



20

23



After the Storm...

Annual Report

# 23

# Impact

PCS volunteers: 1,250

Pounds of marine debris removed: 18,735

Waterway clean-ups: 121

River miles cleaned: 65.8

Storm drains marked: 1,340

Fishing line recycling bins in-use: 45

Community tabling events: 10

Educational presentations for youth & adults: 11



# 23

# Reflection

## Kris 2023 reflection letter

As usual, we had a busy, busy year. In 2023 we continued to our stewardship programs, watershed planning, and our other programming, outreach, and education. Compared to 2022, 160 more volunteers joined us across all our programs. Through Storm Drain Marking, volunteers marked 816 more storm drains and distributed over 2,700 more door hangers than 2022. This is an incredible feat!

We also had a busy year supporting community projects and partnerships. We continued working with UT and TMACOG on the chlorides reduction strategy project and kicked off our first full year of coordinating volunteer water monitoring in Western Lake Erie basin with "Community Water Action in Toledo" with many partners (Cleveland Water Alliance, Metroparks Toledo, and the Toledo Zoo). 2023 was the first full sampling season and with additional funding, we plan to recruit more broadly for volunteers to continue monitoring in 2024. As we've done since our founding, we've proudly continued our leadership of the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee and its work.

The best part of Partners for Clean Streams has always been the people. It's those people that truly make up PARTNERS for clean streams. From the Board that so quietly works behind-the-scenes (and sometimes lead cleanups and outreach tables too) to the financial partners that consistently provide reliable funding and in kind support to the many, many volunteers - you are each PARTNERS for clean streams. Without you, the long planning meetings, many grant applications, and long days packing supplies wouldn't result in the huge impact in and near the rivers that we see every year.

2023 also marked the end of my leadership with Partners for Clean Streams. In early 2024, I began a new journey with the Lake Erie Commission, but I know our winding streams will cross again as I am not leaving the water world! A new Executive Director will join the PCS team in 2024, to help PCS continue our mission of clean, clear and safe water!

Kris Patterson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristina Patterson".



### Clean Your Streams 365

- 48 clean-ups
  - 3 of these are paddle clean-ups
- 503 volunteers
- 3,728 pounds of debris removed
- 26.5 river miles covered



# 48 clean-ups

# 26.5 miles



### Partners



- Volunteers choose a time and location to remove marine debris throughout NW 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, both developed by the Ocean Conservancy.



1 Partners for Clean Streams - After the storm





# Get the Lead Out!

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

## Get the Lead Out Stats

- 5 clean-ups
- 34 volunteers
- 79 pounds of debris removed
- 3 river miles covered

# 19 years



- These staff-led marine debris 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 lower in order to access shoreline where fishing debris gets tangled.
- Lures and lead sinkers can be mistaken for food by animals. Fishing debris removed during these programs reduces the risk of animal entanglement and injury.



# 1340 storm drains

## Storm Drain Marking Stats

- 118 volunteers
- 1,340 drains marked
- 4,024 educational door tags distributed

- Volunteers label storm drains with stenciled paint or medallions to prevent improper dumping and blocking drains.
- PCS supported 2 "Citizenship in the Community" BSA Scout merit badge days of service, and storm drain marking projects with Perrysburg High School students and with Toledo Service Learning Camps.





### 27th Annual Clean Your Streams Stats

- 70 sites cleaned
- 723 volunteers
- 14,957 pounds of debris removed
- 37 river miles covered

# 27 years



- On September 30th, Partners for Clean Streams hosted our largest program focused on marine debris removal, awareness, and education. Our volunteer numbers continued to rebound from 2020 interruptions, with 71 more volunteers in 2023 than 2022, and collecting 1,002.5 more pounds of marine debris.
- We continued the Remote Kickoff, started in 2020, during the week leading up to Clean Your Streams Day, where participants had the option to clean-on-their-own at a time and location of their choosing.

Many thanks to the CYS planning team:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Andrea Beard   | Bob Neubert    |
| Rick Bryan     | Tim Niederkorn |
| Abigail Calmes | Lauren Rush    |
| Marilyn DuFour | Zach Shepler   |
| Ariya Fathi    | Jon Zabowski   |

#### Peculiar items found:

Message in a bottle, turtle-shaped sandbox, hot tub cover, bar stool, bowling ball, coffee table, plastic Christmas tree, inner tube full of bricks, pile of 8 sofa cushions.



