

2015 Annual Report



***“Descent to Fall” by Sarah Dooley
2015 Student River Photography Contest
1st Place winner***

Report Prepared by
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President’s Commission on the River
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December 2015

Introduction



2015 represented ten years since the formation of the UT President's Commission on the River and the year was marked again by significant progress on many of the aims and recommendations of the Commission since its formation in the areas of Beautification, Environmental Improvements, Community Engagement, and Education associated with the 3,700 feet of the Ottawa River in UT main campus.

Of note during the past year the Commission continued involvement with planning for the replacement of the David Root Bridge, organizing the annual Celebrate Our River week, participating and taking a lead role with the community event Clean Your Streams, continued ongoing efforts associated with the river restoration project with a focus on removal of non-native invasive plants along the river banks, and many community and UT education and public awareness initiatives.

Additional areas of focus for the Commission including work on addressing storm water discharges from parking lots and buildings on UT main campus into the river, assessing the continued status of the in-stream restoration structures installed in 2013, and the dedication of the Dick Meyers River Overlook in April 2015. Members also had opportunities to discuss the work of the Commission with 2014-2015 Interim UT President Dr. Nagy Naganathan, and then with the new UT President Sharon Gabor, following her appointment on July 1st, 2015.

In the coming year we look forward to continued efforts to raise awareness and understanding of the Ottawa River on our main campus and advance the collective efforts towards improving and protecting the important values it provides to the UT community.

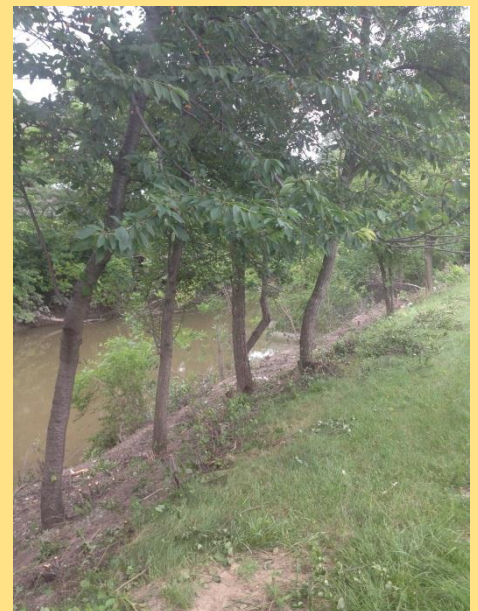
*Sincerely,
Dr Patrick L. Lawrence
Chair, UT President's Commission on the River
December 2015*

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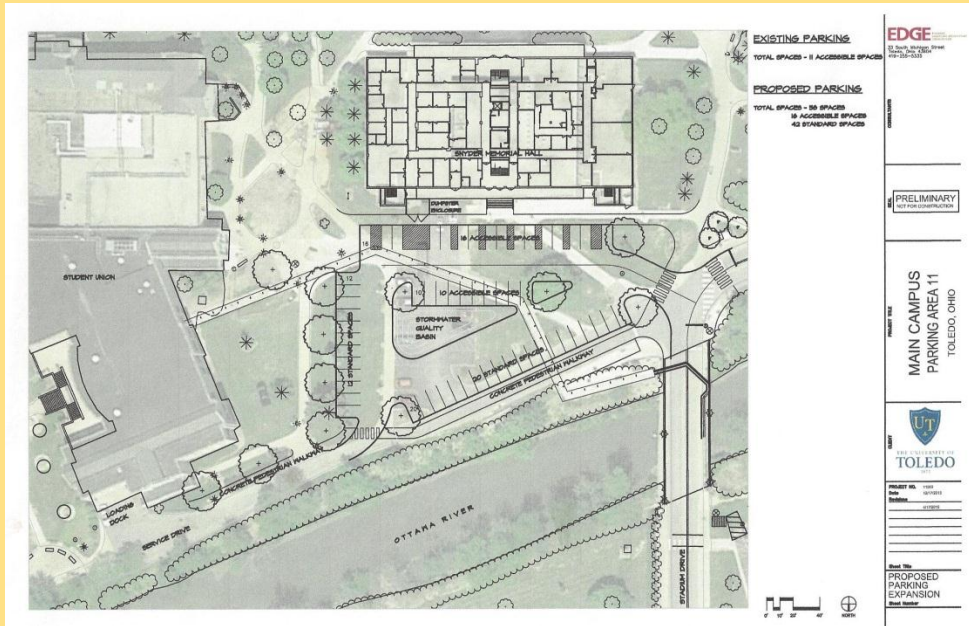
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River Restoration Project (2015 Activities)

- With funding provided by Partners for Clean Streams Inc. (NOAA project grant), additional work was completed associated with the river bank planting aspect of the river restoration project.
- Included was another project informational sign – focusing on the removal of non-native exotic plants and replanting efforts of native species – was installed next to the David Root Bridge river overlook
- Two student workers spent three weeks on main campus from June-September working on removing Honeysuckle from north side of Reach 5 (behind Savage Arena and East Parking garage which had not been focus of any previous clearing), and large patches of Burdock found in several locations along the river banks
- Special thanks is also extended to Dr Hans Gottgens, Matt Horvat (TMACOG), Partners for Clean Streams, NOAA, Toledo Signs, Envirosigns, UT Facilities and Grounds for their assistance and support with these efforts.



