

Connected by Water  
Strengthened by Community  
2024 Annual Report



## 2024 OVERALL IMPACT

PCS Volunteers: **1,098**

Pounds of Marine Debris Removed: **16,452**

Waterway Clean-ups: **94**

River Miles Cleaned: **44.25**

Water Quality Sampling Locations: **23**

Storm Drains Marked: **1,049**

Fishing Line Recycling Bins In-use: **46**

Community Education and Outreach Events: **26**



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dear Partners, Supporters, and Friends,

As I reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future, I am both humbled and excited by the opportunities before us. This year has been a time of stability as our board leadership stepped up to ensure a smooth leadership transfer and growth for Partners for Clean Streams, and it is with deep gratitude that I begin by acknowledging the incredible leadership of Kris Patterson, who has faithfully served as Executive Director for the past 17 years. Her dedication, vision, and passion for the mission have been transformative, and the impact of her work continues to resonate within this organization and across our region. Kris, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our waterways, our environment, and our community.

As I step into this new role, I am honored to continue the legacy that Kris has built. The foundation she laid is strong, and the values of stewardship, collaboration, and community engagement she instilled are alive and well in every corner of our work. It is with that sense of purpose that I present our 2024 Annual Report—a reflection of our shared history, our ongoing efforts, and the bright future we are building together.

Northwest Ohio is a place where the land and water shape who we are—where rivers, streams, and wetlands connect us all. Our work, and the work of those who have come before us, is a testament to the power of community, stewardship, and respect for the environment. From the very first conservation efforts to our ongoing restoration projects, we have built a legacy of commitment to the health of our waterways. As we reflect on the past, we honor the generations who have come before us, whose passion and hard work inspire our mission today.

One of the greatest joys of this year has been witnessing the power of community action. Whether it's a local school organizing a stream clean-up, a business launching a sustainability initiative, or families spending their weekends enjoying the rivers and parks we've worked so hard to protect, there is an undeniable energy in Northwest Ohio. Our community is stronger and more united than ever, and our work is not just about environmental restoration—it's about strengthening the ties that bind us. We are a place where people can put down roots, explore new opportunities, and grow together, and this report highlights how every effort—big or small—makes a difference.

Looking ahead, we are more committed than ever to the vision of a clean, thriving environment for generations to come. But we also recognize that this vision requires action, leadership, and, most importantly, collaboration. The challenges we face—whether it's climate change, water quality, or the continued need for education and advocacy—are great, but the collective strength of our community gives me confidence that we can overcome them. We have proven time and time again that when we come together, we are capable of remarkable change.

Water is the thread that connects us all, and it is too important to take for granted. We must continue to listen to the needs of our community, embrace innovative solutions, and create opportunities for growth, education, and leadership in the environmental sector. The future of Northwest Ohio's waterways depends on each of us, and together, we will ensure that these natural resources are protected for generations to come.

As we reflect on all we have accomplished, I want to encourage each of you to consider what it means to give of yourself for the greater good. The health of our water, our land, and our community is everyone's responsibility. We all have a role to play, whether that means volunteering, advocating for sustainable practices, or simply making more mindful choices in our own daily lives. By embracing our shared responsibility, we continue to strengthen the very fabric of this place we love.

To all of our partners, supporters, volunteers, and community members, I want to extend my deepest thanks. The work we do would not be possible without your support. Together, we have made incredible strides toward a cleaner, healthier environment. But we are far from finished. We must continue to act with urgency, dedication, and passion. The challenges ahead are significant, but I am confident that with your support, we will rise to meet them.

As we move forward, let's stay rooted in our mission, stay connected to the land we love, and continue to grow together. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to protecting the streams, rivers, and landscapes of Northwest Ohio. I am honored to be part of this amazing community, and I look forward to the work we will do together in the years to come.

