



# Maumee Area of Concern Habitat Restoration

The **Maumee River habitat restoration project at Penn 7** improved habitat for fish and wildlife by creating coastal wetlands and forested upland along the Maumee River.



Project Location and 30% Design Concept Map • Northern Shoreline of the Maumee River in Toledo, Ohio

## Project Highlights

- Created 8.5 acres of emergent coastal wetland and 6.7 acres of submerged coastal wetland
- Improved roughly 59 acres of habitat including adjacent upland areas
- Controlled invasive plant species and plant native vegetation
- Installed water control and fish habitat connectivity structures
- Funding was 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 City of Toledo implemented this project with assistance from their consultant, Verdantas (formerly Hull and Associates)

### Environmental Benefits

New fish and wildlife habitat  
Improved hydrologic connectivity

### Economic Benefits

Regional benefits to eco-tourism, birding and fishing

### Community Benefits

Downtown nature space  
Improved water quality and ecosystem health

## Background of the Area of Concern (AOC)



Penn 7 embayment area post-restoration (Photo provided by Verdantas)

Located in Northwest Ohio, the **Maumee AOC** is comprised of 787 square miles that includes approximately the lower 23 miles of the Maumee River downstream to Maumee Bay, as well as other waterways within Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties that drain to Lake Erie, 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.

In 1987 the Maumee AOC River was designated as an AOC under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Since then, the Maumee AOC has been on a continual journey of evolution. The Maumee AOC program has evolved through many phases and with that evolution comes many changes; in structure, in process, in name, and in the terminology used.

## History of Penn 7

The 59-acre Penn 7 property is a former confined disposal facility on the lower Maumee River owned by the City of Toledo. The property currently has marginal fish and wildlife habitat but has the potential to provide significant coastal habitat for a variety of native species while addressing the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI. The AOC enjoys strong support from federal, state and local agencies, which will help secure technical support and compliance with applicable permits. Strong partnerships and stakeholder forums exist in the AOC to support, guide and sustain the habitat restoration projects, including technical assistance for monitoring.

## Project Progress

Construction for this project was completed in 2022.

## Funding and Partners

Approximately \$3 million was made available for 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 was managed locally by the City of Toledo with assistance from their consultant, Verdantas (formerly Hull and Associates).

### For More Information

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