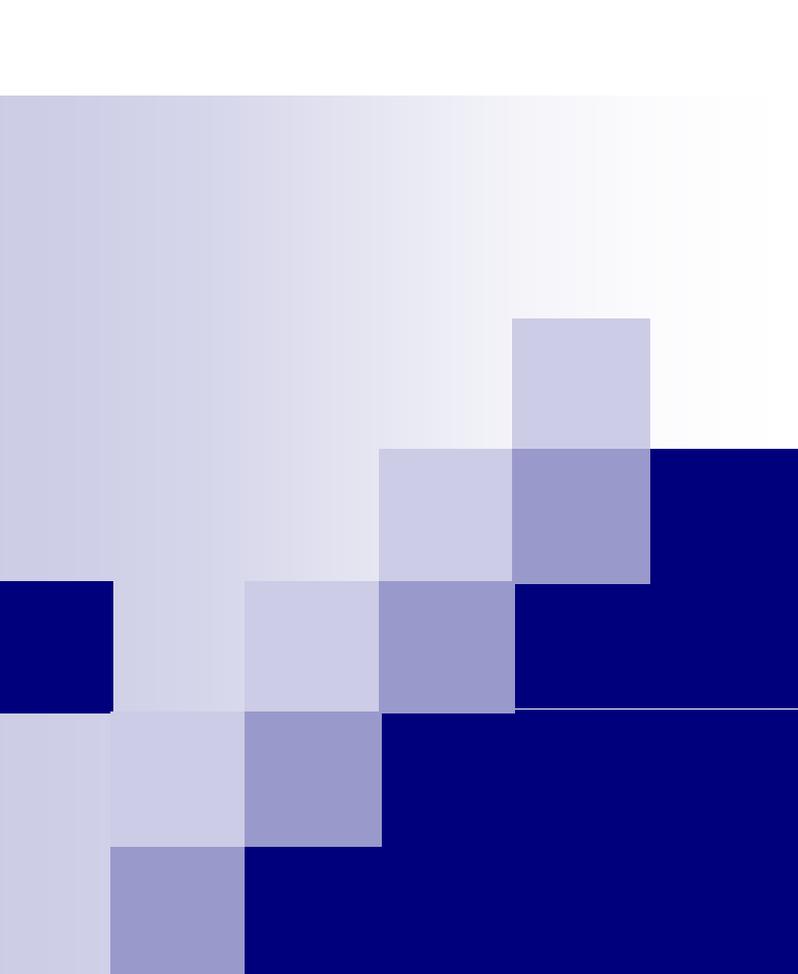




**Welcome to Toledo!**

**Dam Mitigation and Site Restoration Workshop**

*August 25-27, 2008*



# Great Lakes: Water Quality Agreement Areas of Concern Remedial Action Plans

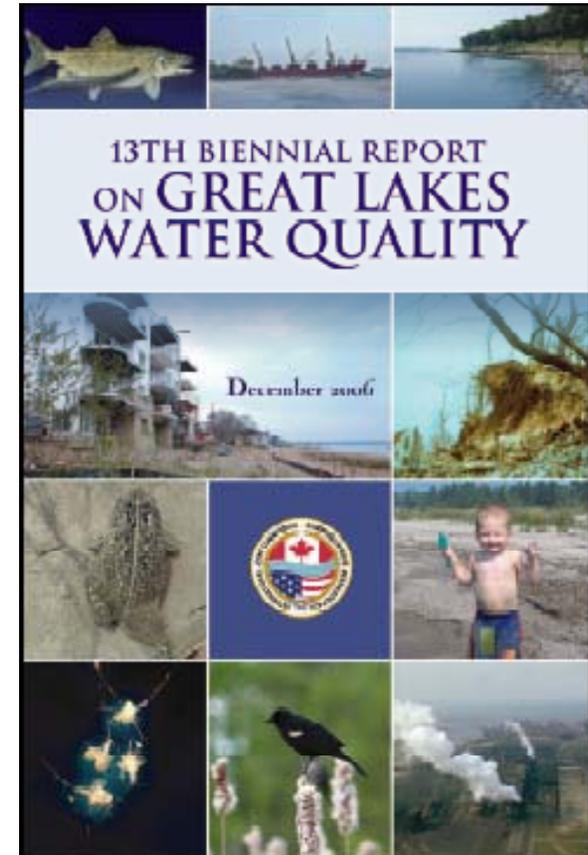
## ***Binational Great Lakes History***

- 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty
  - International Joint Commission was established under this Treaty
  - IJC is to advise Canada and U.S. to address issues along common border
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)
  - Canada and U.S. sign agreement for a coordinated cleanup effort for phosphorus pollution in 1972
  - GLWQA has been revised and expanded several times.
  - The 1987 revision (signed in Toledo) included the development of Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern

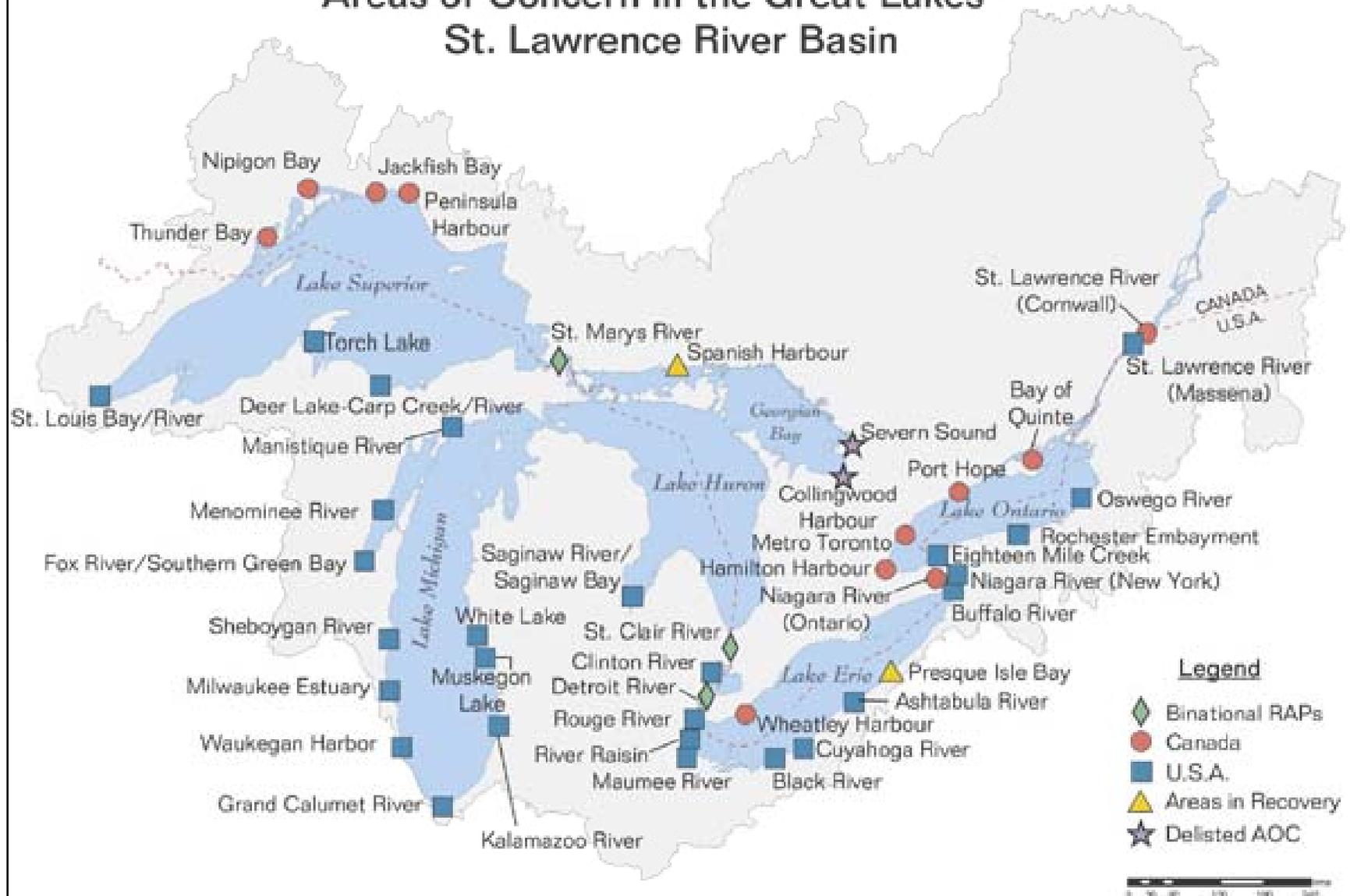


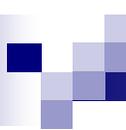
## GLWQA – Annex 2

- Areas of Concern (AOCs)
  - 43 areas were identified where the general or specific objectives of the GLWQA were not being met
  - Included major municipal & industrial centers on Gr. Lakes rivers and harbors
- Remedial Action Plans (RAPs)
  - RAPs were envisioned to be plans that would identify the problems and outline how to fix them
  - Impairments to 14 beneficial uses would be the focus (i.e. habitat, beach closings, wildlife deformities, fish consumption, etc.)



## Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin





## *RAP Philosophy*

- A multi-faceted broad approach is needed to cleanup Great Lakes Areas of Concern
- An ecosystem approach needs to be used which considers all pollution sources and their impacts
- A diverse group of individuals is needed to consider all options, development comprehensive plans, and implement successful projects