With deepest gratitude and optimism,

*Jesse Stock*

Executive Director  
Partners for Clean Streams





# Water Quality MONITORING

Facilitated by PCS, Community Water Action in Toledo (CWAT) program is in partnership with Metroparks Toledo, Cleveland Water Alliance, Greater Toledo Community Foundation, Maumee Watershed Alliance, and the Toledo Zoo. CWAT is also a member of the Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network (LEVSN), and uses the Lake Erie Baseline Assessment Framework (LEBAF) as our monitoring protocol. That means that we are part of a network of organizations collecting the same kind of data across the Lake Erie Basin, so your participation contributes not only to information about local waterways, but about the health of the Lake Erie watershed as a whole!

Local volunteers participated in the first public sampling season for Water Quality Monitoring hosted through CWAT. Volunteers picked a route of 3-4 sites, received training on our equipment and sampling protocol, and then collected vital data about the health of local streams as volunteer scientists throughout the sampling season.

Regular monitoring of water quality parameters- Dissolved Oxygen (DO), pH, Water Temperature, and Conductivity- provides a baseline picture of the health of our waterways, much like an annual checkup with your doctor where blood pressure, heart rate, and blood tests provide data on your health. Just like high blood pressure can indicate to your doctor that there may be a more serious issue needing investigation, these water quality parameters serve as “canaries in the coal mine” for the health of our waterways. If any of these parameters regularly (>20%) exceed healthy benchmark levels, the animals and plants that live in our streams can experience stress, which can lead to low reproduction, die offs, and reduced biodiversity. Consistent monitoring using a scientifically rigorous protocol allows us to be confident that the data we are collecting is giving us an accurate picture over time of what’s going on with our water. Over time, we will have a good idea of what “normal” looks like for each stream, so we will be able to catch red flags indicating something is wrong and needs further investigation.



**METROPARKS  
TOLEDO**



**TOLEDO  
ZOO  
& AQUARIUM**



**Maumee  
Watershed  
Alliance**

*partnerships for healthy rivers*



**Greater Toledo  
Community  
Foundation**



**CLEVELAND  
WATER  
ALLIANCE**

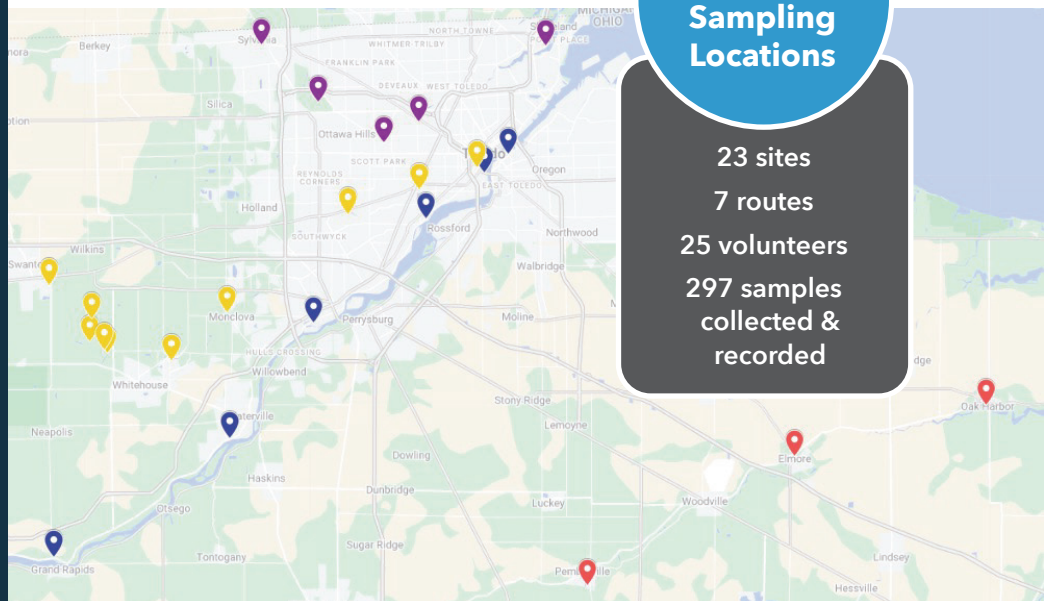
**CWAT  
2024  
Sampling  
Locations**

23 sites

7 routes

25 volunteers

297 samples  
collected &  
recorded





CYS 28

# CLEAN YOUR STREAMS DAY

## What Did Volunteers Remove During CYS 28?

Many thanks to the CYS planning team: Andrea Beard, Rick Bryan, Marilyn DuFour, Ariya Fathi, Bob Neubert, Tim Niederkorn, Lauren Rush, Zach Shepler, and Jon Zabowski

