

Metroparks in the Maumee AOC: Oak Openings and Beyond



METROPARKS
T O L E D O A R E A

Your Clean, Safe, Natural Places To Be

What is a Metropark?

Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area



Established in 1928 (ORC 1545)

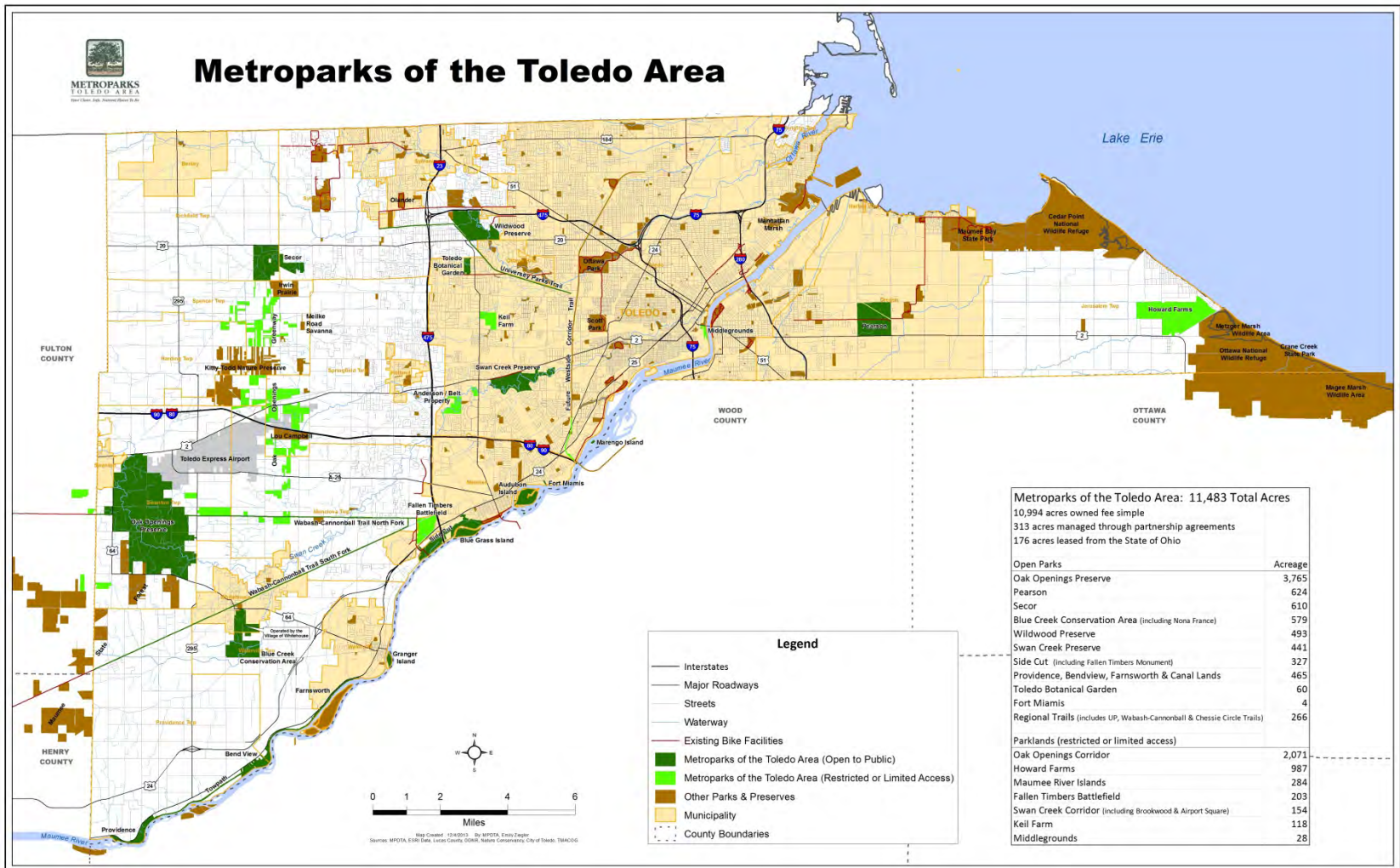
Regional System of Public
Parklands with Natural and
Historical Significance

