



*Partners
for
Clean
Streams*

Message in a bottle...
annual report 2019

"I believe Clean Your Streams is important to not only the people participating but everyone overall because you get to see what our world truly looks like. You see the horrible things that most people ignore in the news. It's helping to build a cleaner, more safe world for us and future generations to live in. THAT is important and should get more recognition. I am so thankful for the opportunity to help my community."

- Ava J.

Student at Ottawa Hills Local School District



2019 has been an impactful year...



2019 has been another great year with so many wonderful volunteers making a big impact. Nearly 23,000 pounds of trash, fishing line, lead, and hooks were removed from many area rivers by 1,165 volunteers. That's huge. And we're grateful.

And as every year seems to have, there's been a few challenges. Ice jams early in 2019 damaged a few fishing line bins, but, luckily, not as many as we had feared thanks to quick thinking from Metroparks staff. Waters were high in winter, spring, summer, and well, fall too. High waters made it hard for volunteers to remove fishing line, lead, and trash but it also meant that when we paddled out to some of the islands in the Maumee River, we found a treasure trove and some interesting finds.

Speaking of interesting finds – did you notice the hint on the front cover? For the first time in my 23 years of doing or leading stream cleanups, some volunteers found a message in a bottle. To some stream cleaner-uppers, this is the holy grail. While I wasn't there (and the picture on the cover is a bit of artist license), it was a fun story to hear about. Yes, they opened the bottle & yes, they responded to the senders – a class of kids from Defiance!

You'll see this fun find woven throughout our report because to me, this is a strong reminder of how connected we are to our waterways and how our waterways connect us. A group of kids put a note in the bottle, toss it into the waterways, and hope someone down river somewhere finds it and responds. It could be a few months later, years later, or even decades later. But the idea is to connect with someone via the river. That's what we try to do all year – connect people to our rivers and develop their connection to our rivers. We hope, in a small way, our programs not only connect us to the rivers but also connect us to each other.

Sincerely,



Kristina Patterson
Executive Director

17th Annual Youth Patch Day Workshop


Sunday, March 3rd at the Lake Erie Center in Oregon

Patch Day is designed for 2nd – 5th graders to earn a Partnering for Clean Streams patch by completing hands-on activities related to water quality. This program encourages stewardship of our water resources and fosters a connection between the students and their environment.



59 Patches Were Awarded



 = 5 Patches Awarded

Presenters:

- o City of Oregon stormwater staff
- o City of Perrysburg stormwater staff
- o Wood Soil and Water Conservation District staff
- o Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District educator
- o Black Swamp Bird Observatory staff
- o UT Lake Erie Center staff and Graduate Students



4th Annual Partnership with Mercy Health Glass City Marathon

Sunday, April 28th - Green Team

PCS is the "Green Team" at the Mercy Health Glass City Marathon. We work with the marathon coordinators to improve sustainability behind the scenes and are there for the weekend to encourage individual recycling. Our efforts have continued to expand as we help the organizers and runners adopt our eco-friendly initiatives.

We worked with GCM behind the scenes to work towards their goal of a "Green-Certified" marathon. GCM has adopted an internal policy to clearly define what materials are acceptable to their team members and business partners.

Goals included:

- o Eliminate Styrofoam and non-compostable materials
- o Encourage recyclable packaging and service wares
- o Continue to seek alternatives to single-use products and materials

Runners crossed or ran alongside the Ottawa River 15 times:

Our efforts prevented marine debris from the marathon from contaminating this important waterway.



22 volunteers

20 lbs of Gu packs (Terracycled)

1,500 lbs of Cardboard

Glass, plastic overwrap, plastic bottles and cups were removed as well

Canoemobile presented by TMACOG

(Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments)

June 26th – 29th

Canoemobile is a “floating classroom” though Wilderness Inquiry that targets under-served students through hands-on environmental education.

Some youths had the opportunity to paddle for the first time on Wilderness Inquiry's 24-foot canoes in the Maumee River!

Multiple Waterfront Locations:

- o Cullen Park
- o Middlegrounds Metropark
- o Farnsworth Metropark
- o Walbridge Park Boat Launch

PCS was on-site each day to provide information to students regarding types, sources and effects of trash in the water. We also distributed materials to encourage the use of reusable items, such as metal straws and cotton tote bags.