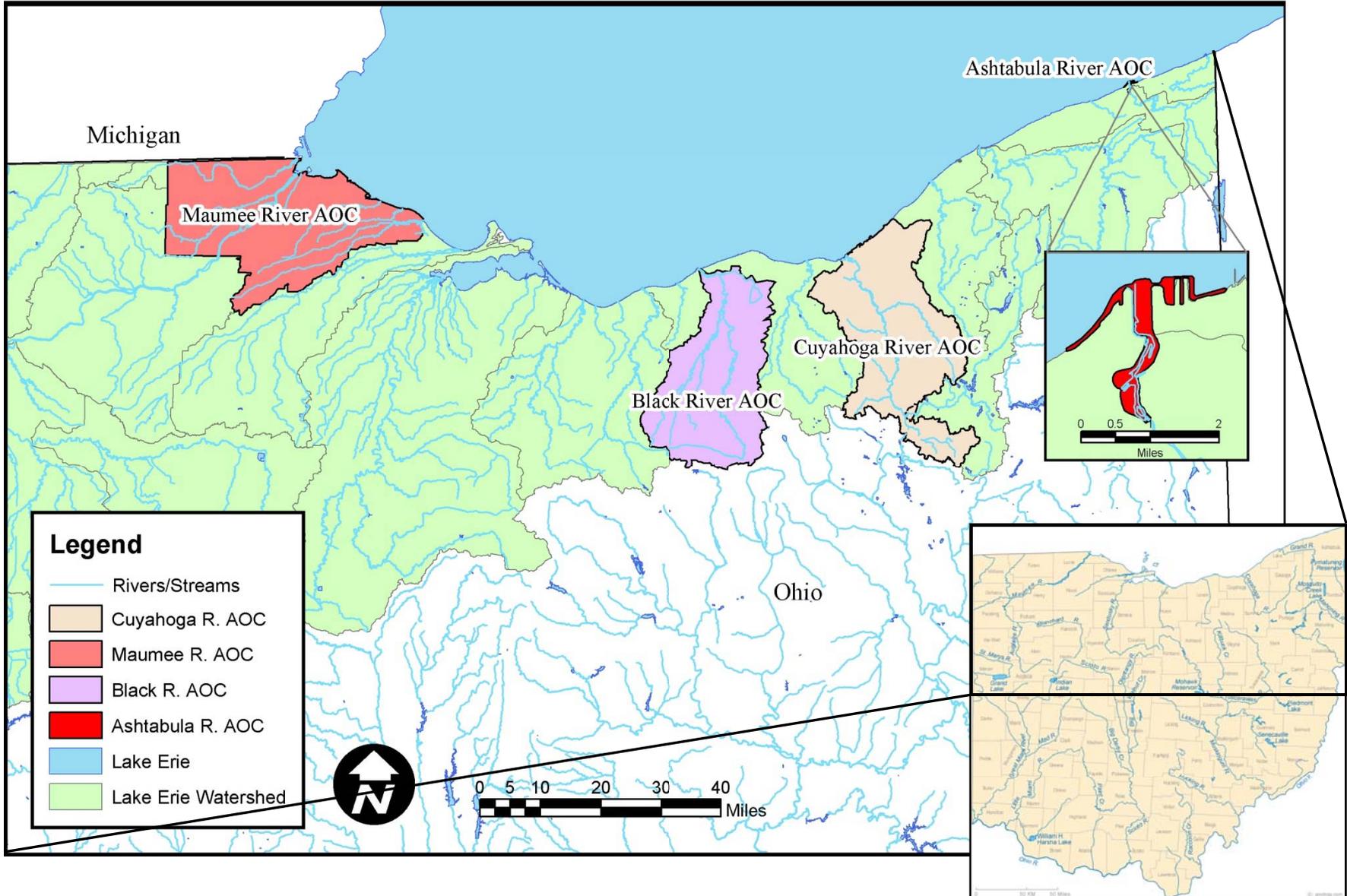
## *RAP Process*

- The documentation of process and progress is a necessary component of Great Lakes Areas of Concern restoration
- The process developed by the IJC to address the problems of the 43 AOCs includes the creation of 3 Stage “remedial action plans”
  - Stage 1 – Identification of environmental problems and sources
  - Stage 2 – Elimination of pollution sources to improve water quality
  - Stage 3 – Protection of the improved water quality
- *The RAPs need to present information based on restoration of 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs)*

## *Ohio EPA and RAPs*

- Ohio EPA is responsible for ensuring Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) are developed and implemented in Ohio's four Areas of Concern (AOCs)
  - Maumee River
  - Cuyahoga River
  - Black River
  - Ashtabula River
- These areas are the State's most polluted and environmentally impacted rivers which empty into Lake Erie
- Each of Ohio's RAPs has been organized differently, depending on the unique characteristics of each AOC, such as:
  - environmental problems in the AOC
  - sources and causes of the problems
  - available resources - both technical and financial
- Local committees in each AOC coordinate the development and implementation of the RAP
- Ohio EPA works with local groups as an equal partner in the RAP process

