

2014 Annual Report



***2014 Student River Photography Contest
1st Place winner "Blue Bridge" by Alyssa Kihara***

Report Prepared by
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President's Commission on the River
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December 2014

Introduction

2014 represented another active and productive year for the University of Toledo Presidents Commission on the River. The last steps of the restoration project for the Ottawa River on the UT Main campus were completed with the planting of another 400+ plants and the placement of six new permanent river information signs. This brings to a close the five year effort by the Commission to improve in-stream and bank habitat conditions for this 3,700 ft. section of the Ottawa River

During the year the Commission was also engaged in several other activities and events including the annual Celebrate Our River week, 2014 Clean Your Streams, working with students from civil engineering on a proposed river path, habitat improvements, and numerous opportunities for continued education and engagement with various public and professional representations and members talking to students, members of the UT community and public about our work and the Ottawa River on main campus.

We continue to foster strong and important relations and connections with many key partners, both on campus and in the local area including UT Facilities and Grounds, UT Health & Safety, TMACOG, Partners for Clean Streams, Ohio EPA and many others with interest in our work and collaborative efforts on the Ottawa River.

As we enter 2015 the Commission will be reaching a decade since it's original formation and charge with the initial work on the first Commission report for the Ottawa River at UT in 2006, the members of the current Commission will continue to strive for progress and advancements in the areas of beautification, environmental improvements, public access, student engagement and community outreach as we pursue current annual events and activities while considering new initiatives and ideas to improve the river that runs through our campus.

Sincerely,
Dr. Patrick L. Lawrence, Commission Chair

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(photo by Rick Francis)

River Restoration Project

- During 2014 the final work was completed on the five year main campus Ottawa River Restoration Project
- Over 400 additional plants were placed along the river banks, bringing the total of all native plants installed during this project to almost 1,600
- In addition during the fall, six permanent information signs were installed along the river to provide details on the project and educate about the river
- Appreciation is extended to all the project partners, specially the funding agencies: Ohio EPA, USFWS, NOAA, Stranahan Foundation.
- Special thanks is also extended to Matt Horvat (TMACOG), TECHS, Woody Warehouse, Ecological Restoration Inc., Dave Derrick and USACOE, Partners for Clean Streams, Enviroscience, Blanchard Trees, Toledo Signs, Envirosigns, UT Facilities and Grounds for their assistance and support.