Other local organizations provided information on regional water quality and community involvement:

- o Keep Toledo/ Lucas County Beautiful
- o Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District
- o The Mannik & Smith Group
- o Metroparks Toledo
- o National Museum of the Great Lakes
- o ODNR Scenic Rivers Program
- o The Olander Park System
- o The City of Toledo

Canoemobile concluded on June 29th with the Watershed Festival at the Broadway Street Boat Launch. Families were invited to join in on the fun with activities, public health information, booths from community partners, food trucks, paddling techniques demonstrations, and safe water practices training.



Over 200 Participants!

Storm Drain Marking

Storm drains flow untreated into our waterways. This year we had one group volunteer with us, the Ottawa Hills Schools Environmental Club. Through our program, they supported the proper maintenance of local storm drains by marking them with the slogan “Drains are for rain- flows to waterways” along with providing educational outreach to homeowners. This was the first SDM effort by this group and they plan to continue next year with us.

Storm drains were marked near Ottawa Hills High School



10 volunteers

27 storm drains marked

125 flyers distributed

Get the Lead Out

Get the Lead Out is our cleanup program specifically focused on removing the fishing line, lead and lures that get left behind after the spring walleye and white bass runs along the Maumee River. Volunteers remove fishing debris to prevent wildlife entanglement and enhance the aesthetics of our beautiful Maumee River. Fishing lines can remain in the ecosystem for 600 years, so our efforts are vital to keep our rivers healthy.

This year we had a lot of high water and were unable to host as many events as usual. The material that we seek to remove is typically found wrapped in tree roots, branches and entangled in other types of shoreline debris. GLO is dependent on low water to be successful.

All fishing line is cleaned and sent to Berkley Conservation Institute, which recycles and re-purposes it into spawning habitat enclosures for fish and other recycled products.