# Ohio's Areas of Concern

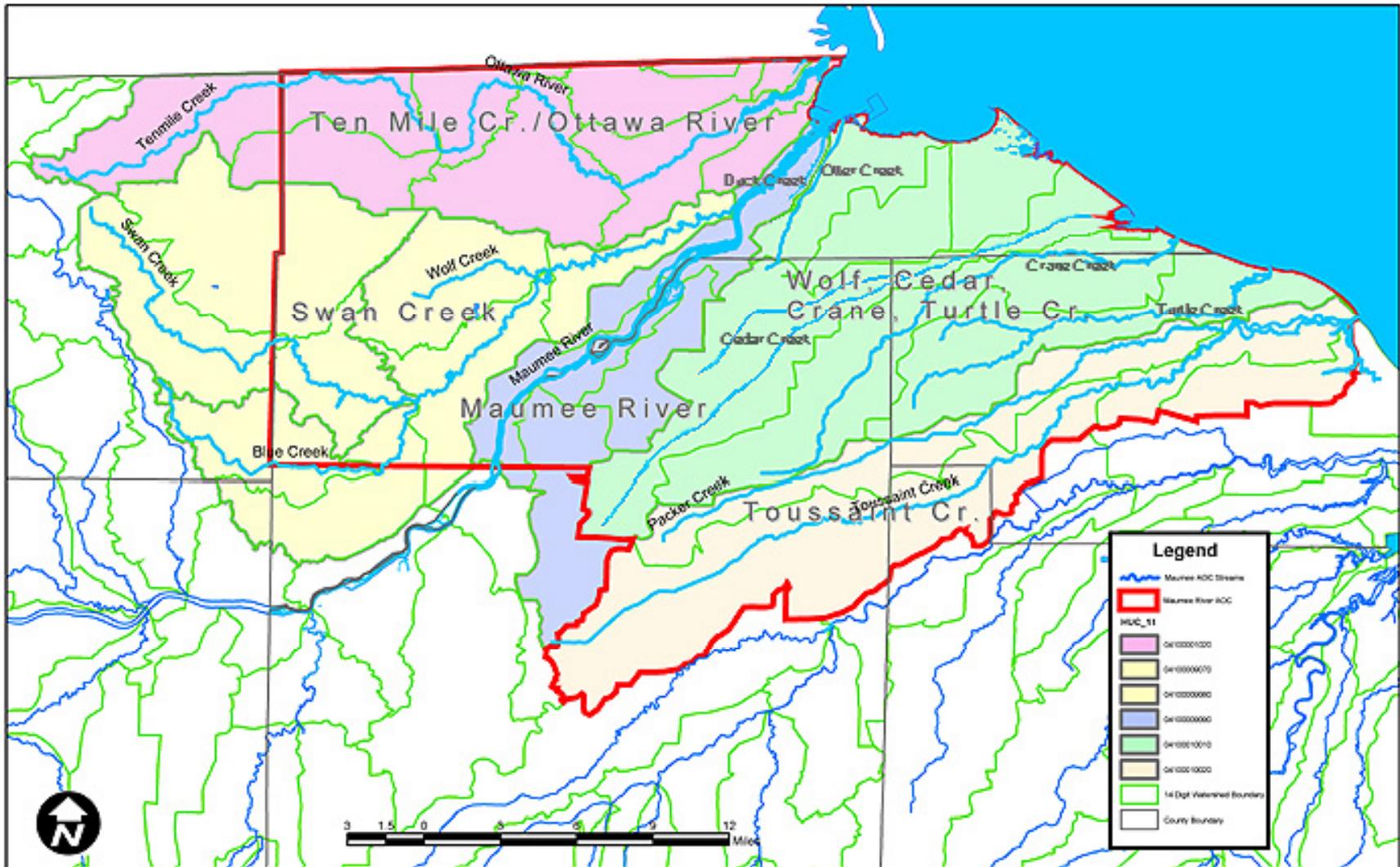


## *Maumee RAP & Partners for Clean Streams*

- Housed with a local Council of Governments for nearly 20 years, the Maumee RAP has now grown to establish its own 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Partners for Clean Streams (PCS).
- The Mission of PCS is to strive for abundant open space and a high quality natural environment; adequate floodwater storage capacities and flourishing wildlife; stakeholders who take local ownership in their resources; and rivers, streams, and lakes that are clean, clear and safe.
- PCS currently facilitates its partners through planning, implementation, and organizational sustainability utilizing a part-time Executive Director that assists with managing the implementation projects, ongoing annual community projects, and overall PCS administration/ budgeting.
- The Maumee RAP is an Advisory Committee under PCS focused on restoring the Beneficial Uses of the Maumee AOC through project identification, development and implementation.