Lot 11 Renovations



During the Summer of 2015, renovation of an existing parking lot located between the Ottawa River and Snyder Memorial was completed to improve traffic flow and provide additional handicapped and metered parking restoration project.

Some members of the Commission stated their opposition to this project on the grounds that it provided for additional parking at a location too close to the river.

The design also included a bioswale for capture of a portion of the parking lot stormwater and a new sidewalk along the river's edge

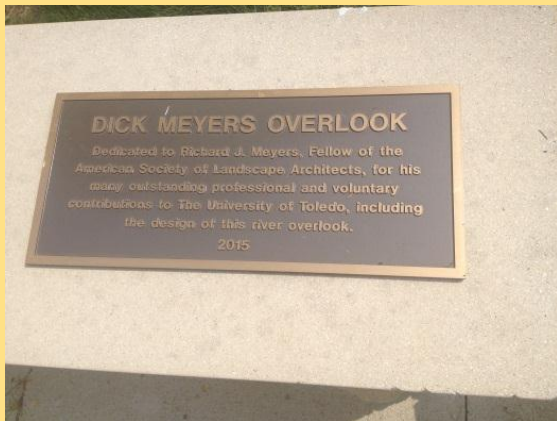


Dedication of the Dick Meyers River Overlook

On April 17, 2015 the Commission hosted Dick Meyers, his family and friends to a reception for the dedication of the river overlook next to Savage Arena in his name. The support and assistance of UT Facilities, Grounds and the UT Foundation towards this event are appreciated.

Dick was a founding member of the Commission, and also on the UT Campus Beautification Committee where his skills and experience as a landscape architect played an important role in many projects at UT. While with the Commission he was a fundamental contributor to the design of the river overlooks, raingardens and the Student River plaza.

Unfortunately soon after the event Dick Meyers passed away following a battle against cancer, but his efforts and insight will forever be remembered and marked by the presence of his work here on the UT campus and with the Commission.



Recognizing a visionary



Dr. Patrick Lawrence, professor and chair of the UT Department of Geography and Planning, and chair of the President's Commission on the River, right, shook hands with architect Dick Meyers during a dedication ceremony for a new river overlook near Savage Arena. A plaque paying tribute to Meyers is part of the new scenic spot near the Ottawa River. As a co-founder of the Collaborative Inc., a Toledo-based design firm, Meyers has been involved with more than 30 landscape design and planning projects on UT campuses. He cited his most notable achievement as Centennial Mall, which was a parking lot before he helped design the green space. Meyers also is one of the original members of the President's Commission on the River, the organization that started the habitat restoration efforts for the 3,700 feet of the waterway running through Main Campus.