Bottles, cans, straws,  
takeout containers,  
fast food packaging,  
plastic silverware

Single-Use  
Food &  
Beverage  
Packaging  
**53%**

Other  
Single-Use  
**24%**

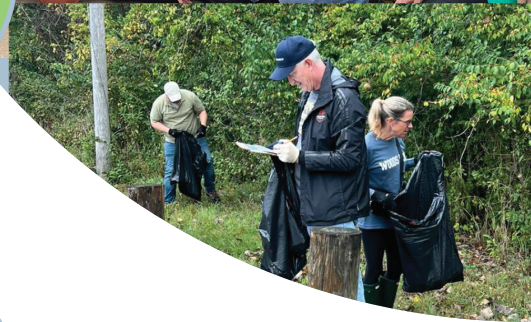
Cigarette butts,  
tobacco packaging,  
grocery bags,  
non-food single-use  
packaging,  
PPE masks, hygiene  
items, balloons

Tiny  
Trash  
**7%**

Plastic &  
foam pieces,  
2.5mm  
or smaller

Misc.  
**16%**

Everything  
else; we can't  
neatly categorize  
every single piece  
of marine debris  
that volunteers  
remove







CYS 28

# CLEAN YOUR STREAMS DAY



21 River Miles Covered



49 Sites Cleaned



649 Volunteers



10,000+lbs  
Marine Debris  
Collected

## Top 5 Items Removed

**#1**

**3,904**

Beverage Bottles (Plastic)

**#2**

**3,575**

Food Wrappers

**#3**

**2,728**

Cigarette Butts

**#4**

**2,581**

Aluminum Cans

**#5**

**2,330**

Plastic/Foam Pieces















Volunteers choose a time and location to remove marine debris throughout Northwest Ohio waterways all year long. Clean-ups can be PCS staff-led or clean-on-your-own. Participants track the items they remove as citizen scientists, using either data cards or the Clean Swell app. CYS 365 volunteers removed almost double the pounds of marine debris in 2024 compared to 2023.



23.46 River  
Miles Covered



42 Sites  
Cleaned



433  
Volunteers



6,217.8  
Pounds of Trash  
Removed





# Get the Lead Out!

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

## GET THE LEAD OUT

Staff-led cleanups focus on removing lead weights, fishing line, and hooks from local waterways, with partners like Youth Leadership Toledo and ZOOTEENS helping to separate and recycle materials. These efforts take place when water levels are low, ensuring safe and effective collection. By addressing these hazards, we reduce risks to wildlife and recreation, helping keep our streams safer and more swimmable for the community.





**PERFORMED**  
2 Clean-ups

**ENGAGED**  
24 Volunteers

**RECYCLED**  
59 Pounds of debris

**COVERED**  
Two river miles







## Storm Drain MARKING



As part of the Give Water a Hand Campaign, our Storm Drain Marking program connects municipalities, citizens, and active volunteers to protect our drinking water. Throughout the warmer months of the year, volunteers mark storm drains with a phrase such as "Drains are for Rain, Flows to Waterway" or "Lake Erie Starts Here" with stencils or adhesive medallions. Volunteers will pass out educational materials in local neighborhoods. Marking storm drains is a powerful way to educate people about possible water contamination during the misuse of storm drains.

Scouts around Northwest Ohio completed two "Citizenship in the Community" BSA Scout merit badge days of service and Perrysburg High School seniors performed a Jackets Giving Back project in local neighborhoods.