2014 River Bank Plantings



Project Information Signs

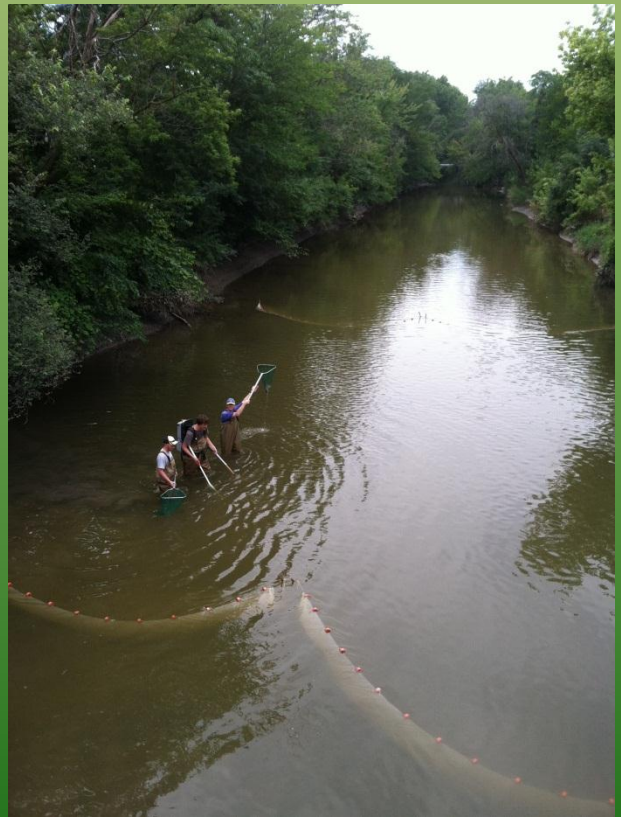


In-Stream restoration structures – 1 year after installation



Fish Habitat Monitoring and Assessment Project

- Research conducted by Aaron Svoboda (MS Biology, 2014) and Dr. Hans Gottgens (DES) was conducted in 2013-2014 to assess the potential impact on fish habitat and population conditions ‘from the in-stream structures. Many undergraduate students assisted with this research. Concurrently, James Moriarty (BS Environmental Sciences, 2014) completed an honor’s thesis on fish sampling methods in the Ottawa.”
- Preliminary results show some improvements in species abundance and habitat conditions and an increase in amount of fine sediments on the river bank in proximity to the structures. Further studies with additional sampling will be required for more definitive and comprehensive results.



Providing Educational Opportunities

- Over 300 students in various Environmental Sciences courses are using the river and the recent restoration work as an outdoor classroom and lab (photos provided by Todd Crail and Aaron Svoboda)



Ohio EPA SWIF Funded Storm water Projects

- Grants provided by the Ohio EPA Stormwater Improvement Fund (SWIF) supported the design and installation of two stormwater mitigation demonstration projects along the Ottawa River on main campus by Dr. Cyndee Gurden (UT Civil Engineering) and graduate students. Monitoring of outfall conditions and potential reduction in stormwater discharge at both sites will continue during 2015.

Tree Filter (Law School Parking lot)



Bioswale (Savage Arena parking lot at Douglas Rd.)



Additional Projects



Duck boxes installed



Replacement tree at
Dave Root bridge overlook



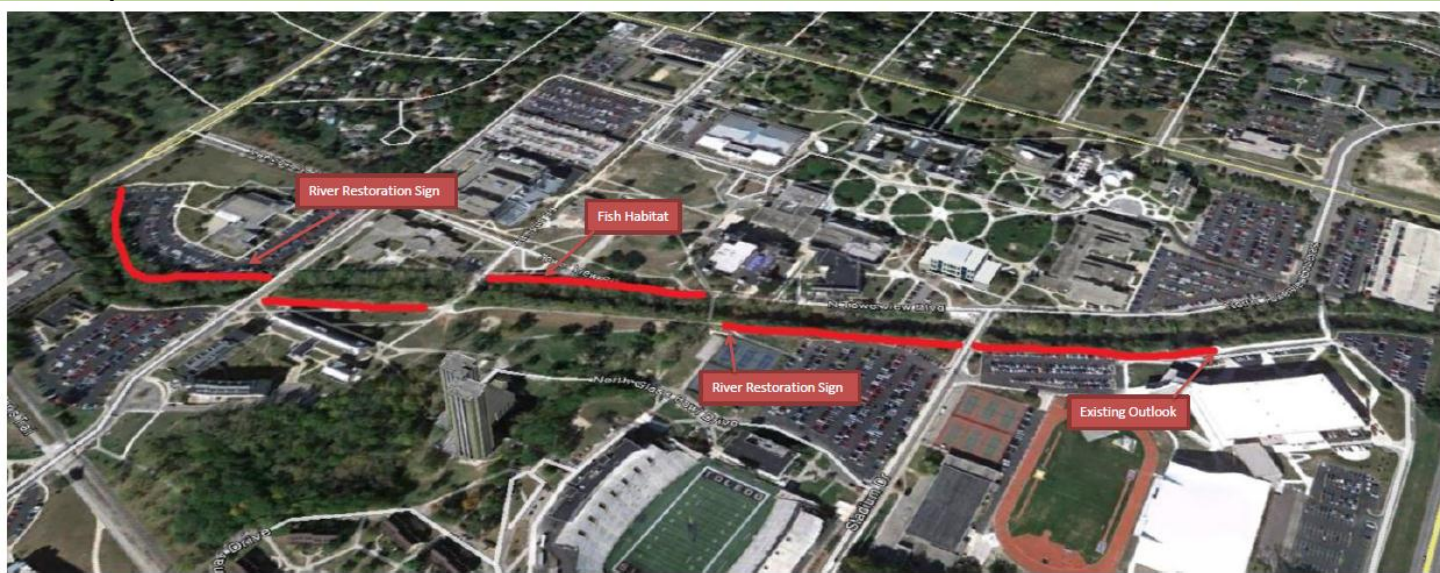
Spring clean-up by TECHS
students and teachers