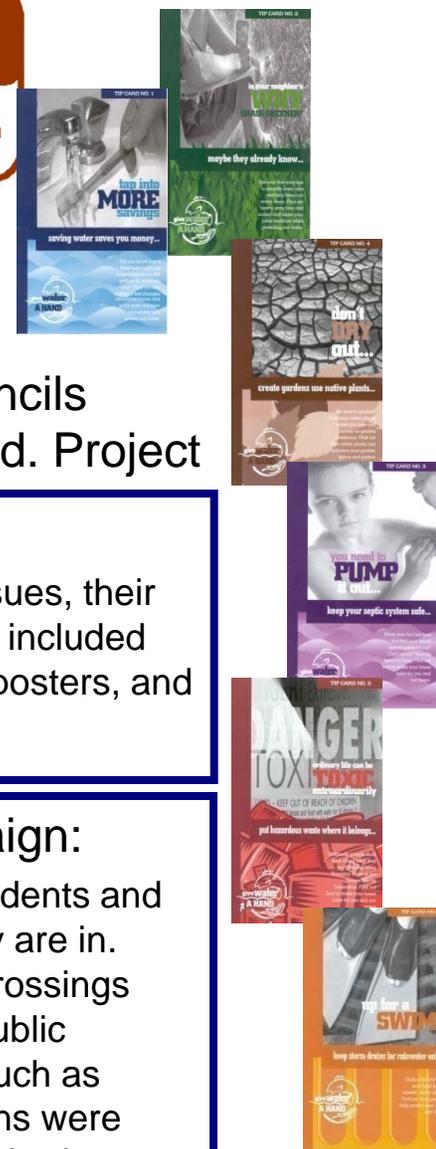


# Maumee Area of Concern



# Give Water a Hand Campaigns

- One of the most successful environmental awareness campaigns in Northwest Ohio
- Over 20 communities and organizations partnered together
- The Residential Campaign received two awards in 2006:
  - Honorable Mention from the National Association of Regional Councils
  - Ohio Environmental Education Fund Outstanding Environmental Ed. Project



## Residential Campaign:

Conducted in 2004-05 to educate residents about storm water and other environmental issues, their impact on water quality, and how the average citizen can help. This multi-media campaign included the quarterly mailing of tip cards, newspaper, cinema, and television ads, press releases, posters, and public service announcements (PSAs).

## Business Campaign:

Conducted in 2006 to inform local business owners, managers, and employees of the proper methods of storage, use, and disposal of a wide variety of materials that can help them to save money and prevent pollution. Guidebooks were created focusing on four business sectors.

## Watershed Awareness Campaign:

Conducted in 2005-06 to inform residents and visitors alike of what watershed they are in. Signs have been posted at bridge crossings and/or other locations where high public awareness and impact is needed, such as illegal dumping areas. Over 250 signs were posted in 2005 and 2006 in 6 watersheds.

# Community Outreach and Education

- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual *Clean Your Streams Day*
  - Saturday, September 13, 2008
  - 603 participated in 2007
  - 20,123 lbs of garbage in 2007
  - Over 47 tons collected in 11 years
- Partnering for Clean Streams Patch Program
  - Youth learn about their watershed and factors that are influencing our area's water quality
  - Requirements can be completed independently or at a half-day workshop held each April
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual *Get the Lead Out!* Cleanup
  - Over two weeks from May 23 to June 9, 2008
  - Pick up fishing line, lead and lures after the fish spawning run the Maumee River
  - Along the Maumee River near Sidecut Metropark in Maumee and Orleans Park and Fort Meigs in Perrysburg



## Joyce Foundation Projects

- PCS was one of four organizations to receive funds from The Joyce Foundation as a part of a \$5 million investment in the Maumee River watershed called the *Great River - Great Lakes Initiative*
- The grant is to implement 3 projects that would improve the quality of the lower end of the Maumee River and of Lake Erie, in terms of both water quality and ecosystem function
- These projects have a direct impact, but also represent and demonstrate solutions to the problems of urban, industrial areas
  - Risk Assessments
    - To prepare for Great Lakes Legacy Act application, if necessary
  - Dam Mitigation
    - Mitigate effects of dam without removing it
  - Inventory & Restoration Plans
    - Prioritize and plan for future projects opportunities

### **TheJoyceFoundation**

*Maumee Initiative: Great River, Great Lakes*



# QUESTIONS ??

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