## 2024 STATS

**58** volunteers

**1049** storm drains marked

**3,456** door hangers distributed



Organizations/Volunteer

# REPRESENTATIVES:



Arcadis  
Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's  
BGSU Chapman Learning Community  
BGSU Environmental Service Club  
BGSU Marine Biology Association  
BGSU Office of Campus Sustainability  
Boy Scouts of America- Erie Shores Council  
Cenovus Energy  
City of Oregon  
City of Perrysburg  
Civil and Environmental Consultants  
Clean Your Streams Day Breakfast & Door Prize Donors  
Cleveland Water Alliance  
Creekside Retreat  
Directions Credit Union  
First Energy Foundation  
First Solar  
Fishbeck  
Fort Industry Chapter - DAR  
General Motors  
Girl Scouts of America  
Greater Toledo Community Foundation  
Green Ribbon Initiative  
Hull Prairie Intermediate School  
Jones & Henry Engineers  
Lucas County Cemeteries Historical Association  
Lucas County Engineers Storm Water Utility  
Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District  
Marco's Pizza  
Maumee High School  
Metroparks Toledo  
Monroe St. United Methodist Church  
Nature's Nursery

NSG Group  
Oak Openings Region Conservancy  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Scenic Rivers  
Ohio EPA Northwest Ohio District Office  
O-I  
OmniSource  
Ottawa Hills School District  
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge  
Ottawa River Kleanup Association  
Owens Community College  
Penta Career Center  
Perrysburg Country Garden Club  
Perrysburg High School  
Service Learning Camps- Toledo  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Tetra Tech  
The Andersons Inc.  
The Patterson Family  
The Mannik & Smith Group Inc.  
The Nature Conservancy of Ohio  
Toledo Division of Environmental Services  
Toledo Early College  
Toledo ZOOTEens  
University of Toledo  
UT Alpha Psi Lambda  
UT Engineering Leadership Institute  
UT Sigma Phi Epsilon  
UT Society of Environmental Advocates  
Verdantas  
Vito's Pizza  
Whitmer High School  
William Vaughan Company  
Woodmore High School





Maumee AOC

# MAUMEE AREA OF CONCERN

## Maumee Area of Concern Facilitating Organizations

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

The MAAC works for fishable, swimmable, and drinkable waters within the 787 square miles that is the Maumee AOC. This work includes restoration projects, public education, collaboration with partners, and volunteer opportunities.

## Project Work: 2024

### 1 Project Completed

Wildlife Habitat Management Actions (BUI 14b)

- ➔ 0 projects completed
- ➔ 19 projects completed in total
- ➔ 0 acres completed in 2024
- ➔ 3372 acres completed in total

Aquatic Management Actions (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)

- ➔ 15 projects/phases of projects started construction
- ➔ 12 projects/phases of projects finished construction/substantially complete
- ➔ 1 project completed in 2024

In 2024, the MAAC celebrated the removal of BUI 7: Restrictions on Dredging Activities. Years of effort by many partners have gone into improving the conditions associated with the BUIs. The conditions of the Maumee AOC continue to improve and more BUIs are expected to achieve their targets in the coming years.





## Environmental Steward of the Year:

# ANDREA BEARD

Since 2007, Partners for Clean Streams has honored individuals and organizations whose dedication to environmental stewardship and community involvement has made a lasting impact on our rivers and streams. This year, we are proud to present the Environmental Stewardship and Involvement Award to Andrea Beard—a leader, advocate, and tireless champion for clean waterways.

Andrea's connection to Clean Your Streams (CYS) spans more than two decades. From her first cleanup to her current leadership as the Oregon Kickoff Coordinator, Andrea has been a driving force in organizing volunteers, ensuring smooth operations, and inspiring others to take an active role in protecting our environment. Her willingness to jump in—whether to lead, plan, educate, or get her hands dirty—exemplifies the spirit of CYS.

In her professional role as the Stormwater Engineer for the City of Oregon, Andrea applies her expertise daily to improve and manage stormwater systems with long-term sustainability in mind. Her technical knowledge has also strengthened storm drain stenciling initiatives and youth education efforts, including her work with Boy Scout Patch Day events.

Andrea's impact extends beyond CYS. As a member of the Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee (MAAC), she played a pivotal role in the Merlin Avenue Stream Connection (MAP OC-3.2) project, leading with passion and ensuring water quality improvements that will benefit the community for years to come.

