

Alum Spotlight

Department of Environmental Sciences



Kari A. Gerwin: B.A. in Environmental Studies (2003), M.A. in Environmental Geography (2006)

Thesis: “Relating Watershed Land Cover to Biotic Integrity in the Lake Erie Direct Tributaries”

Kari Gerwin attended the University of Toledo for her B.A. in Environmental Studies under the supervision of Dr. Elliot Tramer. She continued at UT to complete her M.A. in Environmental Geography. As an undergraduate student, Kari completed a Research for Undergraduates internship at the Lake Erie Center analyzing the relationship between land use change and water turbidity and suspended solids in the Ottawa River Watershed.

Kari’s Master’s included a research assistantship focused on the development of the Stage II Watershed Restoration Plan for the Maumee River watershed. She studied relationships between watershed land use and biotic integrity in Lake Erie Tributaries.

After graduating, Kari worked for the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands in El Paso (TX) as a GIS Analyst. She was involved in program management, land analysis and rehabilitation projects related to military installations. Kari returned to UT as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Geography and Planning before starting her current job as a Water Quality Planner for TMACOG. Kari now coordinates with local governments and communities through the Stormwater Coalition, the Watersheds Committee, and the Portage River Basin Council. She also works with local stakeholders to plan and design green stormwater infrastructure in the area.



“The relationships I built with researchers and staff at the University of Toledo and the Lake Erie Center have greatly benefited my work as a water quality professional. My professors and mentors as an undergraduate and graduate student are now partners in improving water resources in northwest Ohio!”