

# THE

# 2021



adapting & evolving  
2021 annual report

# 0





## Letter from Executive Director .....

*Partners for Clean Streams 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.*

For Partners for Clean Streams, 2021 was a year of adaptation and renewal. Each of our public programs saw returning and growing volunteer numbers, some in big ways and some in small ways.

Clean Your Streams 365 grew from twenty-seven clean-ups in 2020 to sixty-two clean-ups in 2021. Many volunteers adapted to new technology and embraced the option to clean on-their-own using the Clean Swell app to record data. In addition, PCS staff modified public clean-ups to include COVID precautions, so we were also able to offer more frequent staff-led clean-ups.

Thanks to high water levels on the Maumee River for most of the summer, Get the Lead Out also got the chance to grow through adaptation. We had the opportunity to remove fishing line, lures, and link sinkers from sites that our volunteers don't often tackle, including Otsego Park and Weirs Rapids Wildlife Area, in addition to old favorites like Blue Grass Island. In 2020, PCS staff hosted only one Get the Lead Out program, but in 2021, we were able to host five.

We were especially happy to bring back the Clean Your Streams volunteer appreciation picnic so we could celebrate the 25th Annual Clean Your Streams Day in-person together. As we've grown more accustomed to hybridizing online and in-person program offerings (even our Annual General Meeting was hybridized this year!), we're able to offer opportunities that include more people while prioritizing everyone's safety.

And that's only our programs! 2021 also brought plenty of new projects, public outreach opportunities, and collaboration partners. PCS has always been an organization with plenty going on behind the scenes, so read on to learn more about what we got up to this year.

Just like nature and the rivers we love, we are always adapting and evolving!





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## Total 2021 Impact

PCS volunteers:

# 935

Pounds of marine debris removed:

# 11,945

Clean-ups:

# 119

River miles cleaned:

# 89.5

Storm drains marked:

# 332







# Clean Your Streams 365

- This program runs throughout the year. Volunteers choose a time and location to remove marine debris throughout North West Ohio waterways.
- Clean-ups can be PCS staff-led or go-on-your-own.
- This program has grown steadily in recent years, thanks in large part to participants using the Clean Swell app to track their trash data.
- In 2021, PCS partnered with Metroparks Toledo for three paddle cleanups, where volunteers used canoes or kayaks to reach otherwise inaccessible marine debris.

### Clean Your Streams 365 Highlight:

#### Buttonwood Stewardship by Molly Strader

One volunteer stood out this year with her many Clean Swell app entries. **Molly Strader** first learned about Partners for Clean Streams at a public CYS 365 event hosted by the Perrysburg Country Garden Club. Molly downloaded Clean Swell and began recording marine debris data when she visited her local park: Buttonwood. Buttonwood is a small

recreation area managed by the Wood County Park District on the south shore of the Maumee River. Between April and October of this year, Molly recorded eleven clean-up entries in Clean Swell, showing she removed 85 pounds of trash! Her top three items were cigarette butts (131), plastic pieces (42), and food wrappers (38).

Why does Molly clean up Buttonwood? In her words, "I do it out of the love of the park and keeping our rivers and waters free of debris for the health and well-being of the wildlife." Molly's stewardship provides an outstanding example of the positive difference just one person can make on their local environment.

If you regularly pick up trash from your local ditch, creek, or stream, consider downloading Clean Swell and recording data on what you find. PCS would love to learn about your efforts and highlight you, next!

Pounds of Debris Removed

# 3,567

Clean-Ups

# 62

Volunteers

# 334



River Miles Covered

# 31.5





GLO Stats .....

Pounds of Debris Removed  
(including bags full of fishing line)

202

Volunteers

60



# Get the Lead Out!

Cleaning fishing line, lead, & garbage from the Maumee River

# 17th year of Get the Lead Out

These clean-ups focus on fishing line, lures, hooks, and lead sinkers in the Maumee River.

Programs are held throughout the summer when Maumee River water levels are (ideally!) lower. This year, water levels stayed unusually high. To compensate for lack of access to Blue Grass Island for most of the season, PCS staff led clean-ups at sites we don't always tackle, like Otsego Park and Weirs Rapids Fishing Access.

