



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO
1872

***2009 Annual Report
President's Commission
on the River***



Prepared by Dr. Patrick L. Lawrence
Chair, President's Commission on the River
patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu

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Introduction



- This report highlights the ongoing work of the President's Commission on the River as follow-up to the 2006 Report of the Commission and subsequent activities and projects.
- The focus of the Commission continues to be in the areas of environmental improvements, beautification, education, public awareness, student involvement and community engagement.
- More information on the Commission can be found at:

River Flooding Events

- During 2009 two weather events resulted in high water levels in the river on main campus:
 - February 10/11
 - March 25/26
- Heavy rainfall and frozen/saturated soils contributed to increased runoff into the river.
- Subsequent flooding occurred in parking lots next to the river and along the banks in the areas of the “flats” and Carlson Library.



Ottawa River Contact Advisory



- A public meeting was hosted by the Commission on March 19th, 2010 to discuss the history of the Contact Advisory posted for the Ottawa River in 1990 – including on the UT Mains campus.
- Aim was to consider prospects for the reassessment of the continued need for the postings given more recent monitoring data and potential water quality improvements.
- Over 20 people attended including representation from Ohio EPA and state/local health departments.
- Discussions are continuing with the regulatory agencies regarding future monitoring and assessment needs for the contact advisory postings.

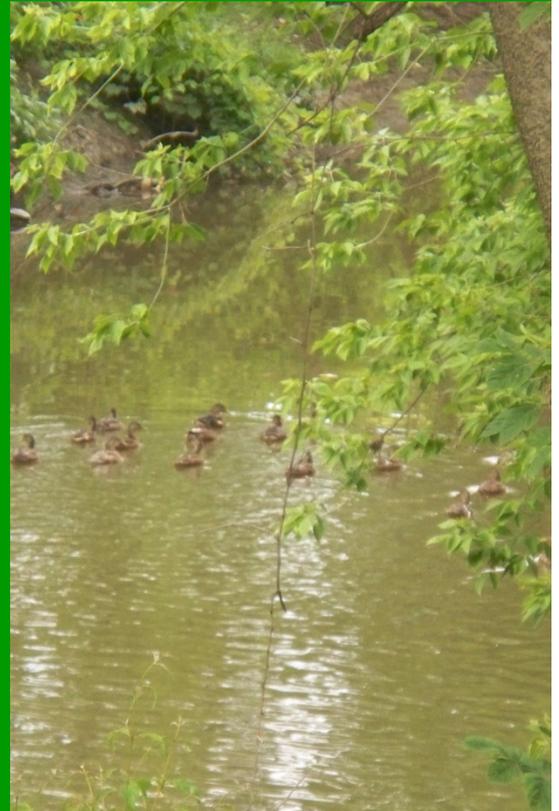
EC³ Education and Environmental Restoration Project

- A \$60,000 grant (2009-2012) was awarded to the Commission by the Stranahan Foundation to undertake an education and stream restoration project for a section of the Ottawa River on the UT campus.
- This project will involve the participation of science teachers and students from the TPS Early College High School Program.
- Work will begin with education initiatives in 2010 and lead to the design and construction of a stream restoration project by 2012.



Celebrate Our River Week

- A series of public and community events were held on campus during the 2009 Celebrate Our River week from September 8-12th, 2009.
- A display was placed in the Carlson Library of the planning concepts for the Student River Plaza project.
- A team from the University of Michigan Arts & Earth program exhibited their video/music presentation on the Clinton River.
- UT served as a kickoff location for the 2009 Clean Your Streams Event.
(see next page)



2009 Clean Your Streams

- On Saturday September 12th, 2009 a total of 236 volunteers registered at the UT site for this event.
- Representatives participated from 15 UT student organizations.
- Over 100 large bags and several oversize items were removed from the river on and near campus.



Temporary Student Parking Lot issue

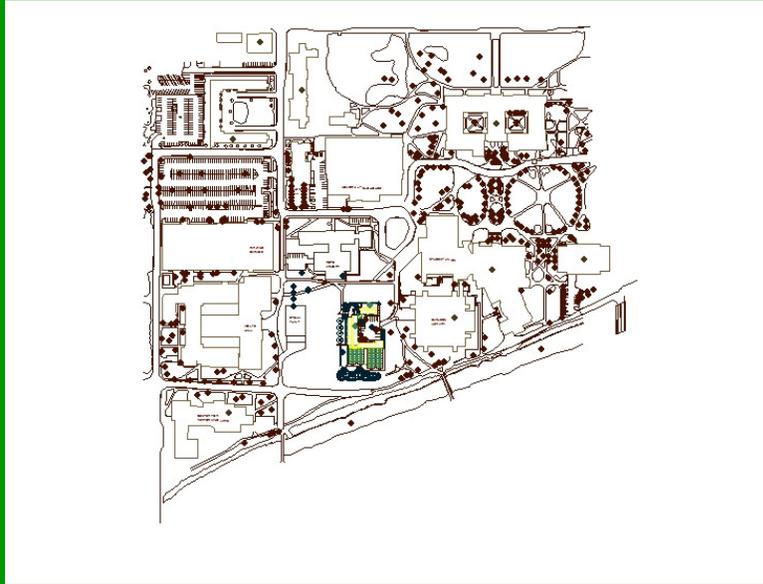
- Commission members actively participated in discussions and several meetings to address various concerns with the establishment of a temporary parking lot in the tagging area located next to the Stream Plant.



