



*Partners
for Clean
Streams*

2014 Annual Report



Photo credit- Denise Fonner



i 'm part of something
bigger than me



Photo Credit - Tony Schmenk

letter from executive director

Power of Partnership to Give Water a Hand

As Executive Director of Partners for Clean Streams, it is my honor to lead a successful organization, our many partners, and our many volunteers, through another year of remarkable work towards clear, clean and safe water. It is also my privilege to reflect on the lessons learned and to think about the bigger picture to help guide our long term vision. Forcing myself, and my staff, to slow down and intentionally reflect on the past year, when oftentimes we are already neck deep in the next year, is one of my favorite parts of putting together an annual report.

When I think of what made 2014 unique, I can't help but think of the "Water Crisis." This was certainly a wake up call for this entire region. But, although that is a pivotal incidence in water quality awareness in our region and it needs all the attention and resources that it is receiving, what we need to learn from those three days is much bigger. What we need to learn from those three day is much bigger and folds into a larger picture.

What we should take away is that we can all Make A Difference. We all need to be part of the solutions to improve water quality because it is so vitally important to each and every one of us. We aren't powerless. We can't put all the onus on a water treatment plant or agriculture or short term solutions, such as stocking up on bottled water. There are simple changes that each person, each business, each community can take to Give Water A Hand. So, as the 2014 theme, you'll see that message throughout this report.

Our programs may seem far removed from harmful algae blooms and drinking water treatment but they really aren't. We talk to kids and adults day after day about the connections between storm water and drinking water and sewage treatment. We make the connections between how more resilient habitat along streams reduces erosion – which is carrying nutrients off into the Lake. We talk about marine debris and provide programs for people to get in the river and pull out the trash that doesn't belong there; connecting them personally with the waterways and removing debris that clogs up pipes and treatment systems. But at the core, why we do what we do, is to show people why they should love their rivers and how connected they are to them in a million ways every day (not just when drinking their water).

As a parting thought, what I leave you with is the image on the front cover. This captures the power that is in your hands – to protect and improve your water. Please, Give Water A Hand every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristina Patterson, Executive Director

MARINE DEBRIS

“Coordinated by NOAA and launched in 2014, the Great Lakes Land-based Marine Debris Action Plan is bringing science, government, industry and NGOs together in a regional partnership to clean up the Great Lakes. The plan’s five-year goal is to thoroughly research the problem of marine debris, develop science-based policies and management decisions, and coordinate actions to prevent and reduce marine debris.”

Partners for Clean Streams is actively involved in this partnership and helping to shape the five-year plan.”

-From International Coastal Cleanup Marine Debris Report

Marine debris, or trash in waterways, is a huge ongoing issue locally and around the world. Even though volunteers remove tons of trash every year during our stream cleanups, trash accumulates quickly in our waterways. In fact, various studies show that 5 to 12 million tons of plastic from the land goes into our oceans each year, not including rivers and the Great Lakes. The easiest way to fix the problem is keep your trash from ending up in our rivers by **REDUCING, REUSING, and RECYCLING.**

In 2014, PCS received multiple grants focusing on marine debris from NOAA’s Marine Debris program, through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Toledo Community Foundation, and Recycle Ohio. These funds further enhance two of our largest river cleanup initiatives, Clean Your Streams and Get the Lead Out, in addition to building educational materials into our communication strategies.

While we are going ahead strong in trash removal efforts, we cannot do it alone. We are working hard to educate and prevent marine debris, but the process begins with you. It is much easier to prevent trash from getting into the rivers, than getting it out once in the water. Take charge by being part of Clean Your Streams 365 or another cleanup. Start changing your habits with small steps, such as avoiding using straws and coffee lids (single use plastics) and making sure your trash cans are tightly closed. While these changes seem small, they add up quickly.

Straws are one of the most common pieces of trash and are very harmful to animals.

Because they can be confused as a food item for birds and other animals, straws are found commonly in the stomachs of animals, such as turtles and birds. To help, next time you go out to eat, refuse a straw or bring your own reusable one.



Microplastics-

Most pieces of marine debris are plastic, which can break down into tiny Microplastics that are almost impossible to remove from the water.



“Cleanups are only part of the answer. Not all debris can actually be picked up-or even seen with the naked eye. Among the worst culprits are microbeads, tiny plastic beads, widely used in cosmetics and facial cleaners. Too tiny for water treatment filters to catch, millions of these plastic pieces end up in the rivers and lakes, where fish, birds and other animals can mistake them for food. Steps are being taken to reverse the trend around the Great Lakes.”