Aerial photography via
Quadcopter drone
(by Rick Francis)

Fall 2014 Civil Engineering Senior Design Project: Proposed River Path

- During the Fall 2014 as part of their senior design class, team of civil engineering students completed a study for a proposed river path for main campus. Team members: Mitch Pitsenbarger, Ross Wuebker, Peter Lopez, Will Frazier, and Derek Hess. Examples of their work are presented here.



Recommended proposed river path location



Example of path as shown in Reach 1, north side (Law School)



REACH 2 PROPOSED PATHWAY & OUTLOOK

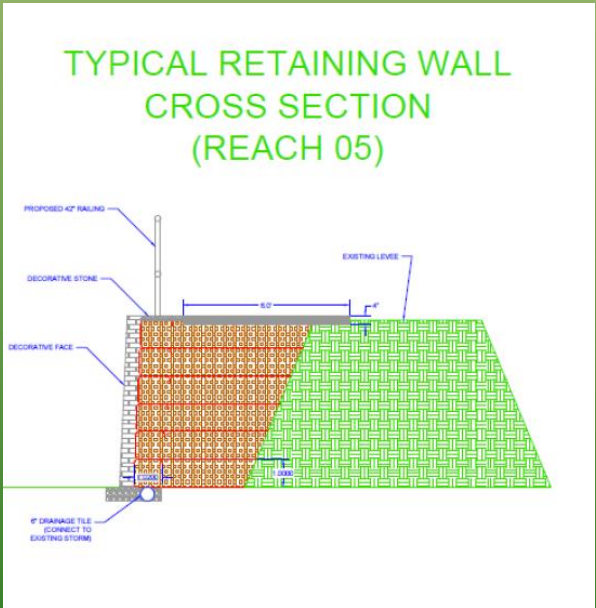


REACH 3 PROPOSED OUTLOOK



Reach 5, south side (Savage Arena)

TOTAL COSTING FOR UT RIVER PATHWAY ENGINEERS ESTIMATE			
REACH	PROPOSED MATERIAL		ESTIMATED COST
1	Gravel	Material	\$8,235
		Labor	\$5,893
2	Permeable Concrete	Material	\$4,732
		Labor	\$7,781
4	Concrete	Material	\$6,226
		Labor	\$7,088
5	Concrete	Material	\$6,043
		Labor	\$6,879
TWO OUTLOOKS	Concrete		\$14,500
RETAINING WALL	MECHANICALLY STABILIZED		\$366,240
STAIRS BUDGET	TBD		\$12,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST			\$445,617
INFLATION FACTOR OVER TWO YEARS			\$27,138.07
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST			\$472,755



2014 Celebrate Our River Week

September 17th to 20th

Again this year the Commission hosted events and activities that focused on the Ottawa River and the work of the Commission.

- This year the week included:
 - Video and poster board displays in the Carlson Library
 - 3rd Annual Student river photography contest
 - River walking tour
 - Ribbon Cutting dedication for river themed sculpture “Current Forces located outside Bowman Otty building
 - And UT involvement in the 18th Annual Clean Your Streams community event.
- Appreciation is given to the various members of the Commission and others from the UT Community for their assistance with these events.



18th Annual Clean Your Streams event

September 21st, 2013

More than 300 UT and community volunteers participated in the annual CYS event in, working at located at:

- Main Campus
- Health Sciences Campus
- Scott Park Campus
- Village of Ottawa Hills
- River east of main campus
- Camp Miakonda



- 100+ large bags of trash weighing more than 1,500 pounds were collected and removed.
- Appreciation is extended to the Office of the President for their continued support of this event as a community partner.