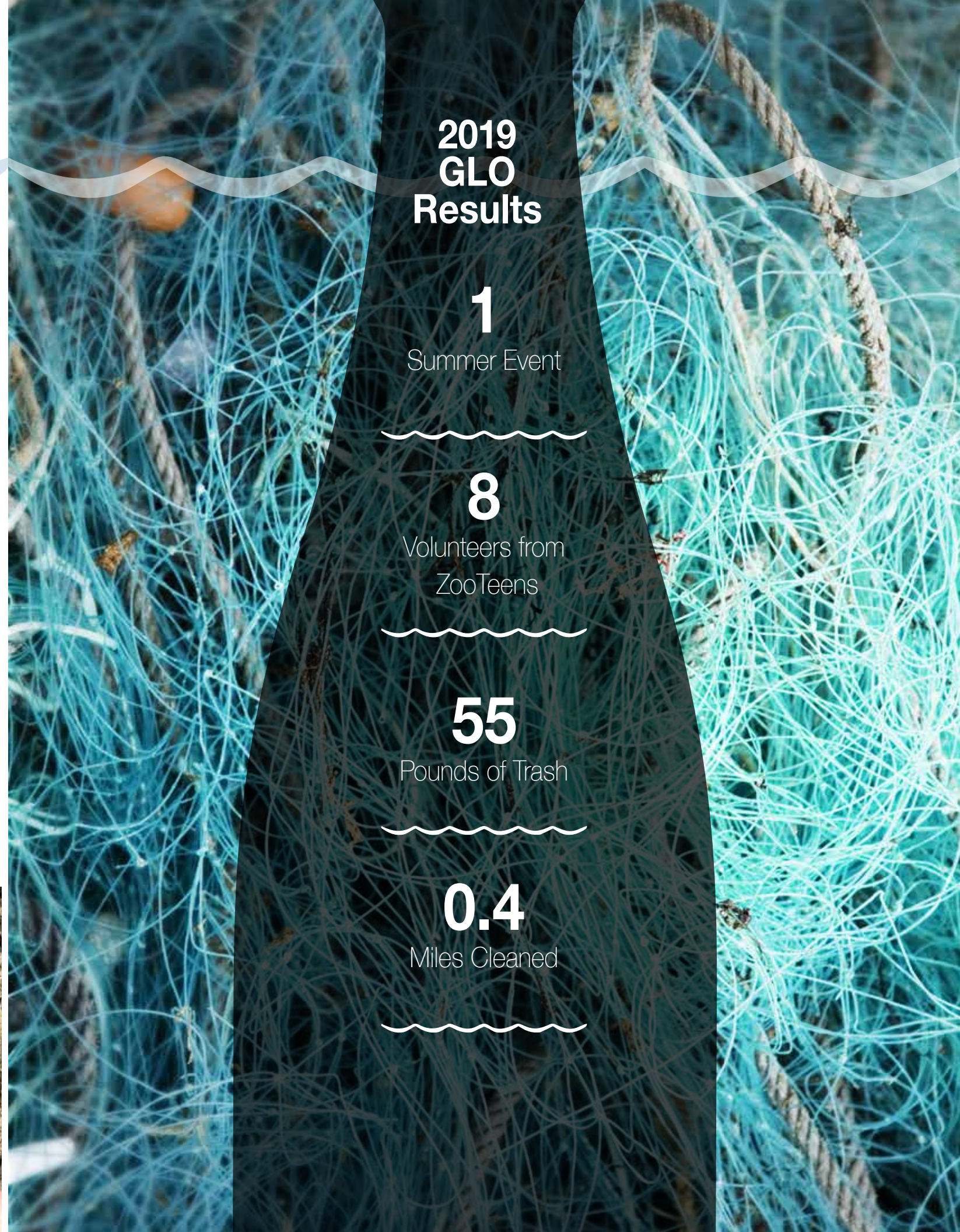
2019 GLO Results

1
Summer Event

8
Volunteers from
ZooTeens

55
Pounds of Trash

0.4
Miles Cleaned



Fishing Line Recycling Bins

CYS 365



Fishing Line Recycling Bins encourage anglers to responsibly recreate along our rivers. These bins are placed along fishing “hotspots” to promote proper disposal of fishing line. PCS and volunteers maintain and clean the line throughout the year.

43 Participants

Bonus

Plastic Reduction Strategies for Coastal Landowners and Businesses Workshop

- o We assisted the City of Toledo with hosting the workshop by Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve staff
- o We did a hands-on demo to show others how to make fishing line bins with a “make it & take it” for those who wanted them installed in their area. Some of those bins stayed at local marinas.
- o Participants also did a marine debris cleanup at a nearby park & marina.
- o Participants learned about reducing their daily single-use consumption by switching to alter natives, such as metal straws and bamboo silverware for use on the go.



Due to the awesome power of the Maumee River ice jams, we had some fishing line bin casualties at both Side Cut and Buttonwood Parks. High water also prevented the installation of new bins.



15 events



126 volunteers

Wood County Park District and Metroparks of the Toledo Area joined forces and we were able to get out to the islands in the Maumee River!

Paddling Stats:

- o 2 events
- o 29 volunteers
- o 565 pounds of trash
- o 2.2 miles cleaned

We were helped by:

- o UT Latino Student Union
- o Perrysburg Rotary Club
- o Toledo ZooTeens
- o Cub Scouts Pack 110
- o Girl Scouts
- o ODNR Teen Council
- o Wood County Park District
- o Metroparks of Toledo,
- o The City of Toledo
- o The City of Perrysburg



8.5 miles cleaned



2,408 pounds of trash

Momentum Arts Festival

Is a three-day festival of art and music in downtown Toledo on revitalizing the waterfront along the Maumee River

Artist Kelley Bell had an installation named "The Herd" of inflatable glow in the dark inner tube creatures. The intention of this exhibit was to call attention to the reality between local waterways and accessible local waterways. It is not uncommon in dense urban areas for waterways to be inaccessible to residents due to physical access barriers and/ or water quality and safety concerns.

Bell offered to sell her "herdlings" and donate \$5 of each sale to PCS to help further our water quality initiatives.

Artist Kelley Bell, lower left with group of Bowling Green State University students.



5th Annual Water Quality Boat Cruise

Sunday, August 4th

Following Toledo's Drinking Water Crisis of 2014, PCS has organized an annual tour on the Maumee River to showcase what our partners are doing to promote clean, clear and safe water. We enjoy bringing awareness to local and regional projects and initiatives that improve and protect our water resources.