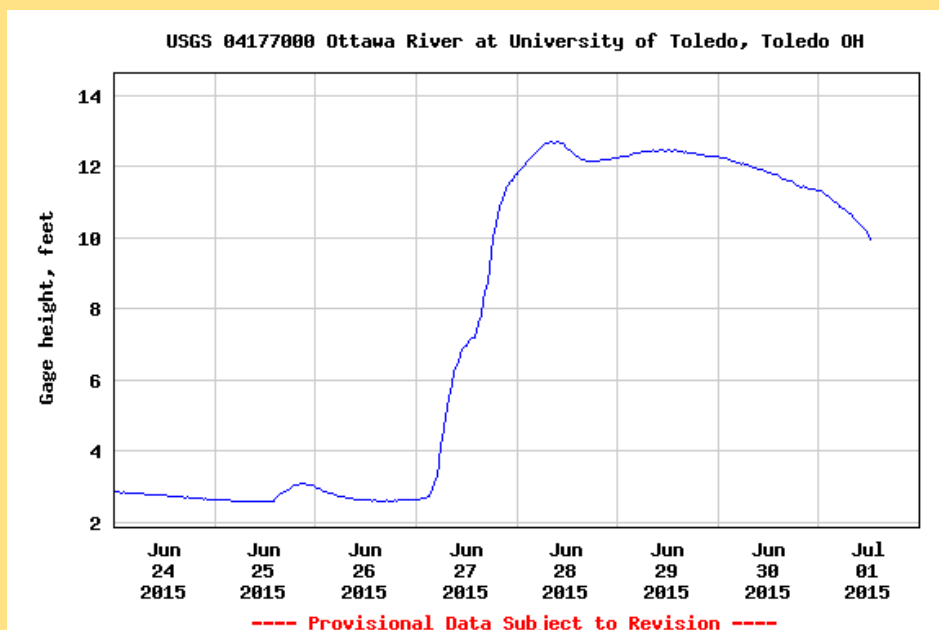
Photo by Daniel Miller

High Water Level Event

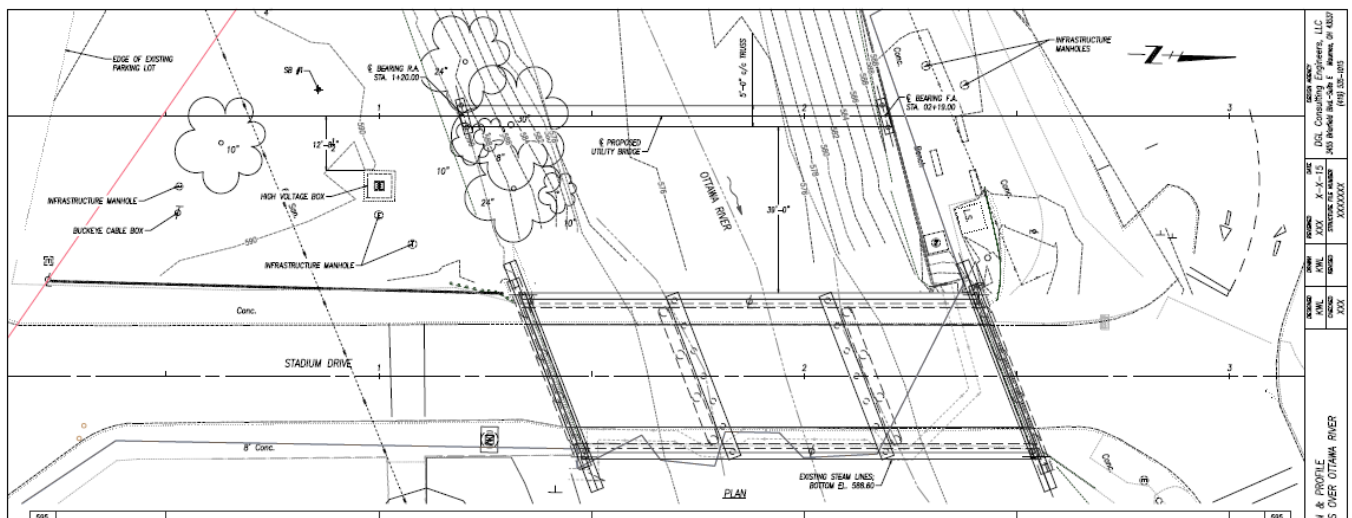
Almost 4 inches of rain in the region from June 27-28, 2015 resulted in a rapid increase to the river water level, peaking at 12.71 feet (2,430 cubic feet per second) on June 28th.

This peak level is the highest recorded by the USGS gage station on the Ottawa River at UT since November 2011 and 11th all-time on record that extends back to 1943 (and largest since November 30th, 2011), keeping in mind of various gage station corrections, and the addition of levees along the river in late 1950s. Of note, 8 of the top 25 gage heights have been recorded since 2005.

Water ended up over the banks in the new path in reach 5 and in the flats and north side of reach 3 near Carlson Library, and covering all of the cutbank. Also storm and sewer backup occurred in lot 10 and other lots and roads.



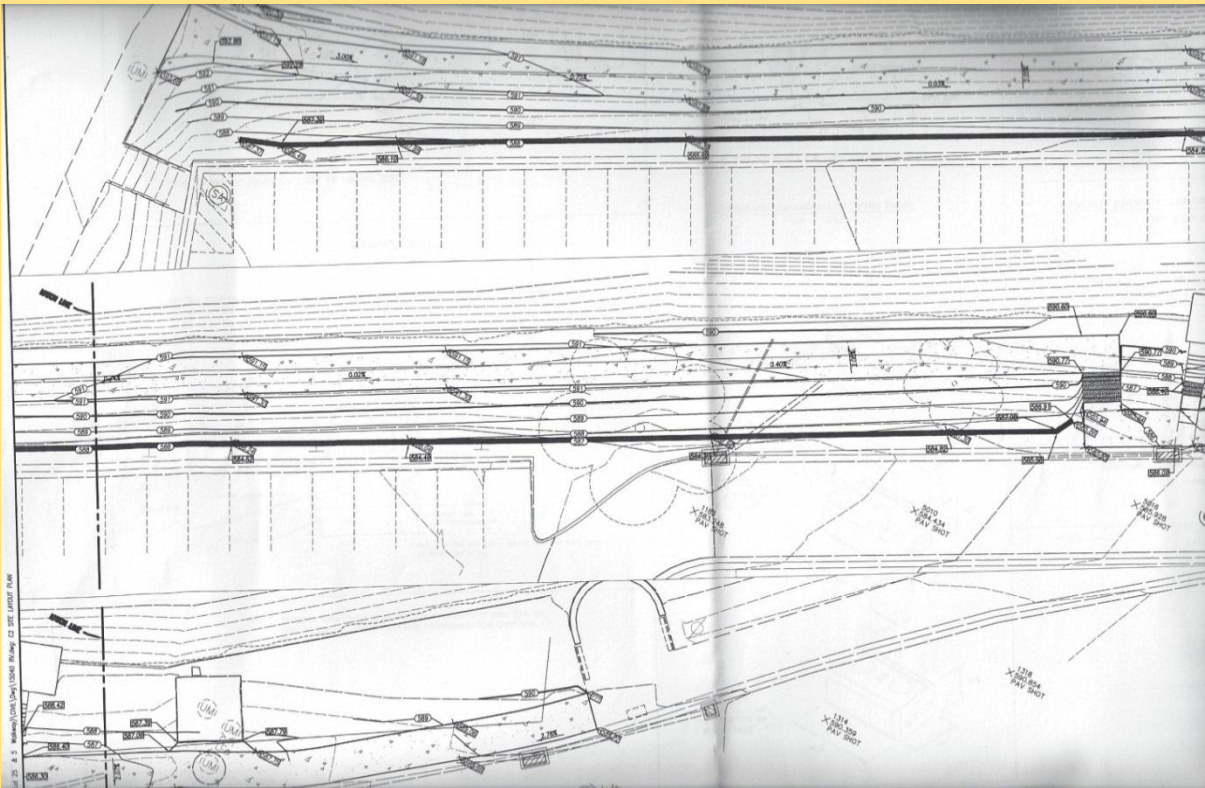
The new traffic bridge will also include several design features including incorporation of concrete and brick materials, color pallet, and lighting derived from existing main campus design elements.