## Clean Your Streams Day Challenge Awards

### Youth Challenge Winners

#### Most Volunteers

- 1st..... Toledo Early College HS
- 2nd..... Northwood BSA Pack 244
- 3rd ..... BSA Troop 66

#### Battle of the Bags (Most pounds per group)

- 1st..... Toledo Early College HS
- 2nd..... BSA Troop 66
- 3rd ..... Toledo ZOOTeens

#### Awesome Effort (Most pounds per person)

- 1st..... Toledo Early College HS
- 2nd..... BSA Troop 66
- 3rd ..... Toledo ZOOTeens

#### Special Shoutout:

#### Tire Champions

Toledo ZOOTeens, for removing 33 tires!

## Participating Collegiate Groups

- BGSU Campus Beautification
- UT Clean Water for the World
- UT Engineering Leadership Institute
- UT Environmental Law Society
- UT National Society of Black Engineers
- UT Phi Sigma Rho
- UT Women's Lacrosse

## Clean Your Streams Day River Partner Certification

**River Guardian** (30-49 volunteers)  
The Andersons, Inc.

## Stream Protector

 (10-29 volunteers)

- Civil & Environmental Consultants
- First Solar, Inc.
- Heritage Environmental Services
- NSG Glass North America
- Ohio EPA Northwest District Office
- Toledo Department of Public Utilities
- Toledo FFA
- Verdantas (formerly Hull and Associates)

## Creek Crusader

 (1-10 volunteers)

- Arcadis
- Fort Industry Chapter – DotAR
- Lowes
- Racing for Recovery
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Vacation Daze with Cassie





# Reel In & Recycle

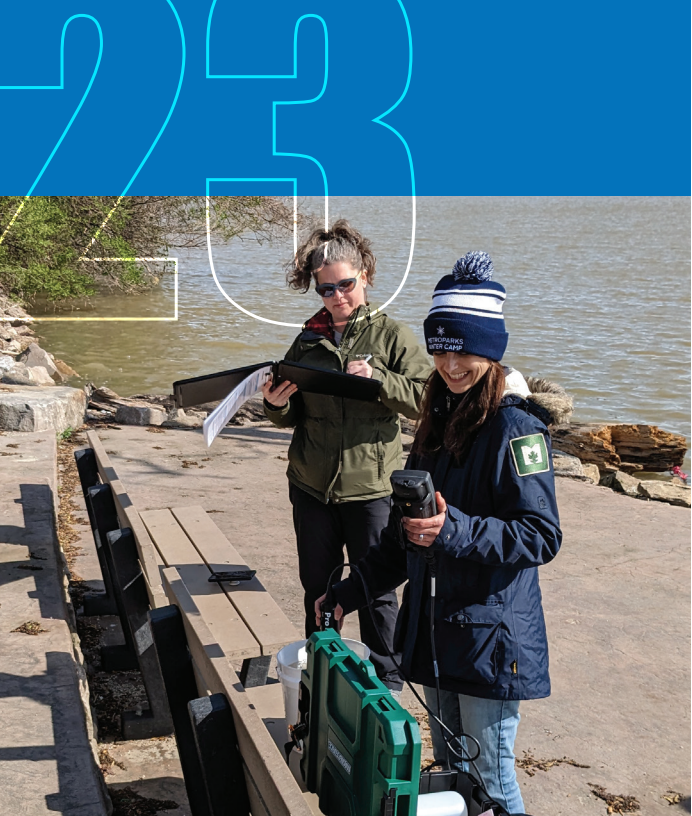
# Green Team



- Fishing line recycling bins encourage anglers to responsibly recreate along our rivers.
- Regional partners install fishing line recycling bins, including Metroparks Toledo, Wood County Park District, the City of Toledo, the City of Perrysburg, and others.
- Volunteers have the option to sponsor a bin and/or adopt a bin by agreeing to clean and maintain it.
- Thank you to our new and returning fishing line recycling bin sponsors!
- Total number of bins in use around Northwest Ohio: 45

- PCS and Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful serve as sustainability advisors for the Mercy Health Glass City Marathon and the Savage 5k, focused on diverting waste from landfills, preventing marine debris from entering the Ottawa River, coordinating recycling and composting, and making more sustainable choices during purchasing.
- We had an amazing group of volunteers this year from the University of Toledo, Sea Cadets, and Partners for Clean Streams Board.
- Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful will take the lead on overseeing the Green Team in future years.