Presented in partnership with the Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee (MAAC) and Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District, supported by a grant from the Ohio EPA and US EPA GLRI

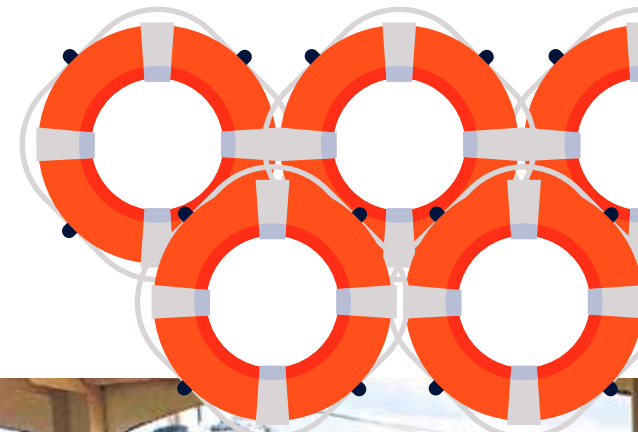
Presenters:

- o Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District
- o Hull and Associates
- o Civil & Environmental Consultants
- o University of Toledo
- o US Department of Agriculture
- o Partners for Clean Streams staff

Covered by



Attended by 45 people on the Sandpiper



Clean Your Streams Day 23

Saturday, September 21st

Clean Your Streams Day has grown from a handful of volunteers to a community tradition of service and conservation. PCS is proud of the impact this program has had on beautifying our community and uniting a diverse volunteer base into one singular goal: removing as much trash as possible! We are so grateful to our planning team that believes in this program and to the volunteers who make it possible. The volunteers show year after year that they are willing to work for clean water and join us for the largest stream cleanup in Northwest Ohio.

Challenge Award Winners

Youth Champions

- Battle of the Bags** – Toledo Early College High School (94 bags)
- Most Volunteers** – Toledo Early College High School (141 people)
- Awesome Effort** – Toledo Zoo Teens (3.2 bags/ person)

Collegiate Champions

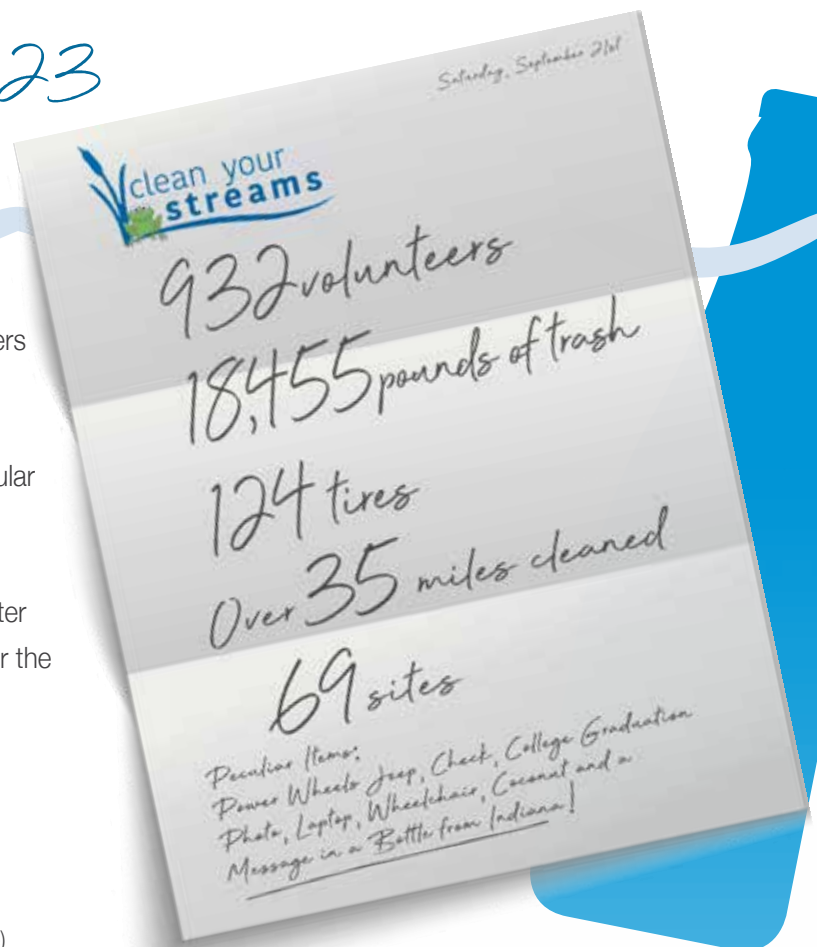
- Battle of the Bags** – BGSU Environmental Service Club (47.5 bags)
- Most Volunteers** – BGSU Environmental Service Club (10 people)
- Awesome Effort** – BGSU Environmental Service Club (4.8 bags/ person)

