

Restoring Ottawa River Wetlands and In-stream Habitat at Camp Miakonda

Partners for Clean Streams (PCS), the Maumee RAP's non-profit, was awarded a \$1.36 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant to restore stream habitat, reduce erosion, enhance wetlands, and to improve upland habitat along the upper Ottawa River. The project at Camp Miakonda will restore at least 10 acres of wetland, 30 acres of upland habitat, and 1200 linear feet of bank stabilization along the Ottawa River, directly improving Lake Erie's Western Basin. Along with the Boy Scouts of America, PCS has partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers on a Habitat Restoration Master Plan. Concept plans are complete with the surveying and final designs to be completed by the winter of 2011. This accelerates the planning and positions the project for timely implementation in the fall of 2012.



In the Ottawa River watershed, "Camp Miakonda is the largest remaining undeveloped, unprotected tract of the Oak Openings ecosystem, a sandy-soiled oak savanna that once covered a large area of Lucas County." (David Patch, Toledo Blade, Nov. 18, 2009) The 157-acre Boy Scout Camp is

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situated in the Oak Openings Region of the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) directly along one of the major waterways to enter North Maumee Bay. It is

a green gem nestled within a rapidly developing urban and suburban community. It is not often that a willing landowner with a sizable historic property steps forward to protect and restore that property to enhance wildlife habitat and water quality of the region.





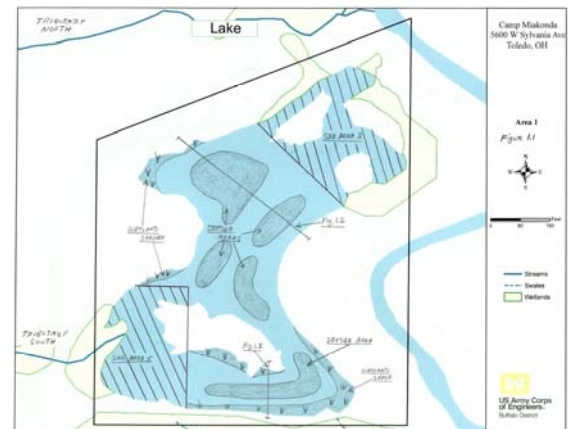
When implemented PCS expects this restoration project, that is on and adjacent to the Ottawa River, to result in long-term outcomes that will

bring the Maumee AOC closer to delisting the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI (BUI #14), and to a lesser extent improve the Degradation of Benthos (BUI #6), and Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations (BUI #3) in the Ottawa River.

Specifically, moving these restoration plans from planning to on-the-ground projects will:

- Significantly **reduce sediment** loading from eroding stream banks;
- **Maximize** the diversity of **plant communities**, both wetland and upland;
- **Improve habitat** for migrating waterfowl, songbirds and other wildlife;
- **Benefit** Ottawa River **water quality** by utilizing wetlands to capture sediments; and,
- **Create** more **flood storage** and **nutrient retention capacity**.

With millions of dollars in Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) funded sediment clean up and restoration recently invested in the lower Ottawa River watershed, PCS strategically chose to focus our efforts and resources on this watershed as well. They recognized that by addressing multiple cleanup and restoration issues simultaneously, it would allow us to multiply and expedite the restoration of this watershed. The GLLA project, along with this GLRI project, provides the Ottawa River with a high potential of moving closer to delisting several BUIs within the Maumee AOC.



Partners for Clean Streams has been deeply committed to securing the funding necessary to move forward the Camp Miakonda Project from the general concept plans to full implementation and restoration of this site. This has been demonstrated by the effort PCS has already made with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to develop detailed concept plans. PCS has since taken steps to secure the ACOE to conduct engineering studies and the design/build plans. By providing the local match necessary to bring nearly \$400,000 in the ACOE's technical assistance to this project, PCS was strongly

“Not only is this a rare opportunity for restoration work but this property is also an amazing outdoor classroom to hundreds of youth who could actively engage in restoring, protecting, enhancing, and learning from this restoration opportunity,” said Kris Patterson, Executive Director for PCS.

positioned to move quickly from planning to restoration in a thorough, professional, and, perhaps most importantly, scientifically valid approach. Now, with the \$1.36 million awarded by U.S. EPA, PCS will be putting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative into action where it belongs – on the ground!

If you would like to learn more about this project, the volunteer opportunities available, or to schedule a presentation for your organization, please visit the PCS website at www.PartnersForCleanStreams.org or call PCS at 419-874-0727.