Additional Planning for a Proposed River Path

Following from initial work completed by a group of students in the Fall 2014 Civil Engineering Senior Design class, additional concept planning and cost estimates for a proposed river path along south bank of Reach Five (next to Savage Arena) was undertaken with the support of UT Facilities and DGL limited.

Further development will be dependent on available funds.



New Master Plan for UT campuses



In October 2015 the Commission participated in a discussion with SmithGroupJRR regarding the initial steps in the preparation of a new Master Plan for the UT Main campuses.

The Commission shared information on our work since 2006 related to the Ottawa River on main campus and issues associated with the river related to future planning of the campus.

Further meetings and discussions regarding the new master plan will involve the Commission during 2016.

- Replacement for the Savage Arena Pedestrian Bridge

Department of Civil Engineering
Senior Design Project
Fall 2015

Savage Arena Pedestrian Bridge



Submitted By: Garrett Darby, Ahmed Elrefae, Christine Hoholski, Carly Huston,
Grant Steigerwald, and David Szymanski

Submitted To: Dr. Patrick Lawrence and Daniel Klett

Advisors: Dr. Cyndee Gruden, Dr. Douglas Nims, and Dr. Brian Randolph

Team was tasked with examining options for the replacement of the Savage Arena pedestrian bridge over the Ottawa River on main campus. Factors to be considered included location, orientation, materials, drainage, aesthetics, lighting, and estimated cost.