-From International Coastal Cleanup Marine Debris Report

Cigarette Butts are the most common piece of trash.

The filters are made out of plastic fibers and can contain over 600 chemicals. Because the cigarette filters do not biodegrade in the environment, they can last hundreds of years without breaking down. To animals, they can look like a piece of food; they are eaten by birds and other animals, making them sick or eventually killing them. Instead of throwing your cigarette butts out the window, on the ground, dispose of them properly in a trash receptacle or recycle them with organizations, such as Terracycle.



Plastic, one-time use bags entangle more animals than any other debris, closely followed by fishing line.

Because they are light, bags are easily carried in the wind and travel to tops of trees, far across fields and into our rivers and lakes. They can get ripped, torn and shredded but take hundreds of years to break down completely. Instead of using plastic, one-time use bags, use cloth or reusable bags for any kind of shopping trips, not just grocery trips.

did you know?
Microbeads – Tiny specs creating a huge problem



CLEAN YOUR STREAMS



Partners for Clean Streams and our community partners hosted the 18th Annual Clean Your Streams Day on Saturday, September 20, 2014. 1,109 volunteers came from various youth groups, clubs, organizations, and corporations. Together, as Partners, they removed 16,978 pounds of trash from the banks of our extraordinary rivers in and around Toledo. Clean Your Streams volunteers began their day by signing in at one of seven kickoffs and fanning out to one of the 61 cleanup sites. Once at the site, they removed trash from the rivers and recorded what they found on data cards. After a few hours, volunteers gathered for an Appreciation Picnic to celebrate their hard work in improving local waterways with early results, t-shirts, lunch, Group Challenge Awards, educational activities and a group photo.

Clean Your Streams is the largest cleanup in Ohio's Coastweeks program.

The impact can be measured by the amount of trash that was removed in each of these local watersheds: Ottawa River (5,889 lbs.), Swan Creek (3,995 lbs.), Maumee River (4,859 lbs.), and Maumee Bay tributaries (2,235 lbs.). Our 1,109 Clean Your Streams volunteers, and the trash they removed, was counted with other cleanups worldwide in the 29th International Coastal Cleanup effort.

As part of the 2014 International Coastal Cleanup, over half a million volunteers removed more than 16 million pounds of trash from shorelines and waterways around the world. This illustrates how our local success contributes to the larger global picture.

Total Weight Collected - 16,978 pounds of trash

Some Items Include (# of items found)



Distance Cleaned = 27.67 miles
(just over 1 marathon)

Generous contributions from local businesses and individuals helped provide the necessary resources and materials for this stream cleanup.

Special thanks to our major event sponsors: BP-Husky Refining, Perstorp Polyols, Johnson Controls, The University of Toledo, Lucas Co. Storm Water Utility, and First Solar. Our major service providers include: Waste Management, Cities of Oregon & Toledo, and Bridgestone-FirestoneTire4ward. Generous grant support was provided by the Toledo Community Foundation, Recycle Ohio and Ohio EPA AOC Support Grant, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.



top 10 items found Worldwide

1. Cigarette butts
2. Food wrappers
3. Plastic beverage bottles
4. Beverage cans
5. Plastic grocery bags
6. Glass bottles
7. Other plastic bags
8. Plastic and foam packaging
9. Foam plates and cups
10. Plastic plates and cups



Interesting & Peculiar items:

A turtle trap, lottery cards, Christmas lights, a butter knife, a vending machine door, a Teletubbie with no eyes, fire crackers, parts of a boat, a full 6 pack of beer, a purple velvet cape, a 1988 Faygo Ginger Ale can, a Confederate flag, a fire pit, dirty boxers, a kiddie pool, an anchor, a lobster crate and much more.

CLEAN YOUR STREAMS cont'

Challenge Winners

20 groups, from Boy Scout troops to large corporations, came together as teams and challenged themselves to improve their community one bag at a time.