River Miles Covered

2

Clean-Ups

5





# 25th Annual Clean Your Streams Day



Sites Cleaned  
**52**

Pounds of Debris Removed  
**8,176**

This year was the silver anniversary of Northwest Ohio's largest watershed clean-up! We were glad to bring back bigger in-person clean-up kickoffs and to be able to celebrate twenty-five years of Clean Your Streams together at the volunteer appreciation picnic.

2021 saw the return of our "remote/virtual kickoff" during the week leading up to Clean Your Streams Day. Participants had the option to register to clean a waterway at a time and location of their choosing to ensure that Clean Your Streams could be accessible to a wider group of volunteers.

River Miles Covered  
**56**

Volunteers  
**479**

Peculiar items found: Plastic vampire teeth, decoy goose, glow sticks, office chair, porcelain dishes, hotel keycard, car grill, tow hitch, electric scooter, 70 empty teddy graham containers.







# Clean Your Streams Day Youth Challenge Awards

Battle of the Bags  
(Greatest number of bags collected)

- 1st - Toledo ZOO Teens
- 2nd - St. Ignatius
- 3rd - Whitmer Science and Environmental Club

Awesome Effort  
(Most weight per volunteer)

- 1st - St. Ignatius
- 2nd - Toledo ZOO Teens
- 3rd - Whitmer Science & Environmental Club

## Clean Your Streams Day River Partner Certification

Watershed Warrior  
(more than 50 volunteers)

Toledo Early College High School

Creek Crusader  
(1-10 volunteers)

Family of Faith Church

Stream Protector  
(10-29 volunteers)

City of Toledo Environmental Services  
Buddhist Temple of Toledo  
Monroe Street United Methodist Church



## Programs – Marine Debris Prevention

Drains Marked

# 322



Educational Door Tags Distributed

# 1,367

# Storm Drain Marking

In our storm drain marking program, volunteers label storm drains with stenciled paint or fixed medallions to prevent improper dumping or blocked drains.

We provided supplies and staff support for two "Citizenship in the Community" Scout merit badge days of service.

We also offered training and supplies for four additional storm drain marking projects with Toledo Public Schools.

Volunteers

# 53



# Reel In and Recycle



Total number of bins in use around Northwest Ohio:

# 36



Fishing line recycling bins encourage anglers to responsibly recreate along our rivers by properly disposing of line.

Regional partners install fishing line recycling bins, including Metroparks Toledo, Wood County Park District, and others. Volunteers have the option to “adopt” a bin by agreeing to clean and maintain it.

Bins can also be financially sponsored by individuals, organizations, or corporations!

6 new bins installed this year:

- Ft. Miamis' Corey St. Boat Launch (1)
- W.W. Knight Preserve (1)
- Olander Park (4)

Thank you to our 2021 fishing line recycling bin sponsors:  
**Fallen Timbers Trout Unlimited, First Energy Foundation, Merickel-Farley Trout Club.**



# Glass City Marathon Green Team



For the sixth year running, we served as sustainability planning advisors for the Mercy Health Glass City Marathon race weekend. We focused on diverting waste from landfills and preventing marine debris from entering the Ottawa River.

Our volunteers and staff helped coordinate recycling and waste management across race weekend, diverting hundreds of pounds of plastic bottles, cardboard, glass, and aluminum and ensuring that these did not end up in our waterways.





# Projects



## City of Toledo Trash Trappers

Beginning in 2021, the City of Toledo is leading “Trash Trappers” through the EPA’s Trash Free Waters grant to install trash capture devices in area waterways.

One one of several community organizations providing education, we hosted volunteer clean-ups to raise awareness about these devices.

We designed seven educational postcards to teach about the impact of marine debris on our waterways, and the purpose and benefits of each trash trap device.

We facilitated three clean-ups in the Trash Trappers’ focus area within five miles of Lake Erie.

## Maumee River Floating Laboratory on Watershed Science

Better known as Maumee River F.L.O.W.S., the University of Toledo’s Lake Erie Center was awarded a NOAA B-WET grant for outdoor, hands-on environmental science.