Corporate/ Organizational River Partner Award Winners

- Watershed Warrior (50 or more volunteers)** – First Solar (88)
- River Guardian (30 – 49 volunteers)** – Cub Scout Pack 43 (37)

Stream Protector (10 – 29 volunteers)

- West Side Montessori Middle School (26)
- Johns Manville (18)
- LyondellBasell (17)
- O-I (17)
- Ohio EPA Northwest Ohio District (14)
- Monroe Street United Methodist Church (14)



Creek Crusader (1 – 9 volunteers)

- Toledo Divisions of Environmental Services and Water (8)
- Toledo Correctional Institution – Women in Corrections (6)
- Toledo Campus Ministry (3)

CYS Planning Team – Thank you to...

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Marilyn DuFour | Bryan Twitchell |
| Tim Niederkorn | Randy Nissen |
| Erika Buri | Rick Bryan |
| Kristin Jenkins | Andrea Beard |
| Don Nelson | Lauren Rush |
| Kevin Laughlin | Bob Neubert |



Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee

(MAAC) Facilitating Organization

PCS is the local facilitating organization for the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) and coordinates the MAAC. The MAAC works through partnerships and planning to find and develop fundable projects that lead to removing Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) within the Maumee Area of Concern.

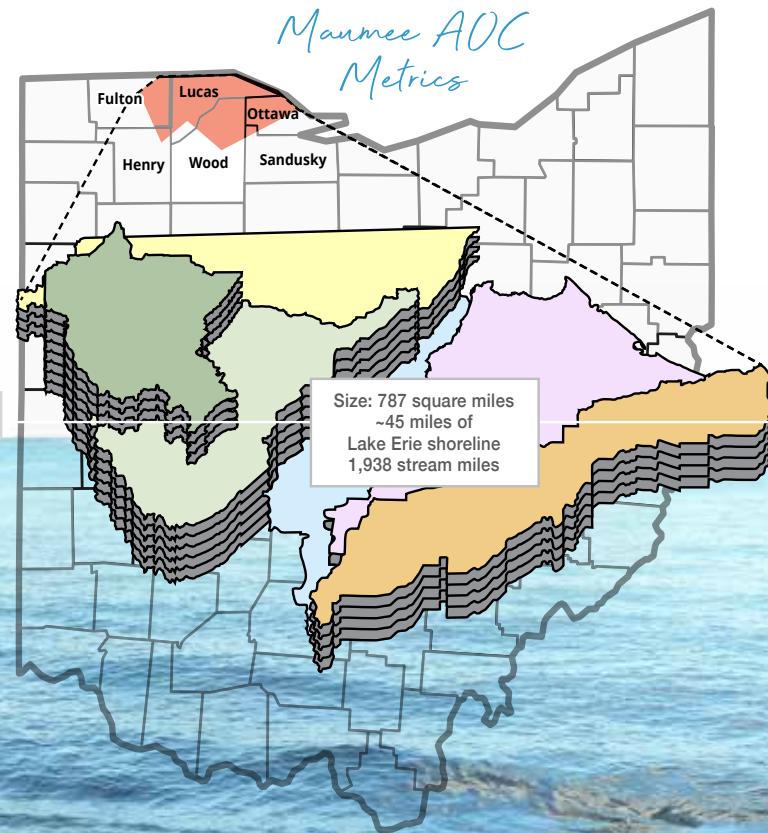
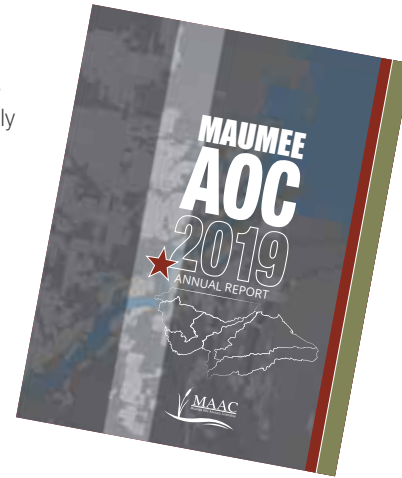
The MAAC facilitates partnership-building and collaboration in watershed planning and project development. It also assists partners with implementations of projects and raises awareness of AOC issues within the community. This AOC has 9 impairments left to improve ranging from impaired wildlife habitat to beach closings. PCS specifically addresses BUI 11 (Degradation of Aesthetics) by leading small and large-scale cleanups to remove marine debris.