Photo Credit- Kristen Maier

Our first place winning teams:

Youth Challenge

- Battle of the Bags..... YWCA Teen Outreach Program
- Awesome Effort Toledo ZOOTeens
- Most Volunteers..... YWCA Teen Outreach Program

Collegiate Challenge

- Battle of the Bags..... Lourdes University
- Awesome Effort UT American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- Most Volunteers..... Lourdes University

Corporate Challenge

- Most Volunteers..... Johns Manville

Organization Challenge

- Most Volunteers..... Ohio EPA Northwest District Office



Photo Credit- Dennis Slotnick



Photo Credit- Cynthia Carnicom



Photo Credit- Shawn Reinhart



Give Water a Hand with Clean Your Streams 365

In an effort to give more power to the public to reduce marine debris locally and because our rivers collect trash year round, we decided they should be cleaned year round (excluding times when the river is frozen or very flooded). Clean Your Streams 365 allows groups of any size, age or ability level to directly improve rivers by working in streams and along the bank. Upon registration, volunteers will be assigned a location to clean depending on their skills, preference and cleanup needs. We loan out a supply kit complete with cleanup supplies, First Aid Kits, data collection reporting forms and detailed instructions. Date and time of cleanup varies depending on weather, water levels of the river, and individual group preferences. This way, we can give water a hand virtually 365 days a year!



SDM

(Storm Drain Marking)

9 areas serviced including:

- Waterville
- Oregon
- Rossford
- Northwood
- Ottawa Hills
- Holland
- Sylvania
- Lourdes University
- Washington Township

One of the easiest ways to Give Water a Hand is by caring for our storm drains. This is because what goes in storm drain goes directly into the nearest creek or stream, which leads to our rivers and eventually to our drinking water source. Storm Drain Marking allows volunteers to remind citizens how closely they can affect their waterways and that we all need to share a role in controlling what goes down the drains.

In the Storm Drain Marking program, volunteers remind citizens that drains carry rain water, oils from cars, fertilizers, old leaves and other pollution directly to the nearest body of water. We partner jurisdictions, volunteers, and citizens together to Give Water a Hand and educate them about using storm drains properly. First, jurisdictions select local neighborhoods ideal to mark storm drains. Then, volunteers mark the selected storm drains and pass out educational door hangers to the residents. Ultimately, citizens are empowered to make educated decisions on what goes down the storm drains and into the rivers.

This year, 145 volunteers marked 926 storm drains around the Toledo area giving our rivers a hand. Volunteers worked in Waterville, Oregon, Rossford, Northwood, Ottawa Hills, Holland, Lourdes University, Washington Township and Sylvania. The participating groups ranged from college groups to Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to religious organizations. Storm Drain Marking is part of our bigger Give Water a Hand campaign that is raising awareness, educating citizens and providing practical “do’s and don’ts” to protect water quality. We are delighted at the success of this program and its far reaching impact.



Photo Credit -Valerie Virag

Photo Credit -Rebecca Zimmerman

926 storm drains were stenciled
1,987 homes received educational door hangers



Photo Credit -Kelsey Schmidt



Photo Credit -Valerie Virag



we get the lead out of rivers
& people into them



Thank you to all the volunteers that made this season a success.

We are looking for sponsors for our Get the Lead Out program to make long lasting impacts for years to come.

Every spring, the Maumee River hosts thousands of anglers from hundreds of miles around as they come to a small stretch of the River for, arguably, the best walleye fishing in the world. The anglers, often inadvertently, leave hooks, line and sinkers caught in trees, grasses, snagged on rocks and littering the river bed. Because of the spring flooding and high water, they are unable to retrieve their gear. As the spring waters recede, our dedicated volunteers take action to protect the River, wildlife, and people by removing these potentially harmful objects between Perrysburg and Maumee.

The volunteers have been doing this for 10 years, each year with renewed passion. This past summer, during the 10th year of Get the Lead Out, 58 volunteers went on 5 outings, and collected huge amounts of fishing line and 30 pounds of lead sinkers, and other types of trash. Even though the river was high early in the summer, lower water levels late in the summer allowed volunteers to collect a lot of the derelict fishing gear. By removing the fishing line, hooks and lead, our volunteers created a cleaner and safer environment for people and wildlife.

Volunteers work to make the Maumee River clean and safe for people walking their dogs, playing with children in the water or simply taking pictures of scenery in local parks.



30 pounds of lead were collected and huge amounts of line, all of which was recycled or reused.
58 volunteers, totaling 146 volunteer hours with 5 outings.
2.5 miles of the banks of the Maumee River between Perrysburg and Maumee were covered.



Volunteer groups included Sierra Club, Boy Scout Pack 210, Toledo ZooTeens and Friends of Side Cut Metropark.

FISHING LINE RECYCLING

Reel In And Recycle!



Monofilament
Recycling Bin

Please recycle your used
monofilament fishing line here!