Fall 2015 Civil Engineering Senior Design Projects

- Replacement for the Savage Arena Pedestrian Bridge

Steel Concrete bridge option
Estimated total project cost = \$325,000

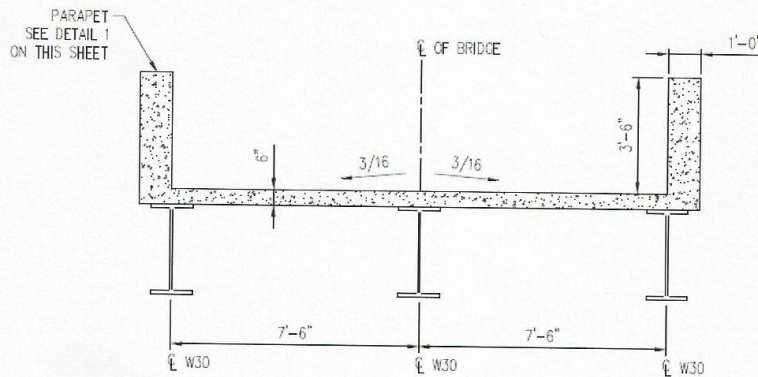


Figure 11: Steel/Concrete Bridge Cross - Section

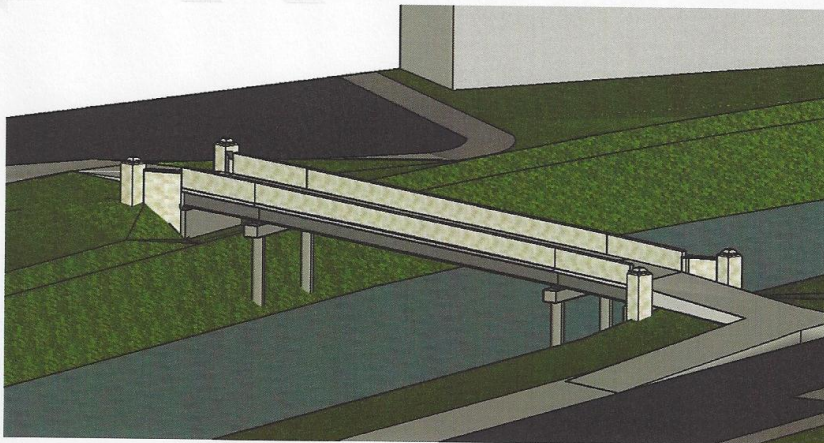


Figure 12: 3D rendering - Steel/Concrete

Fall 2015 Civil Engineering Senior Design Projects

- Replacement for the Savage Arena Pedestrian Bridge

Steel/FRP option
Estimated total project cost = \$473,000

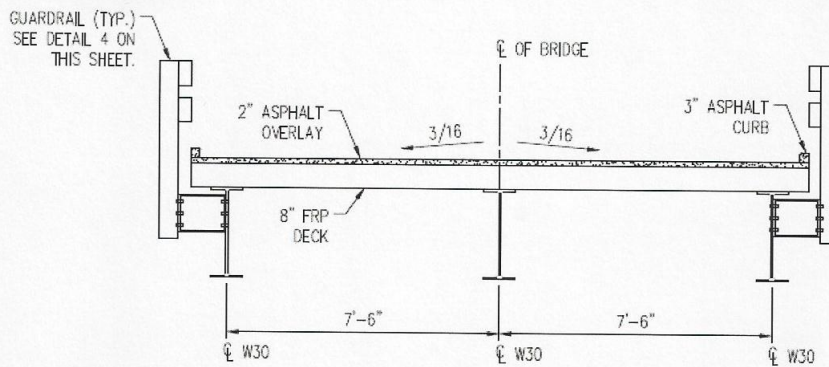
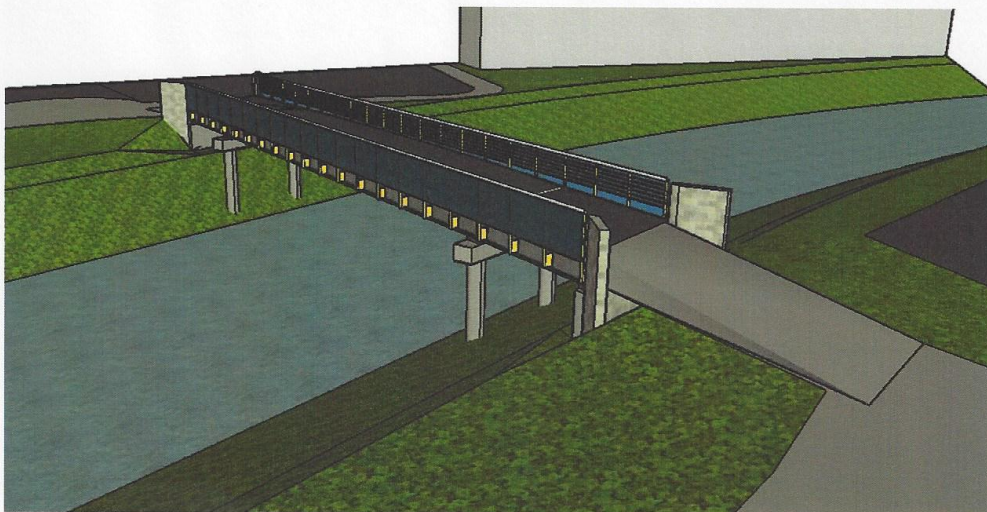
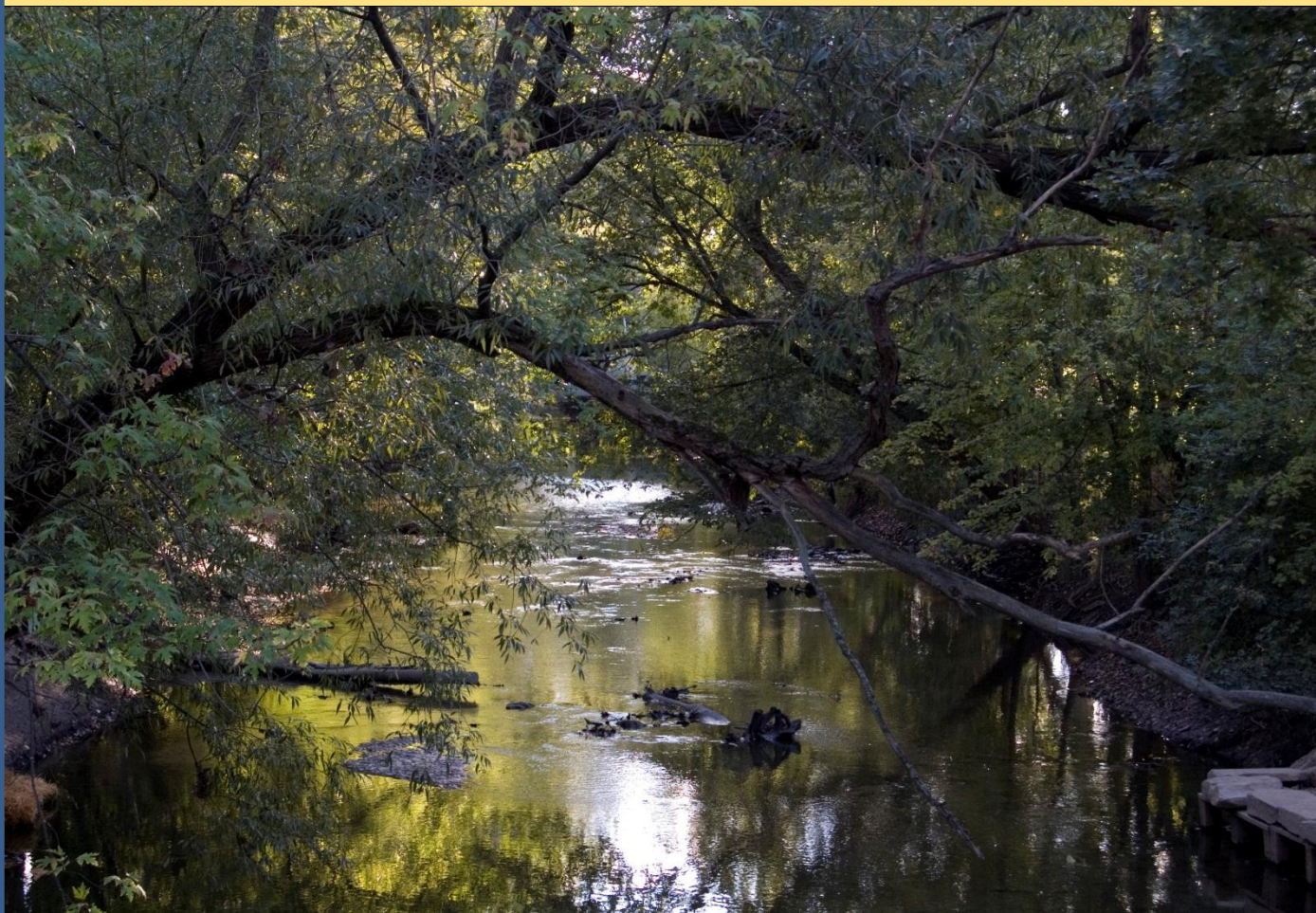