# New Stewardship & Education Program

## Community Water Action in Toledo

- This multi-agency program focuses on streamlining volunteer water quality monitoring in western Lake Erie. Participating organizations share equipment, training resources, and align sampling protocols.
- Facilitated by PCS, other local partners include Metroparks Toledo, TMACOG, and the Toledo Zoo. Cleveland Water Alliance has provided local partners with sampling equipment and guidance. CWAT is Northwest Ohio's hub for a Lake Erie region-wide effort of the Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network, led by Cleveland Water Alliance.
- CWAT created six shared sampling kits, identified waterway sites to sample, engaged partner organizations' volunteers and staff in monitoring 18 local sites, sampled each site at least once a month, and shared data in the online Water Reporter database.
- CWAT engaged more than 60 volunteers in over 100 sampling events, with additional outreach programs demoing CWAT to local youth in Girl Scouts and Connections Camp participants.
- Watch for more opportunities to get involved in 2024!

## Public Education Outreach

- 10 tabling events in 2023
- 2 youth classroom presentations
- 9 adult-audience presentations
- PCS shared education around marine debris, water quality, sustainable water use, and shared updates and events from our many community partners on social media throughout the year



## Maumee Area of Concern Facilitating Organization

- 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).
- In short, an AOC is a place that has experienced environmental harm, as designated by the International Joint Commission, and where many agencies and local partners are stepping in to help!
- Project Work: 2023

### Wildlife Habitat Management Actions (BUI14b)

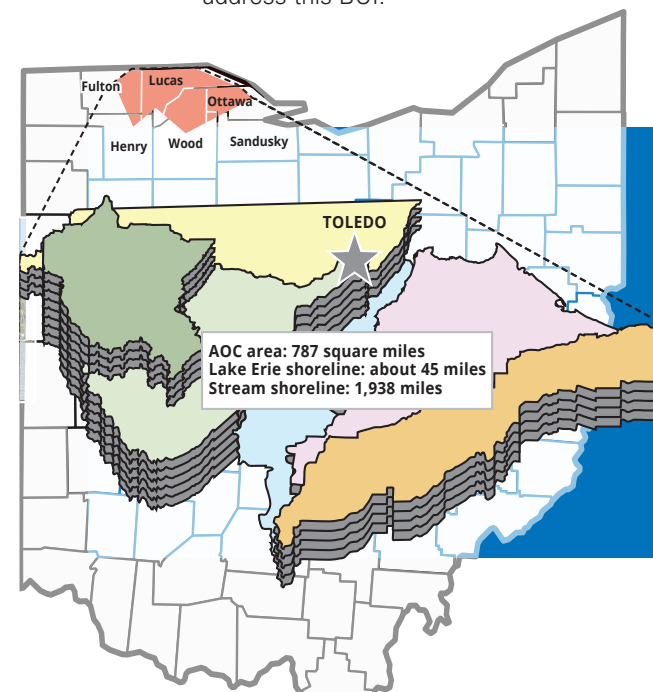
- 4 projects completed
- 19 projects completed in total
- 1160 acres completed
- 3325 acres completed in total

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

- 1 Acquisition completed
- 1 Feasibility Study completed
- 1 Engineering and Design completed
- 2 projects under construction
- Full funding secured for multiple island restoration projects

- "BUI 11 Degradation of Aesthetics" was removed from the Maumee AOC in 2023. This brings the Maumee AOC's beneficial use impairments (BUIs) down to 7 of the original 10 BUIs.

**Fun fact:** Clean Your Streams grew out of the need to address this BUI.



# MAAAC



# Donors

## Grant Support

- Anonymous Foundation
- Greater Toledo Community Foundation for Community Water Action in Toledo
- Ohio EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant
- Ohio EPA Areas of Concern Support, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant
- Ohio EPA – GLRI grant, subaward from University of Toledo
- Ocean Conservancy Team Seas
- Sisters of St. Francis Donor Advised Fund through the Greater Toledo Community Foundation

## \$10,000+

- Lucas County Storm Water Utility

## \$5000 - \$9,999

- O-I Charities Foundation
- Toledo Road Runners Club

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

- First Solar
- University of Toledo

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

- Arcadis
- First Energy
- City of Oregon
- City of Toledo
- Jones and Henry
- Kwest Group
- NSG Glass North America
- OmniSource
- The Andersons, Inc.

## \$500-\$999

- Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.
- Heritage Environmental Services
- Lowe's
- Rotary Club of Perrysburg
- Tetra Tech, Inc.
- Trout Unlimited, Fallen Timbers Chapter
- Verdantas (formerly Hull and Associates)

## \$250 - \$499

- Oak Openings Region Conservancy
- Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

## \$150 - \$249

- International Satin Gavel

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 considerately to ensure that we can make the most impact with them. 100% of our Board members make a financial contribution each year.