***To enhance quality of life
and inspire preservation
efforts in this and future
generations***

Primary Funding: Tax Levies

11,483 acres of parkland in Maumee AOC

11 parks, 2 regional bikeways & Toledo Botanical Garden



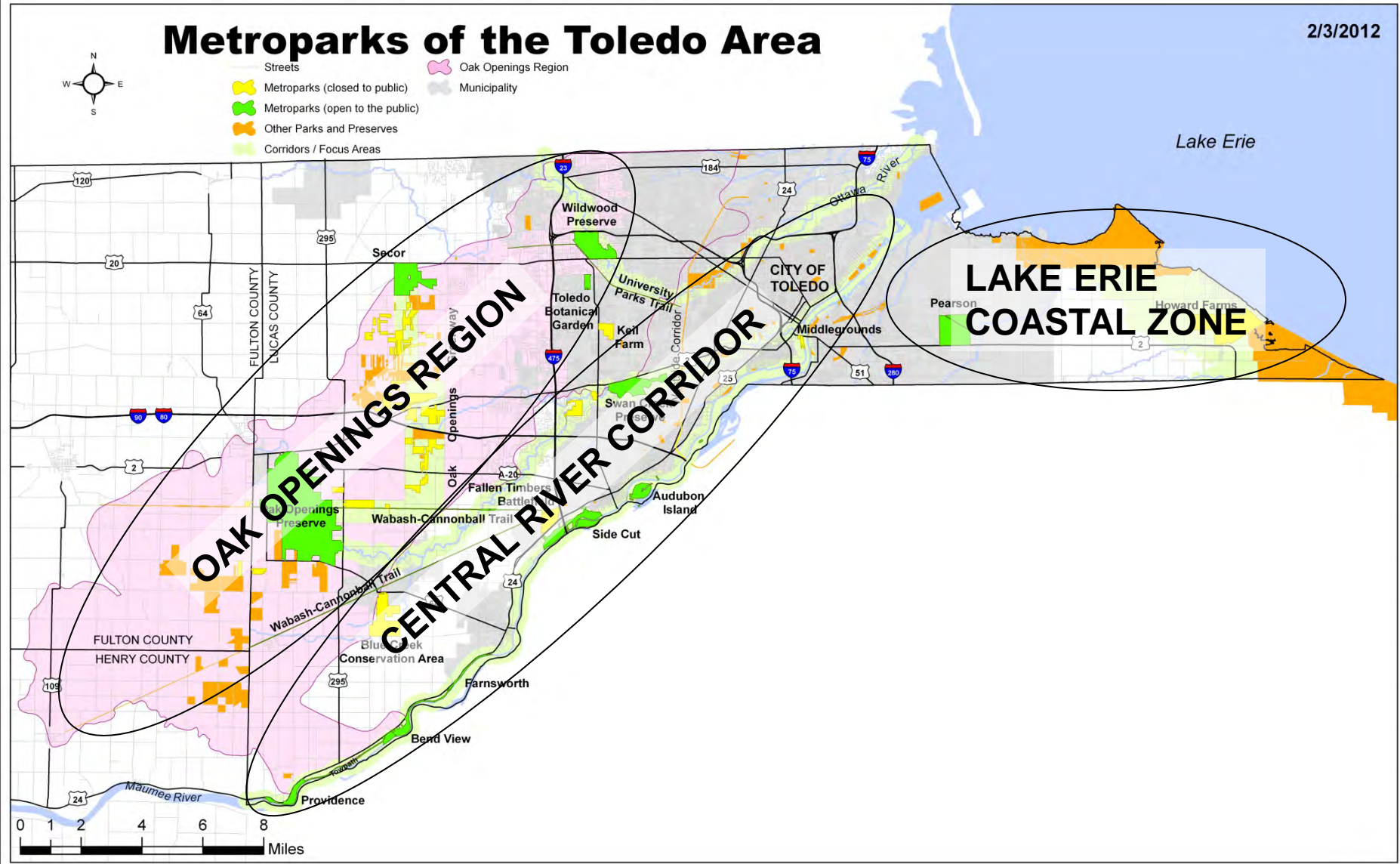