NO CANS • NO BOTTLES • NO TRASH • NO CANS • NO BOTTLES • NO TRASH • NO CANS • NO BOTTLES • NO TRASH

Discarded fishing line has become a serious issue in waterways around the greater Toledo area. To combat this, Partners for Clean Streams is coordinating the installation of Fishing Line Recycling Bins to safely collect, track and eventually recycle discarded fishing line for 2015 and beyond. The bins will encourage anglers to dispose of their fishing line easily and properly. This will decrease entanglement of animals, increase aesthetics, and improve recreation along the river for everyone.

Property owners, volunteers and organizations will be working together to host and maintain the Fishing Line Recycling Bins in high traffic fishing areas. Currently, there are some bins located in a few places along the Maumee River. We began teaching people how to use these bins, in combination with Personal Fishing Line Recycling Bins, at public events and will continue to do so in 2015.

We are partnering with the national Stow-It Don't Throw It program to provide this simple but powerful educational activity that works hand-in-hand with the Fishing Line Recycling Bins.

To learn more and find a bin in 2015, check out partnersforcleanstreams.org/events/reel-in-and-recycle. We need dedicated groups or individuals to adopt a Fishing Line Recycling Bin and help track and recycle the line that is collected. This program is great for groups and organizations that care for the waterways and are looking for simple service projects.

“Working with Partners for Clean Streams volunteers has proven productive in many ways and the impact they make is immense. I am always impressed, but also surprised with the amount of stuff collected along the shores of the Maumee. The River provides so many opportunities for its users whether they are enjoying it on the water or from the lengthy shores, one thing they take away are the views, views without the trash and litter. It is continual work to maintain, but it does not go unrecognized.”

-Bob Heckman, Metroparks of the Toledo Area



Personal Fishing Line Recycling Bins

Partners for Clean Streams is now hosting the “Stow It- Don't Throw It” program encouraging fishing line recycling. Personal Fishing Line Recycling Bins are easily made from empty tennis ball cans, which are convenient and easy for anglers to stow their broken or tangled fishing line. They are great for bringing on fishing trips by attaching to the side of a boat or fitting into waders.

Once the fishing line is safely in the small bins, it can be properly recycled, protecting wildlife and rivers. When recycled in large stationary tubes, given to Partners for Clean Stream or to Bass Pro Shops (Rossford location), the fishing line is then sent to Berkley Conservation to be made into commercial fish habitat structures, keeping it out of the waterways.





we create wildlife habitat & rebuild healthy environments



PATCH DAY WORKSHOP

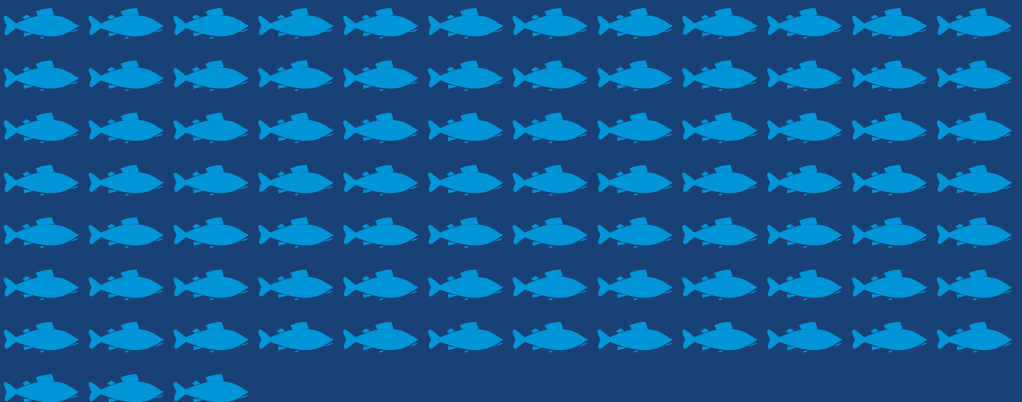


Thank you and congratulations to the 85 young Scouts that attended the Youth Patch Day Workshop on Sunday, March 2nd. The group of energetic Boy and Girl Scouts from kindergarten through fifth grade earned the blue and white embroidered Partnering for Clean Streams Patch by participating in various water education activities. Professionals that work to improve our water quality daily came to lead activities by teaching the children how to Give Water a Hand and become active stewards of our water resources through hands-on activities. We started with a live animal demonstration from the Toledo Zoo and ended in a song highlighting the benefits of rain gardens. Many of the participants were excited to come back next year. One parent commented, "The presenters were very engaging and the kids are learning a lot that they wouldn't get anywhere else." An eleven-year-old Scout agreed, with an enthusiastic "This is really cool!" A huge thank you goes out to all those who participated and all those professionals who made the event possible, including Cherie Blair, Andrea Beard, Jen Huber, Jamie Kochensparger, Cheryl Rice, Patrick Lawrence, Richard Kroeger, Rick Hannum, Marilyn DuFour, and Lauren Rush. We look forward to see you at the next year's workshop!