Financial Reports

- **Friends of the River Fund (UT Foundation account)**
(July 1, 2013- December 31st , 2014)

— FY13 balance forward	= \$ 1,181
— Income (donations*)	= \$1,252
— Expenses	= \$2106
Balance	= \$327

* includes pledges committed

- Notes:
1. Expenses included supplies and food for Clean Your Streams Event and student river photo contest, printing and other miscellaneous costs.
 2. OEPA 319 grant & USFWS river restoration project funds spent out, December 2013
 3. Additional in-kind and supporting funds provided by Partners for Clean Streams via NOAA grant that directly funded river bank plantings in 2014.
 4. Support of \$5,000 was provided from UT Presidents Office to Partners for Cleans Streams for 2014 Clean Your Streams and other community events in 2014 that the Commission was involved with.



2014 UT Student River Photography Contest: 2nd place
“Seining at the Bridge” (by Aaron Svoboda)

Outreach and Education

Restoring a River | UT Alumni Blog

<http://utoledoalumni.olliblogspot.com/2014/04/24/restoring-a-river>

Restoring a River

April 24th, 2014 Posted in From Our Alumni

By Dr. Patrick Lawrence



With the establishment of the main campus of the University of Toledo along Bancroft Street was the added feature of a major river. Over the last seventy years, the Ottawa River has received little attention in regards to campus planning, which is evidenced by the location of buildings and parking lots up against its banks. For many, the river has been seen and described as a "dirty ugly ditch". In addition, following major flooding in the 1940s and 1950s, much of the river was dredged, straightened and leveed in order to protect from future hazards. As a campus and community we have turned our backs to the river, ignoring its unique and important ecological functions and untapped potential to enhance the University landscape.

UT Alumni blog article

HABITAT RESTORATION

Habitat Restoration of the Ottawa River at the University of Toledo, Ohio



Reach 5 post construction view of hydraulic cover stones and bandway wter with locked log. Descriptions of restoration structures and accompanying graphics, designed and provided by Dave Derrick, River Research & Design Inc. and Partners for Clean Streams Inc.

With the establishment of the main campus of the University of Toledo along Bancroft Road in Toledo, Ohio in 1931 was the added feature of the presence of a major river approximately

3,700 feet in length. Over the last seventy years, the Ottawa River has received little attention in regards to campus planning, which is evidenced by the location of buildings and parking lots up against the

banks. For many, the river has been seen and described as a "dirty ugly ditch". In addition, following major flooding in the 1940s and 1950s, much of the river was dredged, straightened and leveed in order

Land and Water

www.landandwater.com 39

"The glass medium enhances the watery expression of the sculpture," Grawu said.

The river image also could be seen as a visual metaphor for the diverse and dynamic science disciplines housed in Bowman-Oddy Laboratories and Wolfe Hall.

"I hope viewers see beyond the 'story' of the river and the life forms and the symbolism to recognize the purely formal visual forces of the piece," Grawu said.

She was selected from approximately 20 artists from across Ohio who submitted proposals, according to LeBlanc. The artist is known for her work that is fluid and symbolic of nature. Grawu was an associate professor of art at Ohio Northern University from 1985 until her retirement in 2005. Funding for "Current Forces" came from the Ohio Percent for Art Program related to the renovation of Bowman-Oddy Laboratories and Wolfe Hall.

COOL, CLEAR WATERS

By Augusta Asari

Have you recently taken a stroll along the banks of the Ottawa River as it flows through UT's Bancroft Campus? Have you noticed how the water ripples over and eddies around strategically placed rocks and fallen trees? Have you realized that you are able to see sunlight and shadows playing tag through the branches of mature trees along the banks of the river? Did you peer over the bridge railings to watch some of the 40 different native species of fish swimming underneath or hiding nearby while protected by concrete barriers projecting into the river?