Park-to-Park Associations

Metroparks of the Toledo Area

2/3/2012



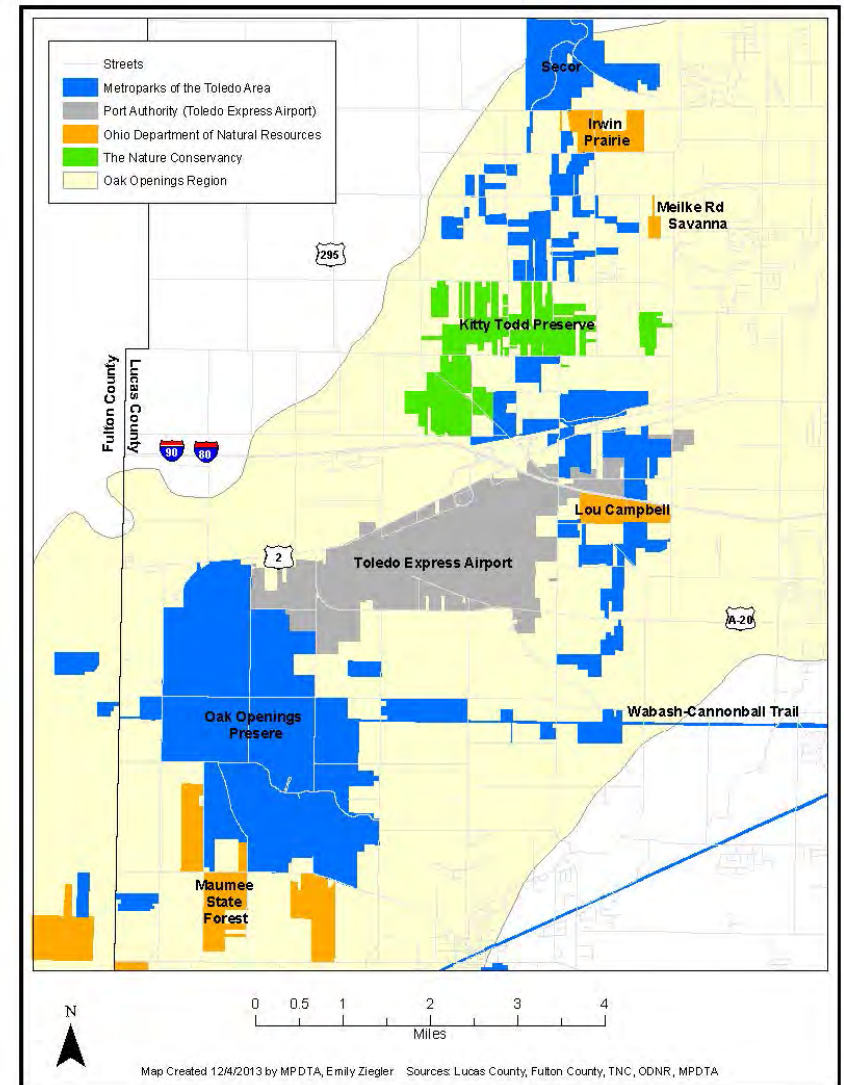
- Streets
- Metroparks (closed to public)
- Metroparks (open to the public)
- Other Parks and Preserves
- Corridors / Focus Areas
- Oak Openings Region
- Municipality