Through every role—professional and volunteer—Andrea has built connections between people, projects, and a shared vision for healthier waterways. Her work reflects not only expertise but also an enduring commitment to collaboration and community-driven change.

We thank Andrea for her years of service, her leadership, and the countless “waves of impact” she has created. We are honored to recognize her as our 2024 Environmental Steward of the Year.



ANDREA BEARD





2024

# FINANCIAL POSITION

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, grantors, and partners, our organization ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position. We received a total of \$539,752.31 in revenue and carefully managed expenses of \$527,654.87, resulting in a positive net balance of \$12,097.44.

Most of our funding—about 74%—came from government grants in support of the Lathrop Park stream restoration and the facilitating organization for the Maumee Area of Concern Advisory Committee, and as sub-grantee for the Chlorides Grant and development of the Non-point plans for Northwest Ohio, which were vital in projects to improve the water quality. Additional support came from the Greater Toledo Community Foundation for the Community Water Action in Toledo (CWAT) program, individual and corporate contributions, and program income such as membership dues and event participation. This diverse mix of income ensures we remain stable and responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.

We are proud to report that over 93% of our spending went directly toward projects, programs, and services, including contracted work, program staff, and essential supplies. We maintained low administrative and overhead costs, reflecting our ongoing commitment to efficient operations and to supporting our employees by investing in their well-being and future. In-kind support from partners and the broader community also played a vital role in amplifying our impact this year.

This strong financial foundation allows us to plan for the future with confidence. Your continued support helps us extend our reach, deepen our impact, and stay focused on what matters most: creating lasting change for people and the environment.

Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.



## TOTAL INCOME

**\$539,752.31**

Total income received for the year. Key sources included:

**Government Grants:**

\$398,925.31 (≈74%)

**Foundation Grant:**

\$67,769.68 (≈12.6%)

**Program Income:**

\$17,229.77 (≈3.2%)

**Direct Public Support:**

\$13,894.77 (≈2.6%)

**Indirect Public Support:**

\$1,700.10 (≈0.3%)

**Membership:**

\$4,760.00 (≈0.9%)

**Other Income**

**(Misc. & Interest):**

\$35,402.68 (≈6.6%)

## EXPENSE SUMMARY

**\$527,654.87**

Total expenses for the year, allocated across key operational and programmatic areas:

**Contract Services:**

\$355,882.10 (≈67%)

**Wages & Payroll Taxes:**

\$127,395.96 (≈24%)

**Operations:**

\$14,603.09 (2.8%)

**Insurance & Other Costs:**

\$10,016.46 (1.9%)

**Program Expenses:**

\$9,510.23 (1.8%)

**Facilities & Equipment:**

\$9,434.82 (1.8%)

**Business Expenses & Travel**

\$812.21 (<1%)



LUCAS COUNTY  
Storm Water Utility

cenovus  
ENERGY



TOL  
City of Toledo



Country Garden Club



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TOLEDO



OREGON  
OPPORTUNITY ON THE BAY



Jones & Henry  
Engineers



FirstEnergy  
Foundation



First Solar

NSG  
GROUP



The Andersons

ARCADIS



FALLEN TIMBERS  
TROUT UNLIMITED



CEE  
Civil & Environmental  
Consultants, Inc.



Mannik  
Smith  
GROUP



Omni



METROPARKS  
TOLEDO



Scouting  
America  
Lake Erie Council



TETRA TECH

verdantas



OAK OPENINGS  
REGION CONSERVANCY



girlscouts  
of western ohio

Our Supporters

# GRANT FUNDERS & DONORS

## Our Heartfelt Gratitude to Our Grant Funders, Donors, and Partners

The success of Partners for Clean Streams in 2024 would not have been possible without the generous support and collaboration of our incredible grant funders, donors, and community partners. Together, you make our mission to protect and restore our rivers and streams a thriving reality.

Your commitment drives every clean-up event, educational program, and restoration project – empowering thousands of volunteers and community members to take action for clean, healthy waterways.

Thank you for investing in local solutions and for standing alongside us to create a lasting environmental legacy.