Participants learned importance of dirt, made worm bins, learned about agricultural runoff, raced fast moving water, painted a protective storm drain message and explored how water is treated so it is safe for us to drink. Overall, they learned about various conservation ideas, such as rain gardens, waste water treatment, marine debris, nutrient cycling, watersheds, and storm drains.

Each participant received a bag of take-home educational activities to continue exploring how we can Give Water a Hand everyday.

85 children attended



RESTORING OTTAWA RIVER HABITAT AT CAMP MIAKONDA

**US EPA Great Lakes
Restoration Initiative**

“There continues to be an increase in the wildlife present in this newly restored habitat during all seasons of the year, including turtles, fish and even a pair of bald eagles feeding. Numerous visitors, Scouts, and families continue to drop by Camp Miakonda throughout the year to see firsthand the revitalized wetlands, river, lake and creeks that were restored through the work of Partners for Clean Streams. The addition of educational signage around camp is **OUTSTANDING** and provides an additional benefit to our visitors. At various points throughout the restored area there are large signs with infographics and resources for the reader to enjoy, and to assist Scouts are in earning various related nature badges and conservation awards. Our THANKS to PCS for improving our wetlands and for providing this awesome educational experience to our community!”

–Andrew Curran, BSA –



In 2012 and 2013, intense restoration occurred at Camp Miakonda on the Ottawa River and Lake Sawyer with a \$1.3 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant from U.S. EPA.

During the five year project, the Ottawa River received more than 650 feet of bank protection and in-stream structures to help prevent erosion occurring at high-flow events. The northern tributary, Hartman Ditch, was rerouted back into Lake Sawyer to increase flow. Cunningham Ditch, the southern tributary, was reopened (it had been in an underground pipe) and became an outdoor classroom for stream ecology. Nearly 10,000 cubic yards of sediment were excavated from Lake Sawyer, reaching the original depth in multiple areas, which increased fish habitat. Working together, the new features of Lake Sawyer have dramatically decreased sedimentation occurring in Lake Sawyer, reduced erosion on the Ottawa River, and provided high quality habitat for desirable fish and other macro invertebrates.

During 2013 and 2014, we installed additional erosion control structures, added more plants and held various educational workshops and class field trips. Beyond that, many visitors to camp have noticed new plants and animals coming back, less erosion on the bank, and increased access to the river and lake.

In 2014, we continued to monitor the health of the ecosystem by monitoring plant growth, fish species and abundance, and macro invertebrates. All signs point to a healthy environment, as quality fish species return to Lake Sawyer and eager Boy Scouts prepare their fishing lines for the next season of camping while new birds and animals are spotted. Eight educational signs were installed around the project area highlighting the work that was done, the historical significance, the native wildlife, and the activities for scouts to do. Macro invertebrate exploration kits are also available for borrowing for inquisitive scouts.

Goals of the Restoration Project:

Restore/enhance approx. 10 acres wetland & approximately 30 acres of upland habitat

Reduce erosion in Ottawa River

Increase in-stream habitat for fish & macro invertebrates

Increase diversity of in-water habitat for Lake Sawyer, allowing fish to winter over and allowing more active use of Lake Sawyer by Scouts

Encourage educational use of wetland, lake, river, and upland habitat

Restoration Facts

Nearly 10,000 cubic yards of sediment excavated from Lake Sawyer equaling over 1,200 dump truck loads

More than 650 feet of erosion control structures installed in the Ottawa River

Over 26,000 native plants introduced, not including seed

Since restoration occurred, thousands of people have hiked, fished around the lake, explored the river, and enjoyed the wildlife year round. These activities will continue in the coming years, further illustrating that the main goals of the restoration project are being achieved for those who work, visit and play at Camp Miakonda.