Oak Openings Region Land Conservation

2,141 acres acquired
since 2003

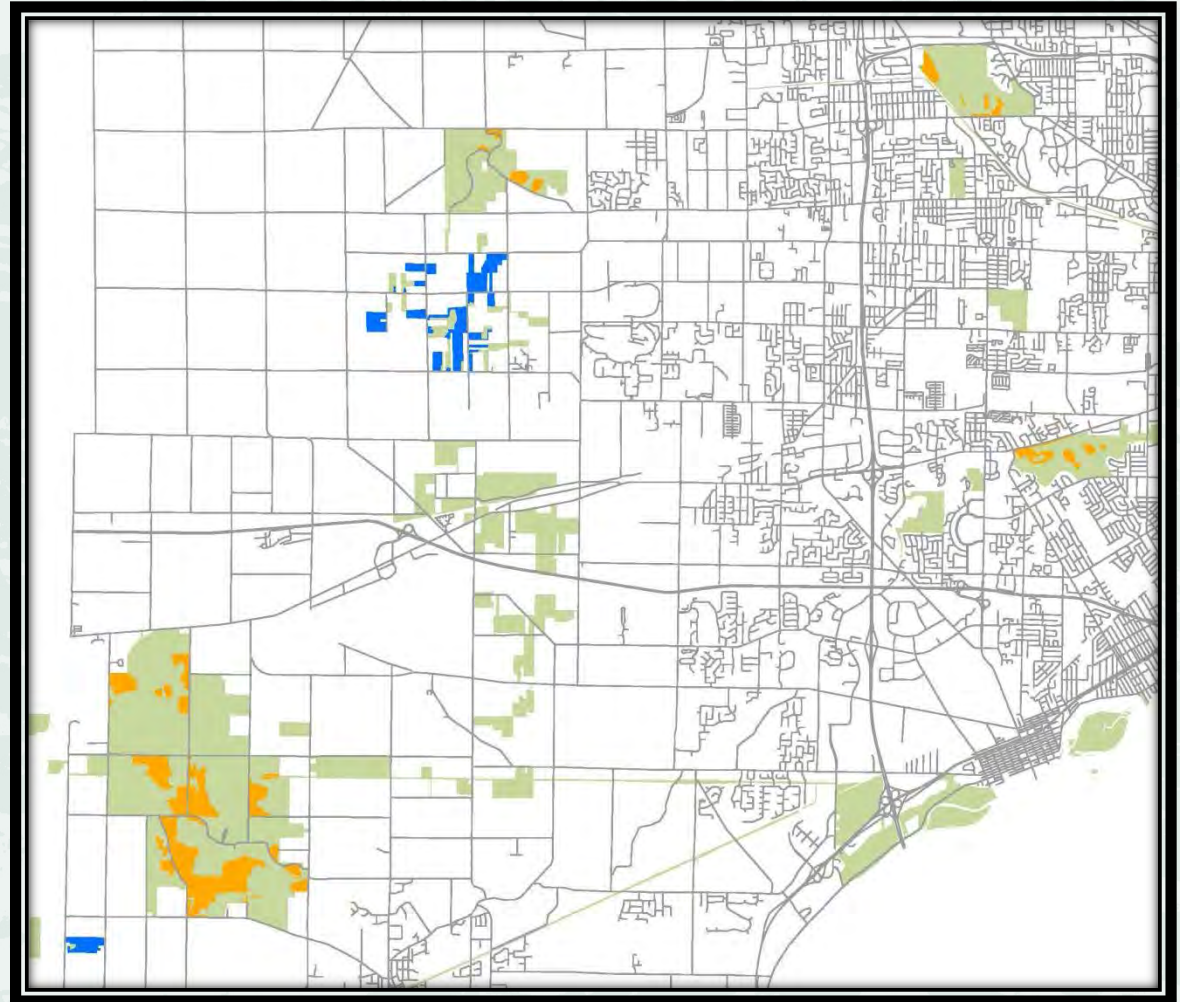
- 2002 Land Acquisition Levy
 - Clean Ohio Fund
 - WRRSP (City of Toledo)
 - GLRI AOC Land Acquisition
 - ODOT
-
- Provided \$2.4 million in GLRI matching funds



Oak Openings Region Habitat Restoration

1,227 acres restored since 2011 through GLRI

- US EPA Wet Prairie subaward through TNC (2011-14)
- NOAA Maumee Corps subaward through PCS (2013-14)
- NFWF Interagency subaward through TNC (2014-15)



What do we mean by “habitat restoration”?



What do we mean by “habitat restoration”?