Did you enjoy a picnic lunch as you rested on a bench by the Ottawa River? Have you admired panoramic vistas made visible following removal of invasive non-native plants that formerly grew wildly along the banks? Did you see some of the 300 newly planted indigenous plants? Have you ever considered the Herculean efforts required to remove unsightly debris and to restore some of the features natural to the Ottawa River?

The Ottawa River restoration work on 3,700 feet of the waterway on UT's Main Campus began in 2005 with the formation of the UT President's Commission on the River, headed by Dr. Patrick Lawrence, professor and chair of the UT Department of Geography and Planning. The project was funded by a \$235,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and a \$151,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project was supported by several other organizations, including the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, EnviroScience, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Partners for Clean Streams and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Faculty, staff, students and volunteers worked together to achieve the physically challenging task of clearing underbrush and preparing for industrial machinery to

REMEMBER WHEN?

By Mary Ann Rehring

Remember how you felt on that first day when you became a member of the University? What were your expectations; did they materialize?

Remember when they put a dirt floor in the Memorial Field House so that the athletes could practice football and baseball?

Remember when the itinerant tenant in the "Blue Room" above the stage in Doernbecher Theater was discovered. Apparently, he established a comfortable home for himself. Rumor said that he even had an electric blanket.

Remember when Vice President Lance Thompson was almost the only one watching the UT girls' basketball games? When did they change the name to "women's basketball team"?

Remember when the UT Chorus appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1958? Did you know anyone who was a member of the group?

Remember when the Student Union had bowling lanes? Or when did the faculty and staff bowling leagues begin?

place aquatic improvements such as huge boulders and logs to mimic the river's natural flow patterns.

The Sept. 20 ribbon-cutting dedication ceremony celebrating the habitat restoration was attended by UTRA President Jim Lapp and his wife, Nancy and Shirley Joseph.

On Sept. 21, several UTRA members, including Jim and Nancy Lapp, Shirley Joseph, Nancy Wellman, Lynn Brand and Betty McKosken, volunteered at the registration table for the annual Clean Your Streams Day.



UTRA members Nancy Lapp, Shirley Joseph, Augusta Asari and Nancy Wellman volunteered at the registration table for Clean Your Streams Day.

UTRA members Lynn Brand, Jim and Nancy Lapp listened to Dr. Patrick Lawrence give instructions for the community-wide volunteer effort called Clean Your Streams, which was held Sept. 21. Lawrence, professor and chair of geography and planning, is chair of the President's Commission on the River.

UT Retirees newsletter

SEPT. 15, 2014

NEWS

Celebrate Our River Week to recognize restoration project, art

By Anne Purdie

The University of Toledo President's Commission on the River recently completed a five-year restoration project for the Ottawa River on Main Campus, just in time for this year's Celebrate Our River Week.

After installing in-stream habitat structures in August 2013, this summer 300 native plants were added along the riverbanks to bring the project total plantings to more than 1,500. Six new information signs have been installed along the banks to describe various natural aspects of the river and to showcase details of the restoration work.

The project was funded by grants from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with the plants and additional support provided by Partners for Clean Streams Inc. via funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

Dr. Cynlee Gruden, UT associate professor of civil engineering, and her graduate students are constructing demonstration projects for storm-water treatment at two parking lot sites adjacent to the river on Main Campus. This work is funded by grants from the Ohio EPA.

Events for Celebrate Our River week are:

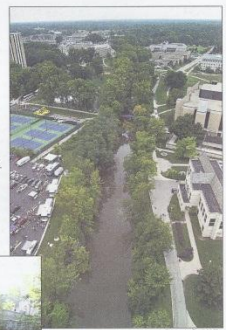
• Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 17-19 — Video and poster displays will be in Carlen Library; these will include pieces by artist Judith Graven.