- Issues raised included public safety and the precedence of locating a temporary parking lot in an area intended for future green space.



Student River Plaza Planning Charrette



- On October 15th, 2009 over 40 students from a joint UT/BGSU planning design class participated in a planning charrette.
- The aim was to develop and share various design concepts for the river in the area of the Carlson Library and Student Union.
- Numerous ideas were proposed and draft materials developments to be shared with the Commission to assist in further future project planning.

Fund Raising*

- Total income = \$79,250.08
 - Grant \$60,000 (for 2009-2012)
 - Gifts \$12,445
 - New Pledges \$5,560
 - Ongoing Pledges \$1,245.08
- Total Expenses = \$13,536.37
- Net Balance = \$65,713.71
- Cash on Hand = \$1,693.12**

* all values refer to FY 2009: July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

** other funds are committed to projects or pledges

Education & Outreach

- Featured article on the Ottawa River and work of the Commission in the Fall 2009 issue of the UT Alumina magazine.
- UT Matters internet and T.V. media theme for November 2009 on Sustainability highlighted the Ottawa River and related projects.
- Also mentioned in articles in UT News and the Independent Collegian during 2009.



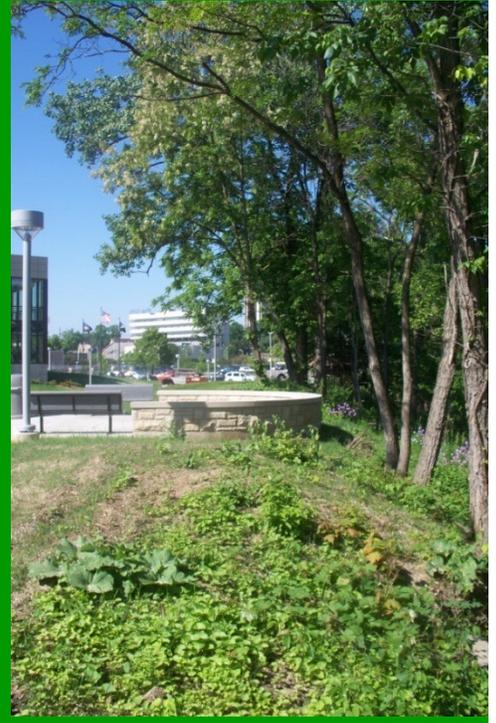
Other Events & Business

- Posters of the Commission were part of the 2009 Earth Day event at UT.
- Formal dedication of our two rain gardens:
 - May Sue Cave Honors Rain Garden
 - Carolyn Edwards Memorial Rain Garden
- Commission has developed a standard format for informational signage for river projects (first one to be installed at the Edwards Rain Garden near lot 10 parking lot).
- Commission members participated in numerous public events and meetings regarding the Ottawa River.



Commission Members (2009)

- Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT (chair)
- Page Armstrong, UT
- Mike Cassidy, Community
- Doug Collins, UT
- Don Curtis, UT
- Dick Eastop, UT
- Kurt Erichsen, TMACOG
- Dr. Hans Gottgens, UT
- Ellen Ingram, UT
- Dr. Steve LeBlanc, UT
- Chuck Lehnert, UT
- Dick Meyers, Toledo Design Center
- Heather Slough, UT
- Dr. Carol Stepien, UT
- Arjun Sabarwal, UT Library
- Jay Brewster, Blanchard
- Katie Swartz, American Rivers
- Nicholas Wittenberg



2010 Priorities



- Implementation of year one activities (Education) for EC3 Project with ECHS program.
- Continued support for annual Celebrate Our River week and Clean Your Streams Event (September 2010).
- Participate in ongoing site design for the ARS building.
- Development Informational Signage project and seek funding support.
- Promote continued development of the Student River Plaza project, including working with library on joint funding raising effort.
- Advocate for the consideration of the Ottawa River during main campus facility planning and development.

Acknowledgements

- The work of the Commission in 2009 was supported and assisted by many groups and individuals whom we would like to recognize for their efforts:
 - Chuck Lehnert, Vice President Facilities & Construction
 - Vern Snyder, Vice President Institutional Advancement
 - Doug Collins, Manager, Parking and Grounds
 - President's Office, University of Toledo
 - UT Institutional Advancement
 - UT Foundation
 - Duane Stranahan Sr. Charitable Fund
 - American Rivers
 - Toledo Rain Garden Initiative
 - Stranahan Foundation
 - UT Campus Beautification Committee
 - Blanchard
 - Ohio EPA
 - Partners for Clean Streams
 - UT Department of Geography & Planning
 - UT Honors Program

For more Information

Please refer to our website at

www.utoledo.edu/commissions/river/