Alongside other organizations, we supported five science cruises for students aboard the Sandpiper. Students studied water samples and macroinvertebrates in the sediment and water. We talked about the impact of marine debris in water and on wildlife, and what we can do tackle this problem.

Teachers then lead four Storm Drain Marking workshops and two Clean Your Streams 365 clean-ups with our supplies and instruction.



More activities to come in 2022.



# Public Education & Outreach

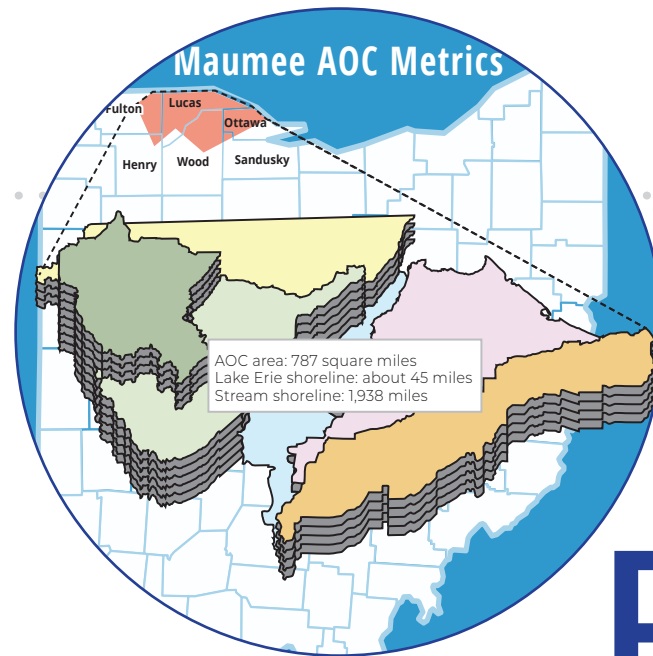
Programs: Marine Debris Removal  
Clean Your Stream 365

- Runs throughout the year
- Volunteers choose a time/location to remove marine debris throughout NW Ohio waterways
- Can be PC staff-led or go on-your-own
- In 2021, partnered with Metroparks Toledo for 3 paddle cleanups

A return to in-person events meant being out at Naturally Oregon in May to Sturgeon Fest in October. Our staff and board participated in four tabling events in 2021.

We also offered five presentations, both virtual and in-person, on marine debris education and water stewardship.

We continued a robust presence on social media, with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Our content highlights our volunteers, our program impact, and educational info on marine debris, water quality, and positive environmental choices. We also enjoy promoting programs and educational initiatives from our many partners.



# Behind-the-Scenes



Since 2007, PCS has been designated as the local facilitating organization for the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) and coordinates the Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee (MAAC).

The U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement defines AOCs as "geographic areas [...] where significant impairment of beneficial uses has occurred as a result of human activities at the local level." In short, an AOC is a place that has experienced environmental harm, and where organizations are stepping in to help!

Beneficial use impairments, or BUIs, are specific types of environmental harm. Some example BUIs include "loss of fish and wildlife habitat," "beach closings," and "eutrophication or undesirable algae." The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement lists 14 types of BUIs.

The MAAC works through partnerships and planning to find and develop fundable projects that lead to removing BUIs from the Maumee AOC. The MAAC also assists partners with project implementation, and raises awareness of AOC issues within the community.

Additionally, PCS's many marine debris removal and prevention programs help address BUI 11, the degradation of aesthetics.



# 2021 Donors



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. 100% of our Board members make a financial contribution each year

## Grants

- Anonymous Foundation
- Greater Toledo Community Foundation
- NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET), through UT subaward
- Ohio EPA Areas of Concern Support, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Ohio Lake Erie Commission
- US EPA Trash Free Waters, through City of Toledo subaward



## \$5000 and Above

- Lucas County Storm Water Utility
- O-I Charities Foundation
- Toledo Roadrunners Club

## \$2,500-\$4,999

- Northwest Ohio Community Shares
- University of Toledo

## \$1,000-\$2,500

- Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund
- City of Oregon
- City of Toledo
- First Solar
- Kwest Group
- OmniSource