Because the grant funding officially ended in December of 2014, we will not be doing any more construction activities or direct monitoring. However, we will be working with the Camp Staff to continue education activities, hold hands on learning opportunities, and to teach about the restoration methods we used at the site.



nearly 4 acres of wetlands
created and /or improved

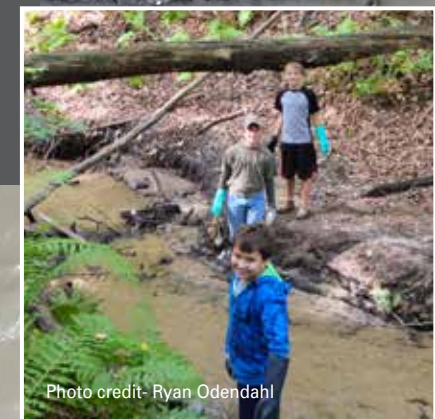


Photo credit- Ryan Odendahl



Photos Credit - The Nature Conservancy Staff

over 2,000 acres of protected land treated



Photos Credit - The Nature Conservancy Staff



Photos Credit - The Nature Conservancy Staff

Maumee Corps National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

During 2014, the Metroparks of the Toledo Area and The Nature Conservancy crews have continued to work throughout the year, while our floating crews took a break. They worked towards a healthier ecosystems in the globally rare habitat in the Oak Openings region, and other areas in the Swan Creek and Ottawa River watersheds, on over 2,000 acres of protected land. This work has included invasive species removal, native species planting, habitat restoration, prescribed burns and much more throughout the region. 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. They also applied best management practices on areas with mowing and herbicide treatments to control the woody invasive Autumn Olive and Asian Honeysuckle.

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 Area of Concern 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).

Overall, the NOAA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has enabled PCS to affect, along with our partners, 35 people, by giving them seasonal work throughout the duration of the project, yielding more than 37,000 working hours. These numbers are well over what we expected. We had no idea the Maumee Corps project would be this successful and couldn't be more proud of our project partners and the people we've hired to complete the great work throughout Northwest Ohio.



Photos Credit - The Nature Conservancy Staff

Acres treated: 2309.6 (Goal - 1000)
Acres restored: 878 (Goal - 250)
Workers hired: 35 (Goal - 20)
(Including part-time, full time and seasonal)
37,000 hours of work in the region
(Oak OpeningsSwan Creek & Ottawa River)



we are dedicated to the waters of the Toledo region



CLEAN STREAMS PARTNER AWARD

Kurt Erichsen

Kurt Erichsen began his career by receiving his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Water Resources and his received his Masters of Science in Sanitary Engineering in 1978. He became a Registered Professional Engineer from the State of Ohio in 1982. Kurt worked on the popular "Give Water a Hand" campaign in 2006, numerous watershed plans, and established the Storm Water Coalition. He was awarded the John Bosely Leadership award from the National Association of Regional Councils & honored by The Ohio House of Representatives in 2009. He has worked for TMACOG since 1987 in various roles, currently serving as the Vice President of Environmental Planning.

Kurt received the Clean Streams Partner Award for his tireless dedication to clean water throughout the region for the past 27 years. His leadership skills have been successful in bringing various agencies and collaborators together to solve various watershed issues. Thank you for your years of service, dedication, leadership, and for giving water a huge boost forward, Kurt.



GIVE WATER A HAND

Become a Partner

The greater Toledo area is blessed with extraordinary rivers, creeks and lakes. We rely on these waters for recreation, drinking, and for so much of what provides the high quality of life that we enjoy. From the tiniest creeks to the wide bends of the Maumee, these waters have shaped the identity, family traditions and landscapes of our region. These waters connect us to each other through shared memories and experiences.

Between skipping rocks and watching clouds along the river bank, the Toledo area water ways became an unconscious- but integral- part of our lives. Kids growing up in the greater Toledo region are still blessed by our area's many waterways. But those blessings require care. Pollution, trash, and damaged streams can ruin our trips and family traditions. Luckily, we are also blessed to be able to care for our rivers. From Bowling Green to Point Place and everywhere in between, volunteers and professionals are working to restore creek beds, clean river banks, reduce flooding and so much more to make our rivers and streams clean and clear. We cannot do it alone and we need your support.

Every day, the choices you make influence our rivers. Small things like tying your trash bag tightly closed so trash doesn't blow away to using less water by checking for leaks in your home, really does add up. Protecting your storm drains and keeping them clear of grass clipping, leaves or trash allows the system to work efficiently and correctly. You can be the positive influence that ensures healthy rivers for our children.



