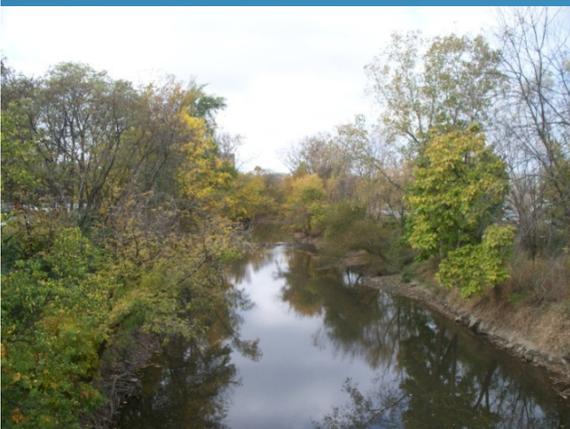


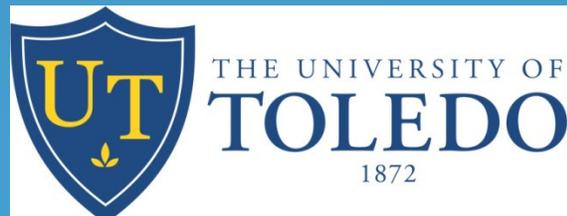
2010 Annual Report President's Commission on the River



*Prepared by
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President's Commission on the River*

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December 2010





Introduction

2010 was another productive year for the work and activities of the UT President's Commission on the River. A number of successful initiatives and projects were completed that continued the efforts to undertake the mandate of the Commission in the areas of Environmental Improvements, Beautification, Public Access, Education, Student Engagement and Community Outreach.

This report provides highlights of those efforts and illustrates the ongoing endeavor to improve the Ottawa River on the main campus of the University of Toledo



River Restoration Project (EC3): Year 1 Education

- From September 2009 through June 2010 year one of this project involved working with science students from the Toledo Early College High School (TECHS) located at the UT Scott Park Campus.
- The aim was to undertake a series of educational initiatives in order to have the students learn about river restoration and the Ottawa River.
- Activities conducted during this year 1 Education phase of the project included:
 - Science lectures and presentations
 - Tour of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
 - Visit to the UT campus to study fish populations
 - Assisting with rain garden plantings.
- This project is funded by a three year grant from the Stranahan Foundation (\$60,000).





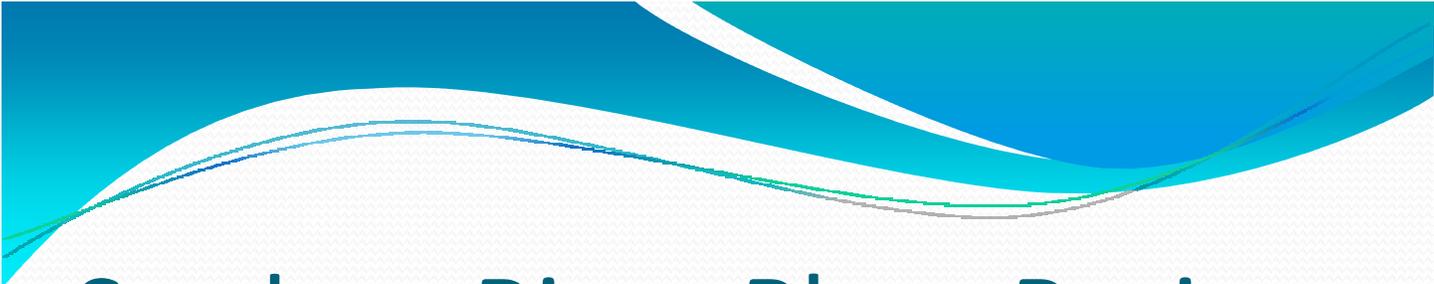
River Restoration Project (EC3): Year 2 Design