Blue Creek Native Seed Nursery

Benefits of Habitat Restoration

- Improved Wildlife Habitat (Quantity and Quality)
- Endangered Species Conservation
- Improved Wetland Function & Extended Hydro-period

2007



VIBI Score: 63

2008



2012



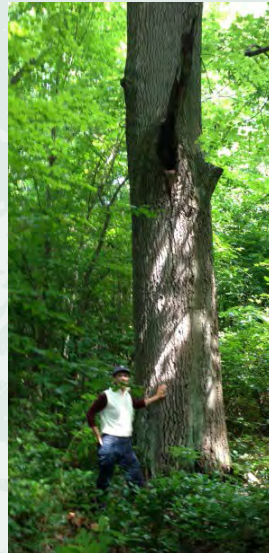
VIBI Score: 91

Dorr Street Prairie

Oak Openings Region

2014 and beyond

- 500 acres of land acquisition targeted for 2014-15
- 2014 GLRI NFWF Proposal: Metroparks, TNC, ODNR
800 new acres of habitat restoration targeted in AOC



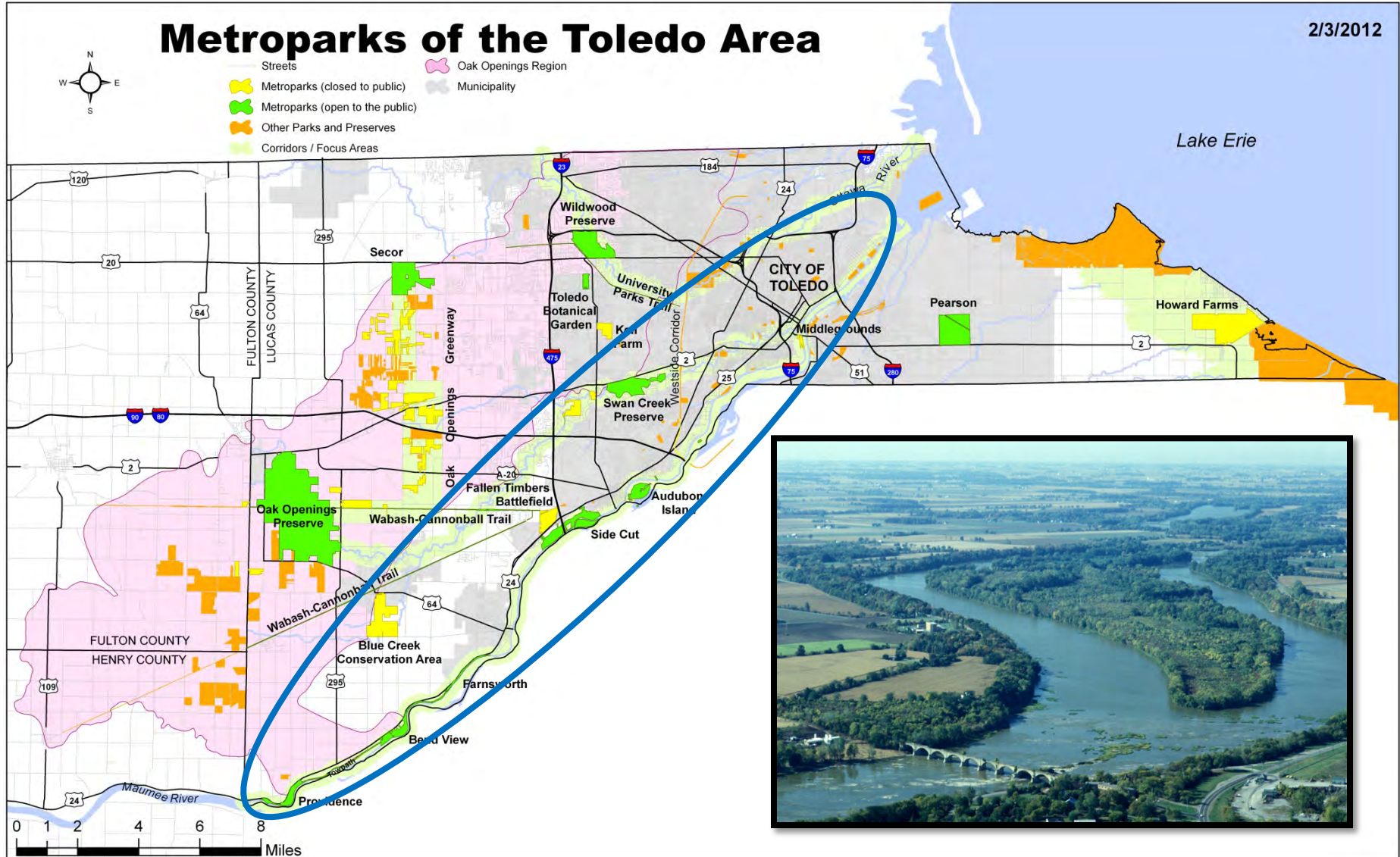
Central River Corridor

Metroparks of the Toledo Area

2/3/2012



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Central River Corridor: Middlegrounds Metropark in 2015

