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- Ohio EPA Section 319(h) Grants Program
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- Stranahan Foundation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- UT Office of the President
- Toledo-Lucas County Rain Garden Initiative
- Family of Carolyn E. Edwards
- Duane Stranahan, Sr. Charitable Fund
- Donors to the UT Foundation account “Friends of the River”

Commission Members

Present Members
Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT (chair, 2006-present)
Dick Eastop, UT-retired (chair, 2005-2006)
Jay Brewster, Blanchard Tree and Lawn
Mike Cassidy, Community
Doug Collins, UT
Don Curtis, UT
Kurt Erichsen, TMACOG
Dr. Hans Gottgens, UT
Dr. Steve LeBlanc, UT
Chuck Lehmer, UT
Dick Meyers, Toledo Design Center
Dr. Carol Stepien, UT
Arjun Sabharwal, UT Library
Katie Swartz, American Rivers

Past Members
Dr. Dan Johnson, President Emeritus
Page Armstrong, UT
Elyse Bernstein, UT student
Kristin Cavanagh, UT student
Todd Crail, UT student
Dr. Rick Francis, UT
Diana Gannies, UT
Denny Garvin, City of Toledo
Ellen Ingram, UT
Angie Jones, UT
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Jim Spengler, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
Heather Slough, UT
Marcia Suter, UT
Marc Thompson, Village of Ottawa Hills
Harry Wyatt, UT
Jim Winkle, UT
Nick Wittenberg, UT student

Above: workers use a board to smooth out concrete poured in June 2010 as part of the Student River Plaza behind the Student Union and Carlson Library

For more information on the work of the Commission, including annual reports, please refer to our website:
www.utoledo.edu/commissions/river/
The Commission wishes to acknowledge the five-year anniversary of its existence by highlighting the following major accomplishments and achievements that occurred during that period.

- Completion of several river overlooks, most notably at the Student River Plaza, Savage Arena, and David Root Bridge
- Installation of three rain gardens to demonstrate efforts at storm water management
- Efforts at improved education and public awareness regarding the Ottawa River on main campus through the annual Celebrate Our River events and other outreach and media activities
- Ongoing efforts to address the contact advisory postings on the river

Since its formation in 2005, the President’s Commission on the River at the University of Toledo has strived to make improvements to the 4,700 feet of the Ottawa River that passes through the main campus. With its 2006 report, the Commission established a series of recommendations and concept plans for the river to address beautification, environmental issues, student involvement, research needs, access and views, public awareness, and community engagement. Over the last five years, significant progress has been made in many of these areas in association with numerous university and local partners. The support of UT faculty, staff, students, administrators, and volunteers has been essential to this endeavor, along with the funding support from federal and state grants, community foundations, and donors to the UT Foundation “Friends of the River” account. At this 5th anniversary of the Commission, the members acknowledge the progress made and renewal of our collective efforts to continue with our mission to achieve the aim of making the Ottawa River a centerpiece of pride on our campus.

~Dr. Patrick Lawrence, Chair, President’s Commission on the River on the River

Thank you to...

Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, President, University of Toledo
Chuck Lehner, Vice President Administration
Vern Snyder, Vice President Institutional Advancement
Doug Collins, Manager, Parking and Grounds
UT Facilities & Construction
UT Grounds
UT Safety and Health
UT Foundation and Institutional Advancement
UT Department of Geography & Planning
UT Department of Environmental Sciences
UT Lake Erie Center
UT Libraries
UT Honors College
City of Toledo
Lucas County
Village of Ottawa Hills
Dr. Cyndee Gruden, Civil Engineering
Dr. Douglas Nims, Civil Engineering
Senior design class students, UT Civil Engineering program
SSOE Inc.
The Collaborative Inc.
American Rivers
Dr. Jimmie Edwards
Todd Crail
UT Campus Environments & Beautification Committee
Blanchard Tree and Lawn
Ohio EPA
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Stranahan Foundation
TMACOG
Toledo-Lucas County Rain Garden Initiative
EnviroScience, Inc.
Partners for Clean Streams Inc. and Maumee RAP
Tim Bollin and students from the Toledo Public Schools TECHS program, UT Scott Park Campus

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Highlights >>>

The President’s Commission was originally formed by then UT President Dan Johnson in 2005 with the first report of the Commission presented to UT President Lloyd Jacobs in December 2006.

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Savage Arena site for proposed river restoration project
Carolyn E. Edwards Memorial Rain Garden
Scenic river overlook near the Student River Plaza