



Maumee Area of Concern Habitat Restoration

The **University of Toledo Medical Center Swan Creek Restoration Project** will design and implement restoration actions to stabilize 1,700 ft of eroding streambank and create 50 ft of riffle habitat to improve conditions for fish and wildlife in the Maumee Area of Concern



Eroding streambank on Swan Creek

Project Highlights

Stabilization of approximately 1,700 feet of eroding streambank

Installation of approximately 50 feet of riffle habitat

Funding is provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Great Lakes Commission (GLC) Regional Partnership

The University of Toledo is the lead local partner

Environmental Benefits

Improved fish and wildlife habitat
Reduced erosion and sedimentation

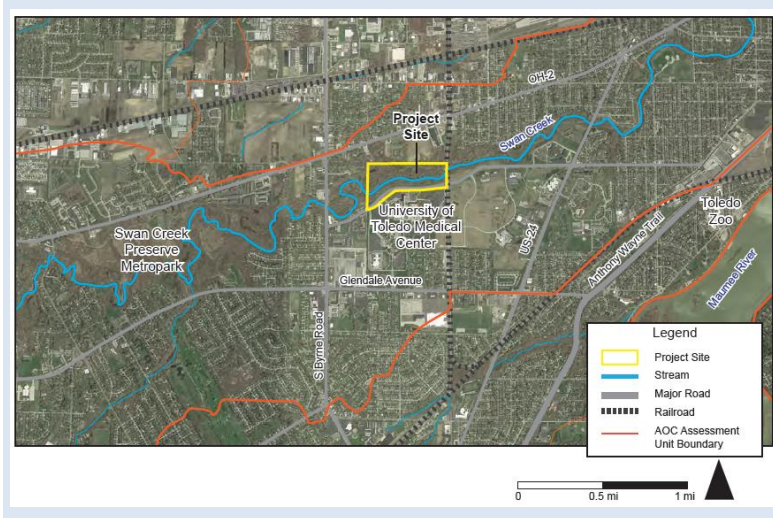
Economic Benefits

Enhanced opportunities for public recreation
Improved fishery

Community Benefits

Improved urban natural area
Improved water quality and ecosystem health

Background of the Area of Concern (AOC)



Designated as an Area of Concern (AOC) under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1987, the Maumee is one of the largest AOCs in the United States. The area has a two-century history of development, contamination, and degradation that led to the impairment of water flowing into Lake Erie and the need for focused restoration efforts. Located in Northwest Ohio, the **Maumee AOC** comprises 787 square miles that includes approximately 23 miles of the lower Maumee River downstream to Maumee Bay, as well as other waterways such as Swan Creek, Ottawa River (Ten Mile Creek), Grassy Creek, Duck Creek, Otter Creek, Cedar Creek, Crane Creek, Turtle Creek, Packer Creek, and the Toussaint River.

The AOC enjoys strong support from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as stakeholder forums that guide habitat restoration projects, including technical assistance for monitoring.

History of Swan Creek

The project area is located along a stretch of Swan Creek adjacent to Metroparks Toledo's Swan Creek Preserve and the University of Toledo's Medical Center. Due to erosion and decades of municipal and industrial development the site is impaired for benthic (river bottom) populations and fish habitat and has limited in-stream cover throughout the project area. In 2020, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency hired a consultant (Mannik & Smith Group) to complete a feasibility study looking at potential restoration solutions at the site. This study resulted in a conceptual design proposing several restoration techniques that will be further evaluated by the project team with a goal of stabilizing and restoring this stretch of the creek by 2025.

Project Progress

Engineering and design for the Swan Creek restoration project will begin in the spring of 2024 with construction documents expected by the fall of 2025. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

Funding and Partners

Approximately \$200,000 is available for the engineering and design phase of this project through the GLRI, a regional program that is supporting implementation of a comprehensive restoration plan for the Great Lakes, including cleaning up AOCs. The project funding comes from NOAA through a Regional Partnership with GLC. The project is being managed locally by the University of Toledo.

For More Information

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