Work to address BUIs took shape in several ways during 2019

- o Progress was made on approved BUI 14b (loss of wildlife habitat) projects; 17 of the 20 approved projects were either completed or were in progress
- o Progress was made on the selection of projects to recommend regarding BUIs 3a, 6, and 14a (fish populations, degradation of benthos, and loss of fish habitat)
- o The Data Management and Delisting System (DMDS) was updated (version 4.0)

AOC partners also helped PCS conduct two community outreach & education programs in 2019

- o 5th Annual Water Quality Boat Cruise:
An opportunity for local resident to cruise the Maumee River while learning about water quality and ongoing projects to restore various BUIs.
- o 17th Annual Patch Day: A day-long program during which kids participate in multiple hands-on activities to learn about the local environment and water quality while earning a patch.



Collaborating with Ottawa Hills & The Nature Conservancy

Partners for Clean Streams worked with the Village of Ottawa Hills and The Nature Conservancy during 2019 to help facilitate several components of the Village of Ottawa Hills' 10 Year Environmental Strategic Plan.

The Plan proposes work on four main pillars: Community Environmental Engagement, Ottawa River Watershed Conservation, River Ecosystem Health and Water Quality, and Floodplain Health. Specific examples of our work towards these goals are as follows:

Community Engagement

- o Facilitation/planning for meetings of the Ottawa Hills' Environmental Task Force
- o Promotion of local environmental initiatives on social media outlets (e.g., Blue Week and Clean Your Streams Day)
- o Booth presence at the Ottawa Hills Fall Festival; promotion of marine debris reduction initiatives
- o Participation in Student Watershed Watch activities in Ottawa Hills

Ottawa River Conservation

- o Facilitation/planning for Ottawa River Watershed Conservation Collaboration meeting

River Ecosystem Health and Water Quality

- o Facilitation of a Storm Drain Marking effort with Ottawa Hills High School Environmental Club
- o Facilitation/planning (in collaboration with Lucas SWCD) of a public Rain Barrel Workshop

Floodplain Health

- o Development of a factsheet intended to advise community members regarding end-of-season swimming pool dewatering best practices
- o Assistance in invasive vegetation removal along a portion of the Ottawa River floodplain



Financials

As of December 31, PCS had \$88,102 in cash balances, with \$35,000 of that restricted for 2020 programs. PCS is also the fiscal agent for the Maumee RAP Supplemental Environmental Project restricted fund that has \$18,385.

Using in-kind resources, we lower our expenses so that your donations stretch even farther. We continue to secure small grants and diversify our funding through donations, sponsorships, and building relationships with other organizations. We continue to seek larger grants and recently obtained ones to support our marine debris stewardship and education programs. We have continued working with the Toledo Roadrunners Club on strategies to reduce the impact of organized runs on marine debris in our waterways and our communities. We also continue to serve as the facilitating organization for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee, which facilitates federal funding for priority projects worth millions of dollars led by many partners in the region.

Income:
\$195,851

Expenses:
\$164,558

Balance:
\$88,102

*Note, this includes a lump sum foundation grant of \$35,000 held for 2020.

To support PCS, visit partnersforcleanstreams.org/give

Membership Breakdown

Individual

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

Member Benefits

- o Prominent logo recognition on our website, promotional, and event materials
- o Support stays local – making a direct investment in clean, clear, and safe water in Northwest Ohio
- o One vote on issues at Annual General Meeting
- o Receive e-notices of events and monthly e-newsletters

Organization

- o \$100 – Patron
- o \$250 – Sustaining
- o \$350 – Support
- o \$500 – Contributor*
- o \$1000 – Conservator*
- o \$2,500+ – Preservationist*

* 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.

