

2008 Annual Report President's Commission on the River

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO
1872



Prepared by
Dr. Patrick L. Lawrence
Chair, President's Commission on the River

Introduction

The December 2006 report of the President's Commission on the River identified several areas that were recommended for future activities

- Beautification
- Environmental Improvements
- Public Access
- Research
- Fund Raising
- Student Involvement
- Education
- Community Engagement



This 2008 Report will provide summaries and updates of recent and future projects and programs for each of these areas



Beautification

- Selective clearing of river banks in the Savage Hall vicinity to remove dead or dying ash trees and invasive species within the ground cover
 - Reseeding of this area with native grasses for bank stabilization was completed in November 2008 (with funding from UT Grounds and Campus Beautification Committee)



- 2008 Clean Your Streams activities
- Commission participated in the campus visit by judges for the America in Bloom competition



Environmental Improvements

- Establishment of two new rain gardens, which collect and filter storm water runoff from paved surfaces and buildings

Lot 10 site

- dedicated September 2008
- In 2009 to be re-named as the
“Carolyn E. Edwards Memorial Garden”



International House site

- Construction completed in October 2008
- In 2009 will be dedicated as the
“May Sue Cave Honors Rain Garden”



Public Access

- Construction of two river overlooks
 - David Root Bridge location
 - Savage Arena entrance location



- Both sites allow for the opportunity to view the river and gain a new perspective on this natural feature on main campus
- Supported with funds provided by the Savage Arena Renovation Project (design by SSOE)



Research

- A one day workshop was held in May 2008 (with 32 attendees) to study the use of permeable pavement to address storm water runoff from parking lots
 - A demonstration site was constructed in Lot 10 using permeable concrete

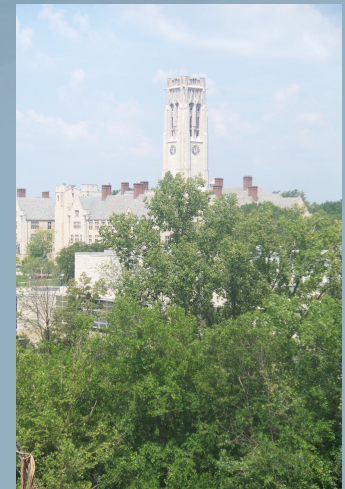


- Studies were conducted in preparation for the Lot 10 rain garden project site
- Fish communities continue to be monitored comprehensively three-times per year as part of an EPA-sponsored grant related to the removal of the Secor Road dam.



Fund Raising

- During 2008 the “Celebrate our River Initiative”, managed with the assistance of Institutional Advancement and the UT Foundation, to secure a total of \$23,465 from grants and donations including:
 - \$10,000 from the Duane Stranahan Sr. Charitable Fund
 - \$3,000 from the Carolyn E. Edwards Memorial Garden Fund
 - \$1,670 from the 50th Reunion Class of 1958
 - \$500 from the Toledo Rain Garden Initiative
 - Numerous private donations and commitments



Student Involvement

- On September 13, 2008 a total of 195 volunteers (including numerous student organizations) assisted with stream bank cleanup activities along the Ottawa River on campus and in adjacent areas as part of the 2008 Clean Your Streams Event
 - Over 50 large garbage bags and several oversized items were collected and removed



- The Commission continues to have representatives from UT Student Government as members

Education

- Presentations were made to several UT classes on various projects and activities of the Commission
- Articles on the work of the Commission appeared in the *UT News* and *Independent Collegian*
- Information signage has been placed at the two rain garden project sites in order to inform the UT community about the storm water issues and the purpose of the rain gardens



Community Engagement

- Representatives of the City of Toledo, Lucas County and TMACOG remain members of the Commission and have attended meetings to discuss the work of the Commission and related community initiatives



- Several Commission members have participated in community projects for the Ottawa River including:
 - the removal of the Secor Dam in the Village of Ottawa Hills
 - Ottawa River Habitat Project (TMACOG)
 - Ottawa River Watershed Riparian and Wetlands Inventory (PCS Inc.)
 - Proposal for a canoe launch on the Ottawa River in Point Place
 - Participation in the 2008 Clean Your Streams Event



2009 Stranahan Foundation Proposal

“Enhancing Environmental Education and Careers - E³C”

- In December 2008 the Commission was selected to submit a project grant application to the Stranahan Foundation



- This proposal, if funded, would focus on engaging students from the UT Early College High School (ECHS) program in a stream restoration demonstration site for a section of the Ottawa River on main campus.
- Students would work with UT faculty, community partners and environmental professionals in the design and construction of the stream restoration project
- The 3 year project would also include education workshops, connections to UT environmental education programs, and local environmental career opportunities



2009 Aims and Objectives

- During 2009 the Commission has decided to focus on the following priorities:



- Informational Meeting on the Ottawa River Contact Advisory Postings (March 2009)
- Student River Plaza Planning Charrette (April 2009)
- Continued involvement with the design of the proposed ARS building to be located next to the river near Carlson Library
- Participation in the 2009 Clean Your Streams Event
- Other projects and activities as deemed important to the mandate of the Commission



Acknowledgements

- The work of the Commission in 2008 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
 - Institutional Advancement
 - UT Foundation
 - Duane Stranahan Sr. Charitable Fund
 - American Rivers
 - Toledo Rain Garden Initiative
 - Stranahan Foundation
 - UT Campus Beautification Committee
 - SSOE
 - Ohio Concrete Association
 - Kuhlman Corporation
 - UT Department of Geography & Planning



2008 Membership of the President's Commission on the River

- Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT (chair)
- Page Armstrong, UT
- Elise Bernstein, UT student
- Mike Cassidy, Community
- Doug Collins, UT
- Don Curtis, UT
- Dick Eastop, UT
- Kurt Erichsen, TMACOG
- Dr. Rick Francis, UT
- Diana Ganues, UT
- Dr. Hans Gottgens, UT
- Ellen Ingram, UT
- Angie Jones, UT
- Dr. Steve LeBlanc, UT
- Chuck Lehnert, UT
- Dick Meyers, Toledo Design Center
- Bob Newbert, Lucas County
- Tim Murphy, City of Toledo
- Heather Slough, UT
- Dr. Carol Stepien, UT
- Marcia Suter, UT
- Jim Winkler, UT



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