“A site that once connected people and goods from the river to the land will now connect people back to Toledo’s waterfront”

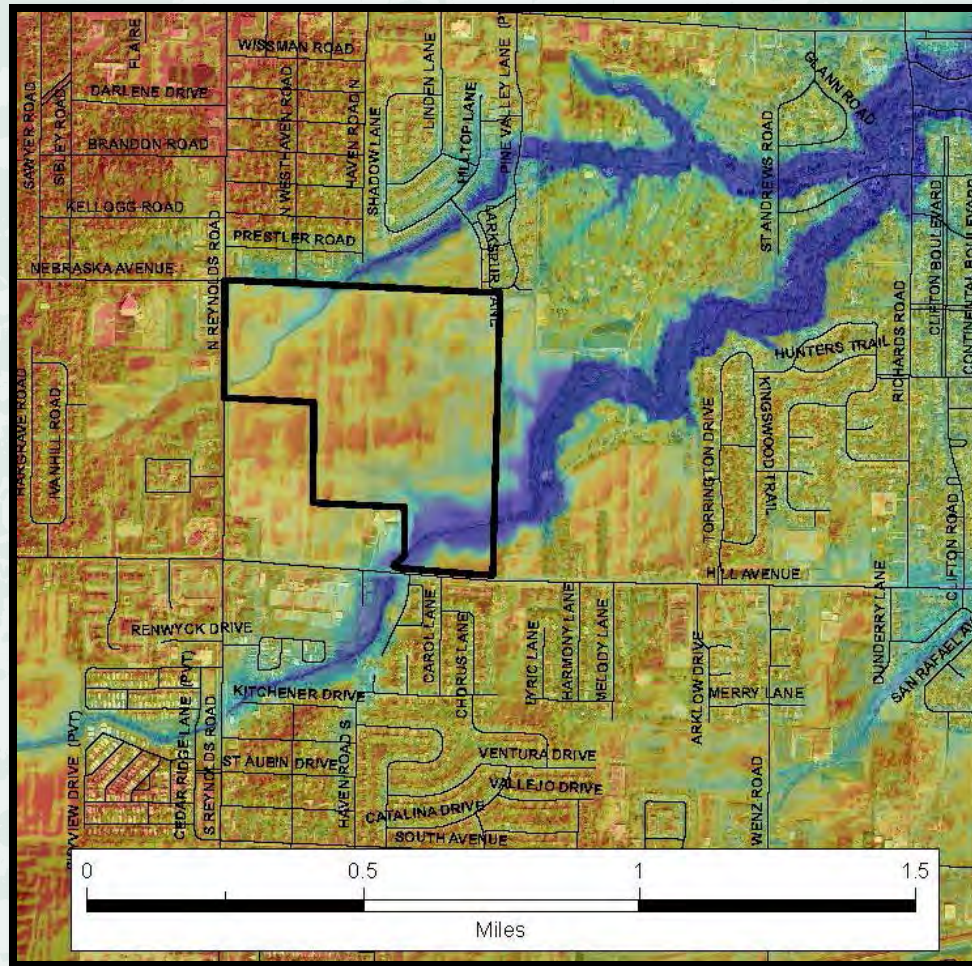
- Urban Forestry Grant (USFS, City of Toledo)
- Seeking GLRI Funding through USACE for wetland restoration