- Starting in July 2010 this project moved into the year 2 design phase.
- The US Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE), Buffalo District signed a contract agreement with the Commission to conduct baseline field surveys, data collection, and hydrological modeling that will lead to preparation of draft river restoration concept plans by February 2011.
- The Commission provided the required \$30,000 in local matching funds for this contract.
- TECHS students will continue activities related to the river restoration plan and participate in a workshop on river restoration to be held at UT in March 2011.
- This project is funded by a three year grant from the Stranahan Foundation (\$60,000)

Rain Garden Improvements

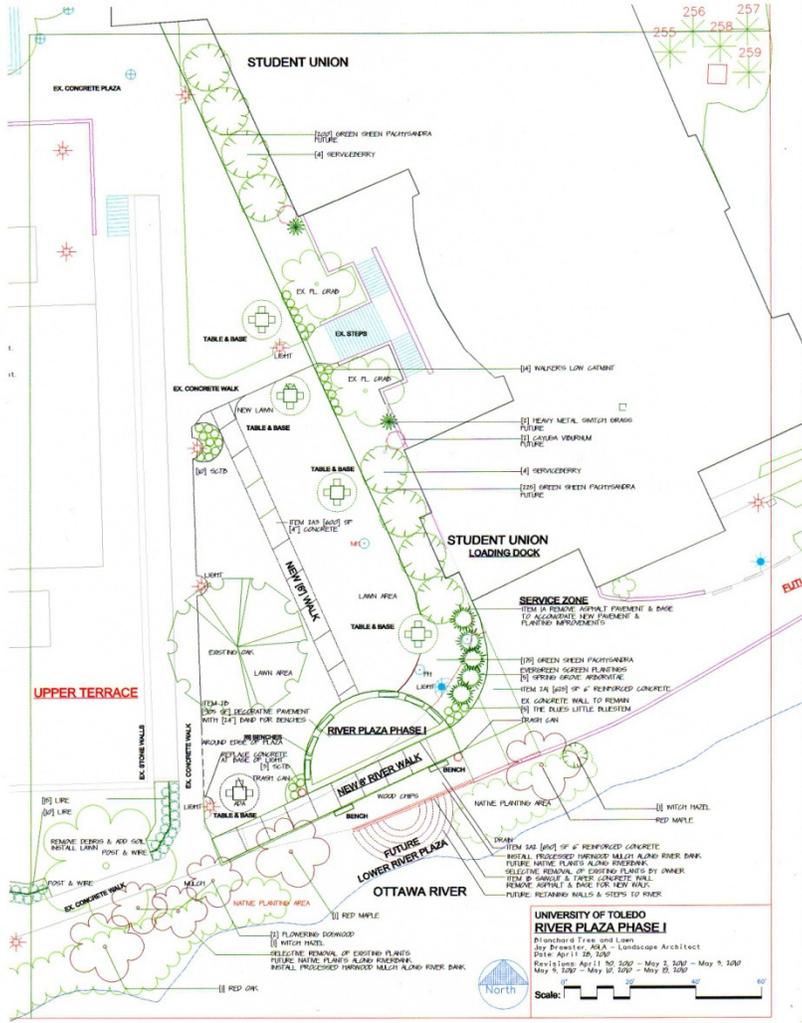
- Work continued at the Carolyn Edwards Memorial Rain Garden located at Lot 10 to remove invasive weeds and place additional plant material.
- The aim is to achieve a level of sustainability with the plant populations and required ongoing maintenance.
- Appreciation is extended to the many volunteers who gave of their time and effort to assist with this project, especially Todd Crail and students.