Figure 14: Steel/FRP Bridge Cross - Section





**“Through the Trees”
by Madisyn Watkins
2015 Student River Photography Contest
2nd Place winner**

In the News...and Social Media



Photo posted on Twitter of Drs. Lawrence and Gottgens giving new UT President Dr. Sharon Gaber a tour of the Ottawa River on main campus in August 2015

NEWS

AUG. 31, 2015

Annual Clean Your Streams event to conclude weeklong celebration of river

By Samantha Watson

After Saturday, Sept. 19, the rivers and streams around Toledo will look a little cleaner.

That's because the 19th annual Clean Your Streams event will be taking place, bringing in thousands of volunteers to tidy up area waterways. The University of Toledo is participating in the event by hosting two kickoff locations: the Ottawa River by the Law Center and Swan Creek at UT Medical Center.

Other locations include Olander Park, Monroe Street United Methodist Church, Three Meadows Park, Oregon Municipal Building and International Park.

Each year, the event brings in volunteers to help pick up trash and restore habitats. Because supplies are limited, volunteers are asked to register before Wednesday, Sept. 9, by calling 419.874.0727 or going to PartnersForCleanStreams.org/events/cys.

"The actual task of picking up garbage helps clean up the river," said Dr. Patrick

Lawrence, UT professor and chair in the Department of Geography and Planning, and chair of the President's Commission on the River. "But I think it also helps people to be more aware — they understand the rivers and streams and that they're important as part of our environment and part of our community."

Clean Your Streams is just one of a few events happening for Celebrate Our River Week at the University, which is put on by the UT President's Commission on the River.

At 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14, submissions are due for the fourth annual Student Ottawa River Photography Contest. Entries should be sent to patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu. See the story below for more information. Winners of the contest will be selected and announced at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at the Student River Plaza.

Submissions will be on display in Carlson Library starting Thursday, Sept. 17,



and winning shots will be framed and put on the third floor of the library. There also will be informational posters about area rivers on the first floor.

Clean Your Streams will conclude events Saturday, Sept. 19, but also will kick off a week of events culminating with the inauguration of Dr. Sharon Gaber as UT president Friday, Sept. 25, at 3 p.m. in Savage Arena.

Gaber has been very supportive and involved with this year's planning of Clean Your Streams and Celebrate Our River Week.

"With her background as an urban and regional planner, I think she's very much interested in things having to do with the river and campus planning, as well as involvement between the University and the community," Lawrence said.

2015 Celebrate Our River Week September 16th to 19th

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
 - 4th Annual Student river photography contest
 - And UT involvement in the 19th 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.