Middlegrounds during site cleanup

Central River Corridor: Keil Farm

Opportunity for Stream & Wetland Restoration



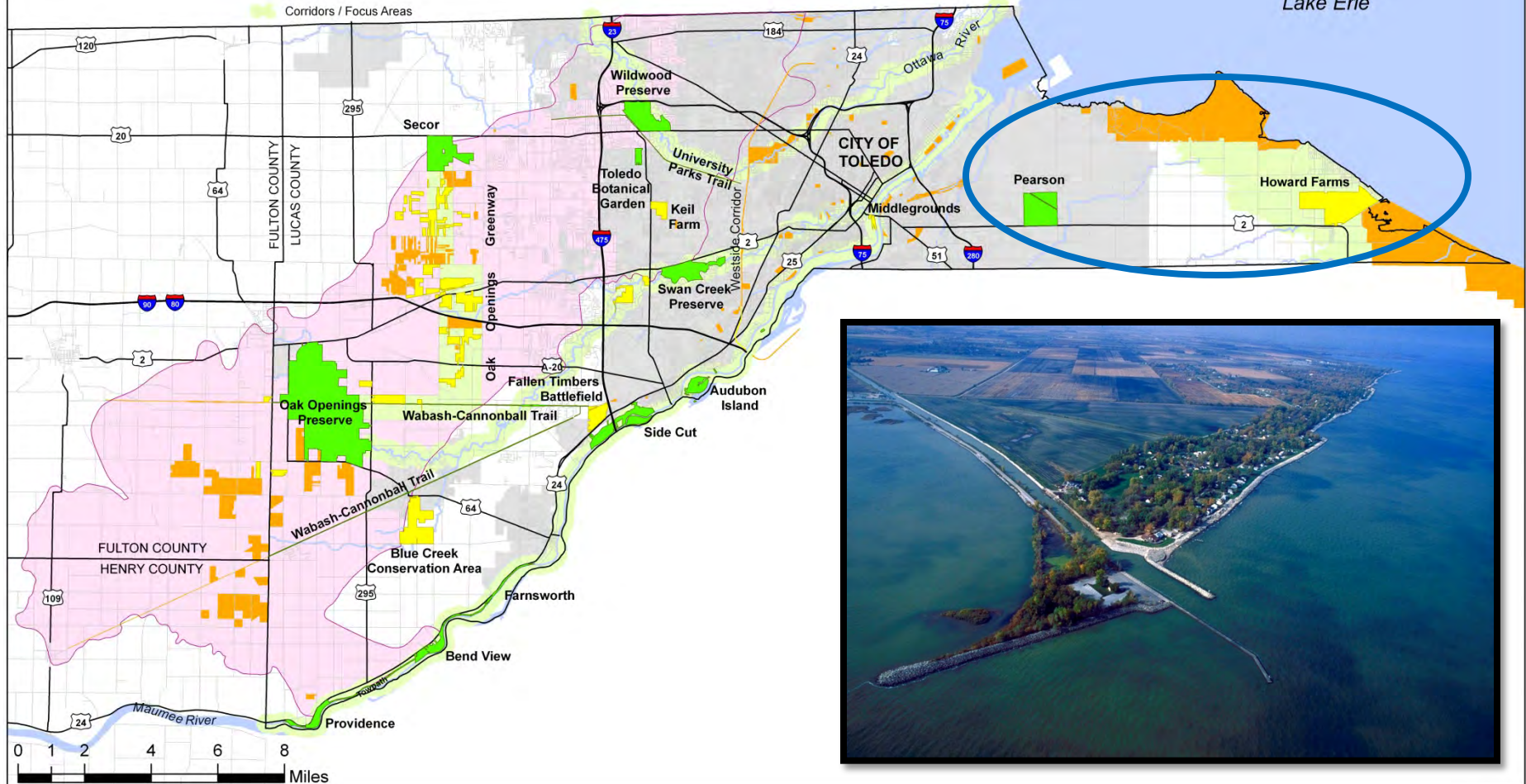
Lake Erie Coastal Zone

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Howard Farms (987 acre)

Acquired in 2008 for \$6 million

- ODNR Division of Wildlife
- Clean Ohio Fund
- 2002 Land Acquisition Levy

Restoration Planned: 2014-15

- NOAA Award to Ducks Unlimited
- ODNR Division of Wildlife
- Seeking additional GLRI NOAA funding
- Planning, Implementation & Monitoring
Support from Multiple Agencies

Legend

- Open Water: >6' Depth
- Wetland: 4'-6' Depth
- Wetland: 2'-4' Depth
- Wetland: <2' Depth
- Upland Islands: +2'
- Upland
- Cell Dike + Trail
- Wetland Trail
- Potential portage / ramp
- Potential fishing / observation platform sites
- Access points to site

Howard Farms

Preliminary Concept Plan

2013 NOV 7