## \$500-\$999

- Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.
- Fallen Timbers Chapter, Trout Unlimited
- First Energy Foundation
- Heritage Environmental Services
- Hull & Associates, Inc.
- Tetra Tech, Inc

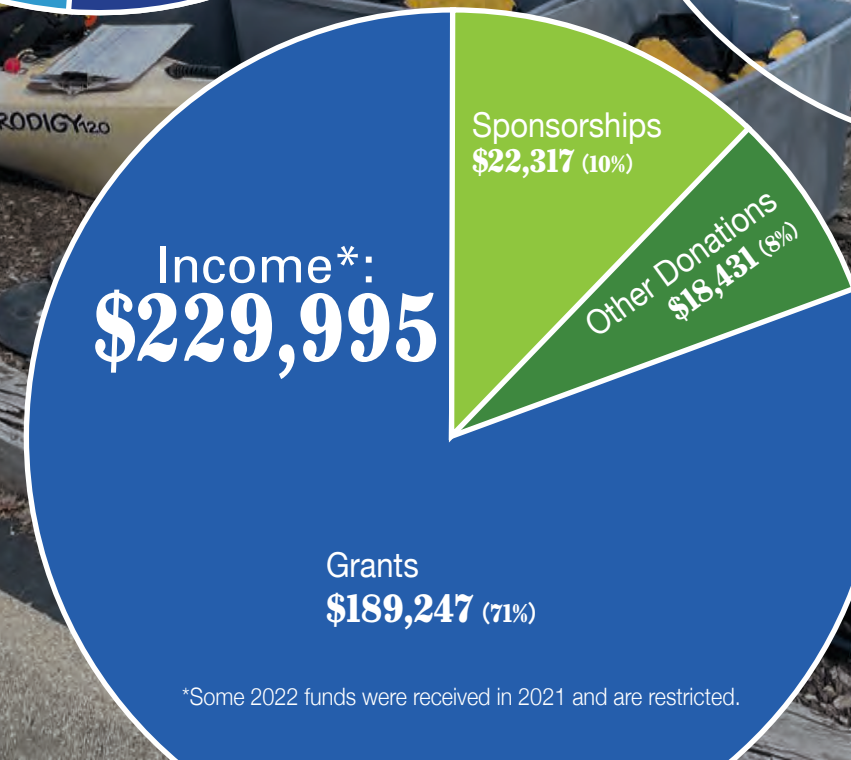
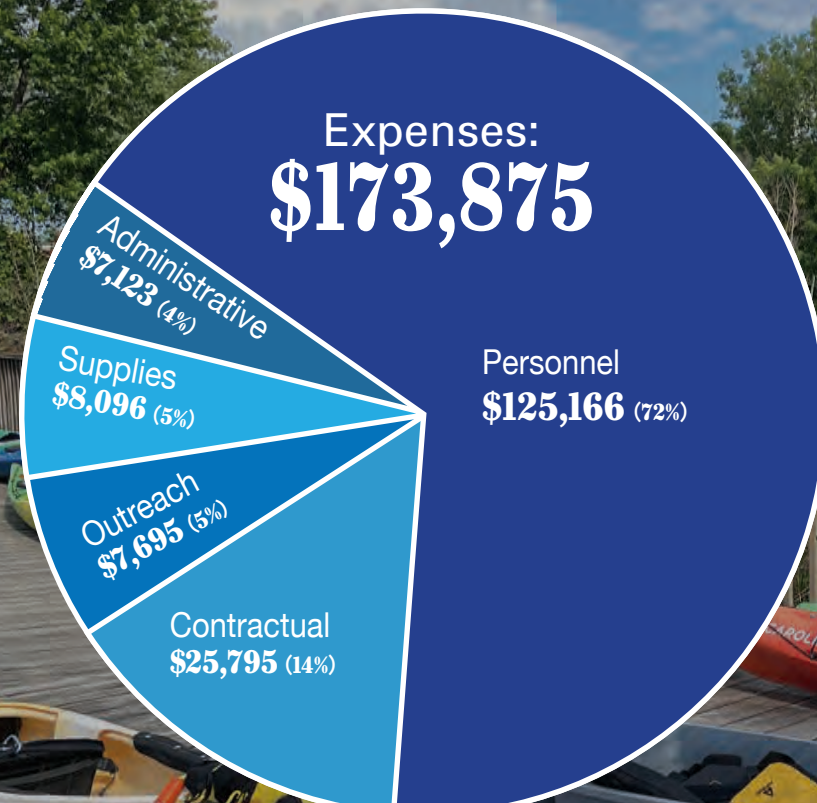
## \$250 - \$499

- Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.
- Monroe Street United Methodist Church
- Rotary Club of Perrysburg

## In-Kind

- Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC, Bridgestone's Tires4ward Program
- City of Perrysburg
- Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- Republic Services

# 2021 Financials



\*Some 2022 funds were received in 2021 and are restricted.



# Support PCS!

## Get Involved

Visit [PartnersForCleanStreams.org/volunteer](https://PartnersForCleanStreams.org/volunteer) to fill out our interest form.

Keep "Current" on opportunities with our monthly newsletter.

Follow us on social media to see what our volunteers get up to.

## Give a Gift

Make a one-time donation by visiting [PartnersForCleanStreams.org/give](https://PartnersForCleanStreams.org/give)

Donate by linking your Kroger Rewards card or Amazon Smile membership to PCS.

Donate through RunSignUp.

Sponsor your favorite program.

PCS members receive a vote at our Annual General Meeting.

Your support sustains programs that benefit your community, and protects your waterways for future generations



## Memberships

### Individual

- \$15 – student/senior
- \$25 – individual
- \$35 – family
- \$50 – contributor
- \$100 – conservator
- \$250+ – preservationist

### Membership

- \$100 – patron
- \$200 – sustaining
- \$350 – supporter
- \$500 – contributor
- \$1000 – conservator
- \$2500+ – preservationist

This award was created by the PCS Board of Directors in 2007 to honor exceptional individuals and/or organizations in our community that work to improve our rivers and streams.

### Past Winners:

- 2007 – Sue Horvath
- 2008 – John Jaeger
- 2009 – Marilyn DuFour
- 2010 – Tom Henry
- 2011 – Steve Pollick & Matt Horvat
- 2012 – Terry Shankland
- 2013 – Cherie Blair
- 2014 – Kurt Erichsen
- 2015 – Bob Neubert
- 2016 – Todd Crail
- 2017 – Dr. Patrick Lawrence
- 2018 – Bill Davis
- 2019 – Denise Fonner & Joan King
- 2020 – Randy Nissen

# PCS

# Annual Award

for Environmental  
Stewardship and  
Involvement



This year, the Board of Directors congratulates Jamie Kochensparger!

Jamie has served as Education Specialist of the Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) since 2003, providing environmental programs for students of all ages: preschool to senior centers! Jamie's career has touched watersheds at every phase, from her roots as a Naturalist/Ranger to creating a Junior Watershed Academy curriculum.

In her current role with Lucas SWCD she has increased annual programs offered and reaches thousands of Lucas County residents with her conservation and natural resource education programs. She was named Outstanding Area 1 Soil & Water District Employee in 2007.

Jamie has partnered with the Maumee RAP and PCS on a number of educational initiatives including Give Water A Hand, the Clean Streams Patch Day Program, and Water Quality Cruises. Thank you, Jamie, for your decades of education about our waterways!





2021

## Board of Directors & Staff

### Board of Directors

Bob Neubert - President

Andrew Curran - Vice President

Joan King - Treasurer

Kyle Spicer - Secretary (Outgoing)

Denise Fonner - Member

Chris Smalley - Member

Bill Hoefflin - Member (Outgoing)

Bill Buri - Member

Marilyn DuFour – Member



Cassandra Prchlik  
Communications and  
Outreach Specialist



Kris Patterson  
Executive Director



Liv Simkins Bullock  
Program Coordinator



Partners for Clean Streams  
P.O. Box 203  
Perrysburg, OH 43552

132 W. 2nd St. Suite C  
Perrysburg, OH 43551  
Phone/Fax 419-874-0727

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