2019 Total Impact
Number of Volunteers
1,165
Number of Pounds Cleaned
22,941
Number of People Educated
3,249

Education Outreach Events

Participated in 17 events

- o Toledo Lake Erie Clear Choices, Clean Water campaign
- o UT Earth Fest
- o Glass City Marathon Expo
- o Nature's Nursery Wildlife Festival
- o Boy and Girl Scout Presentations
- o Ottawa Hills Fall Festival
- o Ottawa Hills HS Environmental Club
- o Student Watershed Watch



In Memoriam

Our region lost two wonderful river stewards, Carol Bentley & Captain Keith Poland. We appreciate and acknowledge all the generous gifts made in their memories to continue the protection & restoration of the waterways they loved so much.

2019 Donors

PCS is grateful for those members and businesses that have supported us as we work to improve water quality, habitat, and our overall quality of life for our families and their families to come.

Major Funders (Grants)

- o Ohio EPA
- o National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program

\$5,000 and Above

- o LyondellBasell
- o O-I Charities Foundation
- o Toledo Community Foundation
- o University of Toledo (Office of the President)

\$2,500 - \$4,999

- o First Solar

\$1,000 - \$2,499

- o City of Oregon
- o City of Toledo Environmental Services
- o Kwest Group
- o Lucas County Storm Water Utility
- o Toledo Waterways Initiative

\$500 - \$999

- o The Andersons
- o Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.
- o First Energy/Toledo Edison
- o Hull & Associates, Inc.
- o Johns Manville
- o Tetra Tech, Inc.

\$250 - \$499

- o The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.
- o Monroe Street United Methodist Church
- o Walmart Giving (Sam's Club)
- o Walmart (Holland Store)

Significant In-Kind

- o Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC, Bridgestone's Tire4Ward Program
- o City of Perrysburg
- o Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- o The Olander Park System
- o Strategically Digital, LLC
- o Waste Management



* To protect privacy, we choose not to list individual donations, but we are grateful to all the people who support our mission of clean, clear, and safe water. Your generosity shows us that our community cares about water quality and we will use your gifts considerably to ensure that we can make the most impact with them.

Clean Streams Partner Award

In 2019 the award went to two people: Denise Fonner and Joan King!

Clean Streams Partner Award was created by the Partners for Clean Streams Board of Directors in 2007 to honor exceptional individuals and/or organizations in our community that work to improve our rivers and streams. This is a PCS Annual Award for Environmental Stewardship and Involvement.

The Winner(s) are Denise Fonner and Joan King!

Denise has been involved with Clean Your Streams since 2008 when she led First Solar's team and has been a Board Member since 2009. She is now with Omnisource and is still actively involved with PCS! She loves seeing people from all walks of life making a huge difference in keeping rivers clean every year.

Joan joined the Board of Directors in 2017. In 2018 she became our current Treasurer. Joan has been involved with CYS since 2013, and for a few years in the beginning, and brings her granddaughters every year to get them involved with a First Solar battalion that both Denise and Joan helped grow.



Board of Directors

Bob Neubert (President) – Lucas County Engineer's Office

Andrew Curran (Vice President) – Associate Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America

Joan King (Treasurer) – First Solar

Kyle Spicer (Secretary) – Citizen

Denise Fonner – Citizen

Chris Smalley – Metroparks of the Toledo Area

Bill Hoefflin – Wood County Park District

Bill Buri – Pexco Packaging



Did You Get the Message?

How to Support PCS

Become a Partner of PCS

- o Receive monthly e-newsletter
- o Special invitations to events
- o Information about our programs

partnersforcleanstreams.org/memberships

Volunteer with PCS

- o Glass City Marathon Green Team
- o Storm Drain Marking
- o Get the Lead Out
- o CYS 365
- o Clean Your Streams Day
- o Educational Outreach Opportunities

partnersforcleanstreams.org/volunteer

Donate to PCS

- o Your financial contribution supports us in our mission of securing clean, clear and safe water in our community

partnersforcleanstreams.org/give

How to Give

- o Kroger Community Rewards: Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards with your Kroger Plus Card and choose PCS (#WE625)
- o Northwest Ohio Community Shares: Ask your employer about participating in this program where a small portion of your paycheck goes directly to support local nonprofits such as PCS!
- o Mercy Health Glass City Marathon Beneficiaries Program through Toledo RoadRunners

Runsignup.com/Race/22766/Charity/1917





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.

PCS Staff

Kris Patterson – Executive Director
Paul Fuzinski/ Jamie Forbush – Program Coordinator
Hannah Smith – Outreach & Communications Specialist
Amanda Kovach – Watershed Coordinator

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