19th Annual Clean Your Streams event

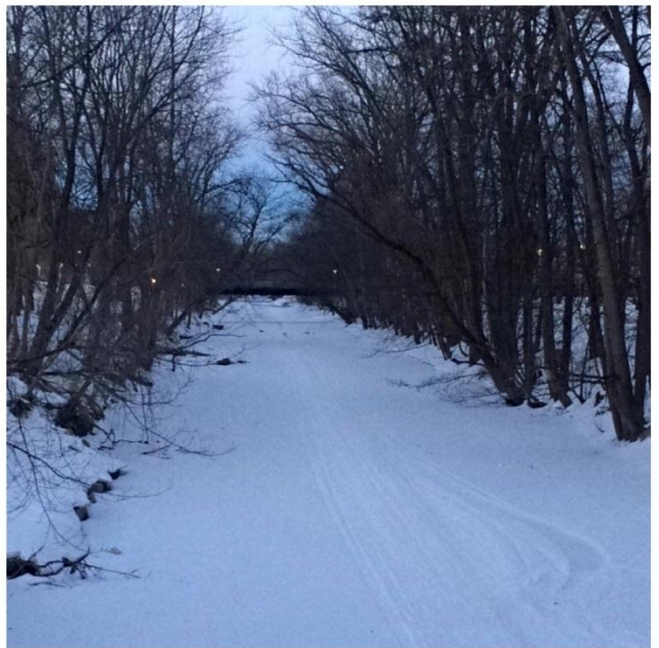
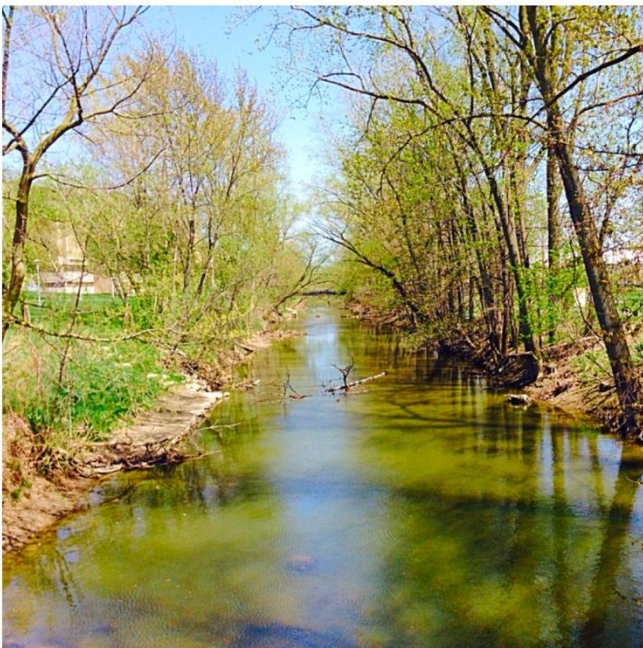
September 19th, 2015

246 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
- 80+ bags of trash
- Several large items
- Total estimated weight of 1,200 pounds were collected and removed including several traffic cones, pieces of metal, and a plastic doll
- Appreciation is extended to the Office of the President for their continued support of this event as a community partner and to Tim Hortons who provided coffee and donuts.



A River in all Seasons



**photo montage by Ajay Lingireddy
2015 Student River Photography Contest**

Financial Report

Friends of the River Fund (UT Foundation account) (FY 215: July 1, 2014- June 30, 2015)

– FY14 balance forward	= \$ 327.00
– Income (donations*)	= \$350.00
– Expenses	= \$617.37
Balance	= \$118.43

* 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.
 3. Additional in-kind supporting funds provided by Partners for Clean Streams via NOAA grant that funded river bank restoration in 2015 (2 part time PCS staff).
 4. Not included here is the support of \$5,000 provided by UT Presidents Office to Partners for Cleans Streams for 2015 Clean Your Streams and other community events in 2015 that the Commission was involved with.



(photo by Dan Miller)

Outreach and Education



Dr. Lawrence leading a tour of the river restoration project during the annual Great Lakes Areas of Concern conference at UT in March 2015