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, at noon — The UT Campus Beautification Committee will dedicate a sculpture, "Current Forces" by Judith Graven. The work is located south of Bowman-Oddy Laboratories and Wolfe Hall.
- Thursday, Sept. 18, at noon — Meet in the parking lot by the College of Law to participate in a walking tour of the river restoration project.
- Friday, Sept. 19, at noon — Winners of the third annual Student River Photography contest will be announced at the Student River Plaza.
- Saturday, Sept. 21, at 8 a.m. — Clean Your Streams 2014 sponsored by Partners for Clean Streams Inc. Help pick up the banks of local waterways, including the Ottawa River on Main Campus.

The commission is working on other initiatives, including the creation of an online river tour brochure for visitors, faculty, staff and students. Planning

also is under way for a walking path along the river.

For more information about the river restoration project and Celebrate Our River Week, contact Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT professor and chair of geography and planning, and chair of the President's Commission on the River, at patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4128.



BANK SHOTS: Dr. Patrick Lawrence, chair of the President's Commission on the River, left, talked with Matt Hemming, groundskeeper 3, about the informational signs that were installed on the banks of the Ottawa River on Main Campus.

UT News story

Article published in Land and Water

Establishment of digital Archive with UT Libraries

- With the assistance of the UT Libraries, the Commission has established a digital archive in order to preserve and provide access to key reports and documents produced since its establishment in 2005.
- Current files in the digital archive include:
 - 2006 Report of the Commission “A River Runs Through It”
 - Annual Reports 2007-present
 - Final Report of the Ottawa River Restoration Report, 2013
- Future plans are to add monthly meeting notes, key images and photos, and other important documents
- The UT Commission on the River digital archive can be accessed at:
- <http://utdr.utoledo.edu/river-commission/>



Commission Priorities for 2015

- Continue to call for upgrades or replacements to the East Parking Garage pedestrian bridge, David Root traffic bridge, and Carlson Library pedestrian bridge
- Support ongoing and future storm water improvements to reduce impacts from runoff from roads, building and parking lots directly into the Ottawa River on main campus
- Develop concept plans for river walking trail to include overlooks, signage, and access points
- Launch a fund raising effort to alumni, public and UT community in support of the work of the Commission through the UT Foundation and our Friends of the River account
- Further native replanting along the river in association with Partners for Clean Streams Inc. and the Maumee Corp NOAA grant opportunity
- Remain an advocate for consideration of the Ottawa River in main campus planning
- Continue student engagement, education and public awareness of the river, planning needs and issues, and future projects and activities of the Commission

Commission Members (2014)

Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT faculty (chair); Mike Cassidy, Community
Doug Collins, UT staff; Don Curtis, UT staff; Dick Eastop, UT retired; Dr.
Hans Gottgens, UT faculty; Dr. Steve LeBlanc, UT faculty; Dick Meyers,
Toledo Design Center; Dr. Carol Stepien, UT faculty; Jay Brewster,
Blanchard Tree and Lawn; Karen Gallagher, UT student; Mike Young,
Community; Aaron Svoboda, UT student; Matt Horvat, TMACOG; Linda
Solarek, UT staff; Dr. Thomas Sodeman, UT staff; Augusta Askari, UT
retired; Dr. Cyndee Gurden, UT faculty



*2014 UT Student River Photography Contest: 3rd Place
“Magic Moment” by Francis Bradford*

Acknowledgements

The Commission would like to recognize the following individuals and groups for their assistance and in support of our projects and activities during 2014:

- President's Office, University of Toledo
- 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 Library
- UT Honors College
- Senior design class students, UT Civil Engineering program
- Todd Crail
- UT Campus Environs & Beautification Committee
- Blanchard Tree and Lawn
- Woody's Warehouse
- Envirosigns
- Toledo Signs
- Ohio EPA
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- TMACOG
- EnviroScience
- Partners for Clean Streams Inc. and Maumee RAP
- With funding support provided by:
 - Ohio EPA 319 grant program
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Partners for Clean Streams (NOAA funded grant)
 - Corps of Engineers
 - UT Foundation Friends of the River
 - UT Presidents Office



(photo by Dan Miller)

***For more information on the Commission please go
to our Facebook page
or website at: www.utoledo.edu/commissions/river***