Student River Plaza Project

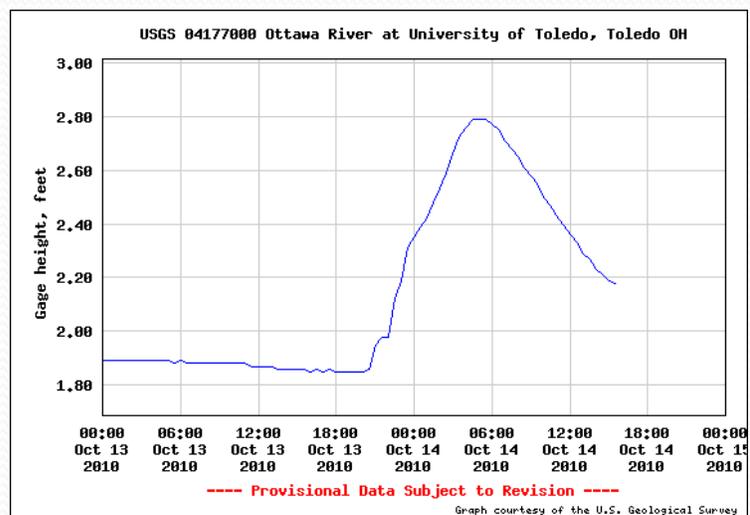
- In April 2010 President Jacobs directed the Commission and UT Facilities to prepare a design plan for a phase 1 development of a student river plaza to be located between the Carlson Library and Student Union.
- The design would include walkways, benches, tables, tree plantings, and informational signs.
- Construction and installation was undertaken in July and August.
- An official dedication of the plaza was held on September 9th.



USGS River Gaging Station

- In August 2010 the USGS re-established the Ottawa River gaging station on the main campus of UT.
- Data collection on gage height and discharge is now collected real time every 30 minutes and readily accessible for access from the USGS station website.

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/nwisman/?site_no=04177000



- This project was funded by the USGS with support from the
- American Recovery and Reinvestment act



Celebrate Our River Week: Sept 8-11th

- Each year the Commission plans a series of events and activities to highlight the importance of the Ottawa River and the work of the Commission.
- This year the week included:
 - Video and poster board displays in the Carlson Library (with the assistance of Mark Walker, Christine Rigda, Dr. Marcia Suter and Hans Gottgens)
 - Dedication of the Student River Plaza
 - A rubber duck race
 - Participation in Clean Your Streams.
- Thanks is extended to the Commission members and others from the UT Community for their assistance with these events.



**2010 Celebrate Our River Event
September 7 to 11th, 2010**

Please join us for these activities:

- Information Displays in the Carlson Library
- September 9th at noon: Ribbon Cutting at the Student River Plaza
- September 10th at noon: Rubber Duck Race
- September 11th. Clean Your Streams event 830am-200pm





2010 Clean Your Streams (September 11th)

- For the fifth year UT participated as a community partner and kickoff location for the annual Clean Your Streams event (CYS).
- Over 300 volunteers registered at the UT campus and worked to remove debris from rivers sites on main campus, Scott Park, the Health Science Campus, City of Toledo, and the Village of Ottawa Hills.
- From the UT Main campus volunteers removed over 200 bags and numerous large items (including signs, winter sled, microwave) totaling approximately 3,000 lbs of collected materials.
- The Commission appreciates the continued financial support from the Presidents office for CYS.



Contact Advisory Posting Update

- The Commission continued to advocate for further consideration and monitoring to assess the current status and justification for the Contact Advisory Posting for the Ottawa River at UT in place for the river within the City of Toledo since 1991.
- Ohio EPA has announced plans to conduct a two year water quality and aquatic ecosystem monitoring program (TMDL) for the middle and upper reaches of the Ottawa River (including UT Main campus).
- The data to be collected in 2011 and 2012 will assist Ohio EPA and the State Health Department in evaluating the continued requirement for the Contact Advisory for these reaches of the Ottawa River.



Tree Plantings

(in association with Toledo GROWS)

- In October 2010 the Commission worked with Toledo GROWS, Lucas County Soil and water Conservation District, and the UT Campus Grounds crew to plant 40 new trees in several locations on campus, including at two river sites:
 - the Student River Plaza
 - South side of the CPA river bridge
 - Along the river next to CPA building.
- Species planted included:
 - sweet gum
 - Sycamore
 - spice bush
 - red maple
 - American chestnut.