# Financial Snapshot: Through December 23

## Income

Grants (61%) .....	\$152,349
Reserves (23%) .....	\$57,703
Donations/Sponsorships (16%) ...	\$38,990

**Total \$249,243**

## Expenses

Personnel (65%) .....	\$119,958
Contractual (17%) .....	\$32,595
Operations/Supplies (18%) .....	\$33,042

**Total \$185,595**

We are proud to continue prudently managing resources, successfully funding our programs and projects through both long-standing grant support and new grants in 2023, including support of the Sisters of St. Francis Donor Advised Fund, and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation's grant funding for Community Water Action in Toledo. As of September 30th, PCS had \$66,269 in cash balances. PCS is also the fiscal agent for the Maumee RAP Supplemental Environmental Project restricted fund that has \$18,382.

Using in-kind resources, we lower our expenses so that individual donations and sponsorships stretch even farther. We continue to secure multi-year and single-year grants and to diversify our funding through donations, sponsorships, and building relationships with other organizations.



# Financials







## PCS Annual Award for Environmental Stewardship and Involvement

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
- 2021 – Jamie Kochensparger
- 2022 – Jeffery MacKenzie



# PCS Annual Award

This year, the Board of Directors selected

# Marilyn Lodge

Marilyn Lodge has been a longtime supporter and volunteer of Clean Your Streams. She joined as a breakfast volunteer in 2006 and has continued every year since. Marilyn has also collected hundreds of prizes from businesses in the community every year to give out at the Clean Your Streams Appreciation Picnic. Her behind-the-scenes tireless support of Clean Your Streams has helped feed many hungry volunteers in the morning and encourage attendance and excitement at the picnic in the afternoon.

Thank you, Marilyn, for all you've done as a partner for clean streams! The Board recognizes your tireless dedication and quiet support!





### Special Tribute

In 2023, we sadly lost a giant in the stream restoration world – Dave Derrick. Partners for Clean Streams greatly appreciates all of the donations from family, friends, and colleagues. He will be remembered.

Dave was an old school potamologist, a 35+ year retired Army Corps of Engineers Research Hydraulic Engineer who also ran his own company called River Research & Design. He had a quirky, outgoing, could talk-your-ear warm personality and deep love for his family, antiquing, pinball games, old cars, music, chocolate bacon sundaes, and much more. He forever left his mark on the people working in this water restoration world that knew him and in the streams in Northwest Ohio. His work and passion continues in the innovative stream restoration and stabilization techniques that he developed, implemented, and taught and in the knowledge he passed onto many others. In Northwest Ohio, he left his imprint on Camp Miakonda, the Toledo Botanical Gardens, the University of Toledo, and more projects to come as his colorful concept drawings continue to be implemented here by those he taught and others around the world. public education, storm drain marking, and more!



### 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 accomplish!

### Give a Gift to Partners for Clean Streams

- Make a donation by visiting [PartnersForCleanStreams.org/give](https://PartnersForCleanStreams.org/give)
- Sustain our work by becoming a member. Members receive:
  - One vote on issues at PCS’s Annual General Meeting
  - Ownership in protecting streams for the next generation and to further programs that benefit your community, such as river clean-ups,



# Support PCS!

### Other ways to give:

- Kroger Community Rewards – Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards with your Kroger Plus Card and choose PCS (#WE625)
- Northwest Ohio Community Shares – Ask your employer about participating in this program, where a small portion of your paycheck goes to support local non-profits and you can designate PCS.
- Thrivent – PCS is a recognized charity by Thrivent. You can direct dividends and/or directed donations to PCS. Can we help you with an idea for a Thrivent Action Team?

### Individual Membership

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

### Organizational Membership

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

Support PCS





### **Board of Directors**

Bob Neubert - President  
Andrew Curran - Vice President  
Joan King - Treasurer  
Randy Nissen - Secretary  
Amy Boros - Member  
Bill Buri - Member  
Marilyn DuFour - Member  
Denise Fonner - Member  
Ryan Glynn - Member

### **Staff**

Kris Patterson – Executive Director  
Liv Simkins Bullock – Communications & Outreach Specialist  
Katarina Kieffer – Water Monitoring Coordinator Intern  
Kayla Kirkpatrick – Program Coordinator  
Will Smith – PCS Intern



## 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.

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