By becoming a Partner for Clean Streams, you are helping our citizens take control of their rivers in a positive way. Your support keeps our dynamic public volunteer and education events, like Clean Your Streams Day and Get the Lead Out, coming back year after year.

All Partners are invited to become voting members by donating a minimum of \$50 as an individual or \$500 as a business or municipality. Voting members elect our Board of Directors and celebrate our success at our annual meeting. Don't want to be a voting member but want to support us? That's fine too; just make your one-time, unrestricted gift with no obligation. Most importantly, your financial donations help keep our signature cleanups and engagement event alive. All donations are tax deductible and are used for programs dedicated to protecting local rivers and streams in your community.

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN

Individual

\$15 Student/ Senior
 \$25 Individual
 \$35 Family
 \$50 Contributor*
 \$100 Conservator*
 \$250+ Preservationist *

Organization

\$100 Patron
 \$250 Sustaining
 \$350 Support
 \$500 Contributor*
 \$1,000 Conservator*
 \$2,500+ Preservationist*

we are stream cleaners
& trash sorters

Community Partner - \$5000 and above

Your organization or business can support all of our programs throughout the year. You are demonstrating that your business is dedicated to the community and to maintaining a healthy environment. With your support, we are able to provide high impact volunteer cleanups and public education events for conserving our waterways. In addition to other member benefits Community Partners also receive:

- Prominent logo recognition on our website, seen by thousands of interested citizens.
- Prominent logo recognition on all event promotional materials, such as hundred of t-shirts and thousands of flyers and posters

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Prominent logo recognition on our website and promotional & event materials.
- Support stays local making a direct investment in clear, clean & water in Northwest Ohio.
- One vote on issues at our annual general meeting.
- Receive E-notices of events & monthly E-newsletters.

*Members at these levels or above will be granted voting privileges to select the Board of Directors annually. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.



Photo Credit - Tony Schmenk

FUNDERS AND DONORS

We are proud to call many local businesses our Partners. These businesses have stepped up to become integral parts in caring for the communities' pride and joy, our local rivers. Each of these businesses knows how their partnership allows us to fulfill our mission of protecting our rivers. And we deeply thank them for their dedication and support.

Major Funders include: Ohio EPA, US EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Toledo Community Foundation, Ohio EPA Litter Grant (Recycle Ohio), National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Grant

“We are dedicated to the waters of the Toledo region. But it is dollars donated by people like you that make our work possible.”



\$250
Supporters

DGL Consulting Engineers
Johns Manville
Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd.
The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.
Monroe St. United Methodist Church
Pro-Pak Industries

\$500
Sponsors

The Andersons	Hull and Associates
C&W Tank Cleaning Co., Inc.	Kwest Group
City of Oregon	Tetra Tech
Davey Resource Group	YB Management
EnvrioScience, Inc.	

\$1000 & Above
Underwriters

First Solar	Lucas Co Storm Water Utility
Johnson Controls	

Thank you to our Community Partners of \$5,000 or more



Major In-kind Donors and Partners throughout the year:

Boy Scouts of America; Erie Shores Council; Bass Pro Shops; Bill Buri; Bridgestone FireStone Tire4Ward Program; Hull & Associates; The Olander Park District; Cities of Oregon and Toledo; Ohio EPA; University of Toledo; Lucas County Engineer's Office; American Rivers; Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District; Shankland Catering; Toledo ZOOTeens; Keep Toledo Lucas County Beautiful.

FINANCIAL REPORT



This report shows that PCS is prudently managing resources and has been able to continue supporting all of our programs and staffing. This year PCS had our second audit, for our 2013 calendar year, and passed with flying colors again. The clean audit reflects our careful management and fiscal practices, including for two major federal grants.

PCS is winding down on the two federal grants, one for Camp Miakonda restoration along the Ottawa River and one for the Maumee Corps, a team of trained habitat restoration crews working on more than 2,000 acres throughout the region. While the grants may be ending, our strong partnerships with the Boy Scouts of America, The Nature Conservancy, and the Metroparks in the Toledo area will continue to bring new opportunities to work together and showcase the hard work at the various properties.

As you can see from the graphics, we need to increase the amount received in individual and business donations so that PCS will become more self-reliant and position the organization to better leverage future grants. At this time, a vast majority of our income is program or grant specific while more private donations would allow us the flexibility to develop new initiatives and grow our current programs.