Fund Raising

- EC₃ Fund (Stranahan Fund grant)

- Income = \$33,000
- Expenses = \$31,597
- Balance (07/01/10) = \$ 1,403

- Friends of the River Fund

- FY 09 balance forward = \$1,693.12
- Income (gifts) = \$1,525.00**
- Income (pledges) = \$3,829.84
 - TOTAL INCOME = \$7,047.96
- Expenses = \$2,472.93
- Balance (07/01/10) = \$4,575.03
- Cash (07/01/10) = \$3,050.03

*all values refer to FY 2010: July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

** UT Class of 1959 donations towards new bench for David Root Bridge river overlook

Education & Outreach



- Display and talk at the annual UT Earthfest event in April.

- River restoration project featured in the UT Discovers 2010 Report: Focus on Environmental Research. (UT Office of Research)



- Also mentioned in articles by the UT News and Independent Collegian and a news feature by ABC 13 TV (highlights of Celebrate Our River events).
- Interview for Environmentally Sound radio show.

Other Events and Activities

- Participated in various community meetings, including a site tour of the Ottawa River dredging project.
- Assisted with the annual Student Watershed Watch.
- Gave presentations to students, UT courses, local community groups and national conferences on the work of the Commission.
- Ongoing fish sampling on the Ottawa River at UT revealed the presence of a state listed species – Least Darter.
- Conducted fund raising associated with the 50th reunion classes of 1959 & 1960 with aim to place additional benches at the Dave Root Bridge river overlook.



2011 Plans and Priorities



- Completion of design phase (year 2) for the EC₃ River Restoration Project at the Savage Area site and hosting workshop on river restoration (March 2011).

- Work with the Department of Civil Engineering faculty and Senior Undergraduate Design class on preparation of concept plans for a new library bridge.



- Continued support for the annual Celebrate Our River Week and Clean Your Streams and continued education activities with UT classes.
- Ongoing involvement in the in completion of the final site design for the ARS building.
- Consider next steps for fund raising and design of future phases for the Student River Plaza project.
- Remain an advocate for the river in reference to campus planning, Directions 2010 and Sustainability Initiatives at UT.

Commission Members (2010)

- 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 Sabharwal, UT Library
- Jay Brewster, Blanchard Tree and Lawn
- Katie Swartz, American Rivers
- Nicholas Wittenberg

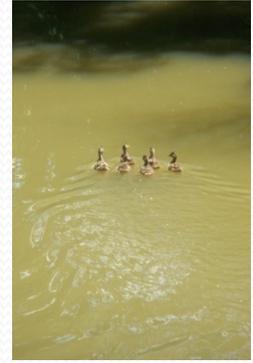


Acknowledgements

- The work of the Commission in 2010 was supported and assisted by many groups and individuals whom we would like to recognize for their efforts:



- President's Office, University of Toledo
- Chuck Lehnert, Vice President Facilities & Construction
- Vern Snyder, Vice President Institutional Advancement
- Doug Collins, Manager, Parking and Grounds
- UT Grounds
- Stranahan Foundation
- UT Institutional Advancement
- UT Foundation
- American Rivers
- Toledo Rain Garden Initiative
- Jimmie Edwards
- UT Campus Beautification Committee
- Blanchard Tree and Lawn
- Ohio EPA
- Toledo GROWS
- Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- USGS
- TMACOG
- Partners for Clean Streams Inc.
- UT Department of Geography & Planning
- UT Department of Environmental Sciences
- UT Lake Erie Center
- UT Library
- Toledo Public Schools TECHS program, Scott Park
- UT Honors College



For more information on the work of the Commission please refer to our website at: www.utoledo.edu/commissions/river/