### Grant Support

Greater Toledo Community Foundation - Stranahan Supporting Organization

Ohio EPA Grant Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant

Sisters of St Francis Donor Advised Fund through the Greater Toledo Community Foundation

### \$10000+

Lucas County Storm Water Utility

### \$5000-\$9999

Cenovus Energy

O-I Charities Foundation

### \$2500-\$4999

Bass Pro Shops (Outdoor Fund)

City of Toledo

Perrysburg Country Garden Club

The University of Toledo

### \$1000-\$2499

City of Oregon

First Energy

First Solar

Jones and Henry Engineers, Ltd.

NSG Glass North America

### \$500-\$999

Arcadis

Civil and Environmental Consultants (CEC)

Fallen Timbers, Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

Metroparks Toledo

OmniSource

Scouting America - Lake Erie Council

Tetra Tech, Inc.

The Andersons Foundation

Verdantas

### \$250-\$499

Girl Scout Council

Oak Openings Region Conservancy

To honor the privacy of our supporters, we do not publish individual donor names. Still, every gift we receive plays a vital role in advancing our mission to ensure clean, clear, and safe water for all. Your generosity is a powerful reminder that our community values and cares deeply about the health of our waterways. We are committed to stewarding your contributions with care and transparency, maximizing their impact to protect and restore our rivers and streams. We are especially proud that every member of our board contributes financially each year, demonstrating their unwavering dedication to this cause.



# Become a Member – **PARTNERS FOR CLEAN STREAMS**

At Partners for Clean Streams, our mission thrives because of people like you. As a member, you join a movement dedicated to ensuring clean, clear, and safe water for generations to come.

Your membership is more than a donation—it's an investment in local solutions and in the people who bring those solutions to life every day. By supporting our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community leaders, you help build a wealth of knowledge and experience that will guide water protection efforts for decades.

## Your Support

We believe every gift—big or small—has the power to make a difference, and we're grateful for every way our supporters contribute. Volunteering your time and skills is one of the most impactful ways to help, connecting you directly to our mission. Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) allow you to make tax-efficient gifts over time to PCS or other charities you care about.

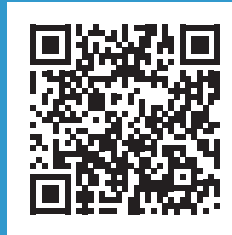
Many employers offer matching gift programs that double your donation, and some even provide paid volunteer time. Monthly donations provide steady support to sustain our programs year-round. And don't forget in-kind donations—whether it's goods, services, or experiences like tickets to a Mud Hens game or a massage—these gifts enrich our volunteer celebrations and help build community. Whatever way you choose to give, your support will clean streams and create healthier habitats for all.

Supporting our Reel In and Recycle program is another way to make a direct impact. Adopt, host, or sponsor a fishing line recycling bin to improve waterways for wildlife and humans alike. Our bins prevent tangled fishing line, lead sinkers, hooks, and lures from becoming debris in our waterways.

Whether you give through a recurring membership, make an annual pledge, or contribute in other ways, your support strengthens the connections between people and nature, builds resilience in our waterways, and safeguards the places we love for those who will follow.

We'll keep you connected to the tangible results of your investment so you can see firsthand how your commitment is improving water quality, revitalizing habitats, and shaping a healthier future—for our streams and the communities who protect them.

Thank you for standing with us!



[partnersforcleanstreams.org/donate/pcs-memberships/](https://partnersforcleanstreams.org/donate/pcs-memberships/)





## Our Mission

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.

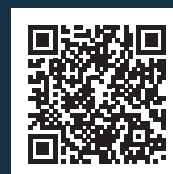
### Board of Directors

Bob Neubert – President  
Andrew Curran – Vice President  
Joan King – Treasurer  
Amy Boros – Member  
Bill Buri – Member  
Marilyn DuFour – Member  
Denise Fonner – Member  
Jeff MacKenzie – Member  
Tim Schetter – Member

### Staff

Jesse Stock – Executive Director  
Mary Winkle – Communications & Outreach Specialist  
Kayla Kirkpatrick – Program Coordinator  
Kat Kieffer – Water Monitoring Analyst  
Antonia Beltz – Program Intern

Support PCS



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