PCS aims to multiply every dollar from private donations with at least three dollars from grants and foundations. Using in-kind resources we lower our expenses so that your donations stretch even farther. We have also prudently built a reserve of unrestricted, non-grant dollars to fill the gaps between grants or for non-grant related activities. PCS is grateful for those members and businesses that have been able to continue supporting us as we work to improve water quality, habitat, and our overall quality of life for our families and their families to come.

The Numbers

Maumee RAP Account

January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014 (Restricted)

Savings Account (restricted)

Current Balance \$35,789.76

Partners for Clean Streams Accounts

January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

Expenses

Grant Projects (restricted) \$366,121

Personnel \$146,750*

Administration \$17,473

Programmatic (outside of grants) \$9,449

Total \$539,793

Revenues

Grants & Foundations (restricted)\$519,866**

Carryover (unrestricted)\$187,644

Private Donations\$17,247

Program & Interest Income\$11,083

Total.....\$735,840

*Most personnel costs are covered by grants. The amount is shown separately here to better reflect the low internal operational costs that PCS maintains.

**Most grant & foundation funds are restricted to specific project use.

The contents and views, including any opinions, findings, conclusion or recommendations, contained in this publication are of those of the authors and have not been subject to any U.S. EPA, NOAA or Ohio EPA peer administrative review and may not necessarily reflect the views of either Agency, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

OUR WORK WITH MAUMEE RAP CONTINUES



THE RAP Reimagined

In response to new state guidance, we are re-structuring so that the Maumee RAP committee is not under the Partners for Clean Streams' umbrella, but rather functions as a free-standing committee. With funding from the Area of Concern (AOC) program from Ohio EPA, we will continue to facilitate the committee and serve to support the goals of the program and the activities of the committee. However, the new Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee or MAAC, will be compiled of citizens, business representatives, non-governmental organization representatives and other interested parties. This committee is still a collaborative, locally-based group of dedicated people working together through the state and federal Areas of Concern program to restore fish-able and swimmable waters. This local AOC committee will continue to liaison with Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA while both agencies work closely with the Canadian counterparts. This program is guided by the Great Lakes Water Quality Protocols of 2012 to address key environmental health issues that are severely impacted in the Areas of Concern around the Great Lakes. PCS anticipates focusing on re-structuring and re-engaging the new Maumee AOC Advisory Committee in 2015.

Data Management & Delisting System (DMDS) -

- We received an Ohio EPA grant to build an analytical, GIS-based tool to assess the new Beneficial Use targets against the state's most current sampling data to determine the status of the Beneficial Use Impairments in the Maumee Areas of Concern (AOC).
- The online tool also compiles restoration projects within the Maumee AOC into an online data management system, geographically illustrating where work has been done or is proposed.
 - This will be an invaluable tool in determining Beneficial Use Impairments and future restoration project needs for the Maumee AOC.
- Working with contractor Davey Resource Group.
- First of its kind in all of the Great Lakes Region.



Photo Credit - Randy Nissen

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checklist to saving our water

Use this checklist as a reminder of what you can do to make a difference. Tear it out, post it on your refrigerator, in the car or your work. Incorporating these small steps into your habits will add up.

✓ Cover it!

Secure your trash using a trash can with a lid and make sure your bag is securely tied shut.

✓ Bag it!

Use reusable bags when shopping, not just at grocery stores but when buying clothes, shoes, hardware or anything else that requires a bag.

✓ Bottle it!

Drink tap water in a reusable bottle when on the go.

✓ Reuse it!

Use reusable mugs, tableware (when away from home), packing material and gift wrap whenever possible.

✓ Butt Out!

Use an ashtray so cigarette butts don't reach waterways.

✓ Remove it!

Remove all tackle from waterways and use Fishing Line Recycling Bins along the river.

✓ Leave No Trace!

Whenever in a park or other natural space, take all of your trash and belongings with you as you leave.

Here are a few tips you can use to get started.

1. Reduce your use of straws by saying "no thanks" at restaurants or bring your own reusable straw when you travel.
2. Use reusable water bottles, coffee mugs, eating utensils and pack your lunch in reusable containers. Bring along your own toiletries, rather than buying new or using a hotel's disposable ones.
3. Buy things made from recycled materials. You will be supporting the recycling industry making it profitable to recycle items.
4. Buy in bulk whenever possible. You will use less plastic packaging over time.
5. Put a recycling container out at work and make sure the items get to a recycling center often.



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Photos Credits - Jackie Kane, Shawn Reinhart, Ryan Odendahl,
 Partners for Clean Streams Staff

Partners for Clean Streams Inc. is striving 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.



BP - Husky Refining LLC