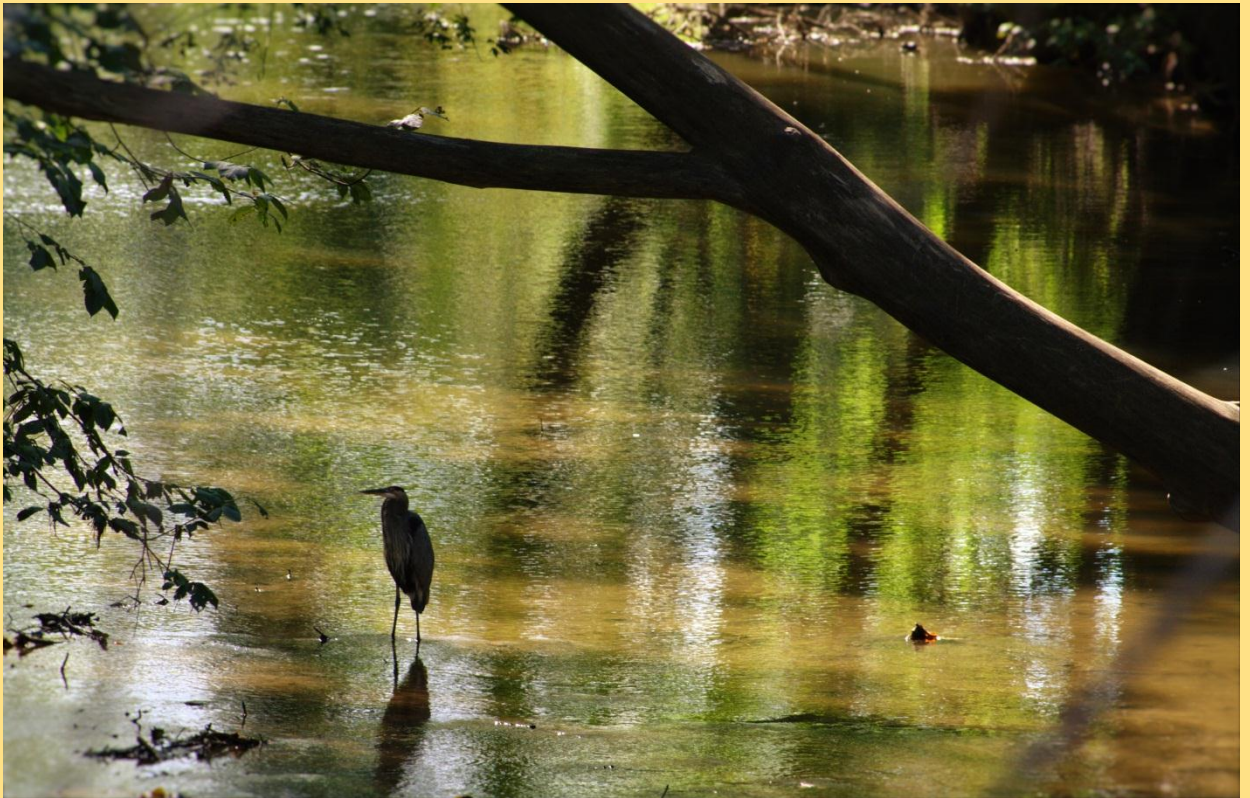


Students in the river as part of a class in Environmental Sciences (photo by Aaron Svoboda)



Home schooled students from Classical Conversations led by Julie van Wormer, sampling from the Ottawa River at UT in October (photo by Dr Kevin Czajkowski).

Wildlife



River from Above

In August 2015, Alex Johansen (student in the MA Geography program) took a series of photos of the in-stream habitat structures installed in summer of 2013 via a UAV Quadcopter Drone provide an unique view to the Ottawa River on the UT main campus.



Commission Priorities for 2016

- Continued Involvement in the preparation of the new UT Master Plan
- Engagement with the final design for the replacement of the David Root Traffic Bridge
- Ongoing removal of exotic invasive plants from the river banks
- Launch of a new fund raising effort “Walk the River” to support installation of river trails on main campus
- Review of the 2006 Commission Report “A River Runs Through it”, including revisions and updates



Commission Members (2015)

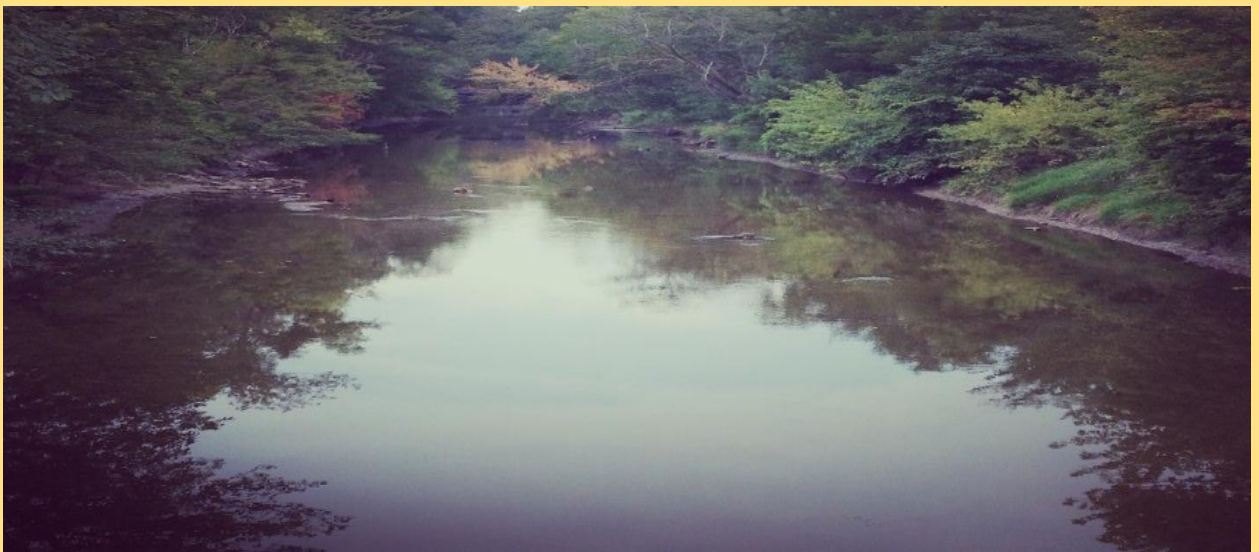
Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT faculty (chair); Mike Cassidy, Community
Doug Collins, UT staff; Don Curtis, UT staff; Dick Eastop, UT retired; Dr. Hans
Gottgens, UT faculty; Dr. Steve LeBlanc, UT faculty; Dick Meyers, Toledo Design
Center; Dr. Carol Stepien, UT faculty; Jay Brewster, Blanchard Tree and Lawn; 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; Neil Tabor, UT Sustainability
Coordinator, Amal Mohamel, UT student, Phil Enderle, The Collaborative

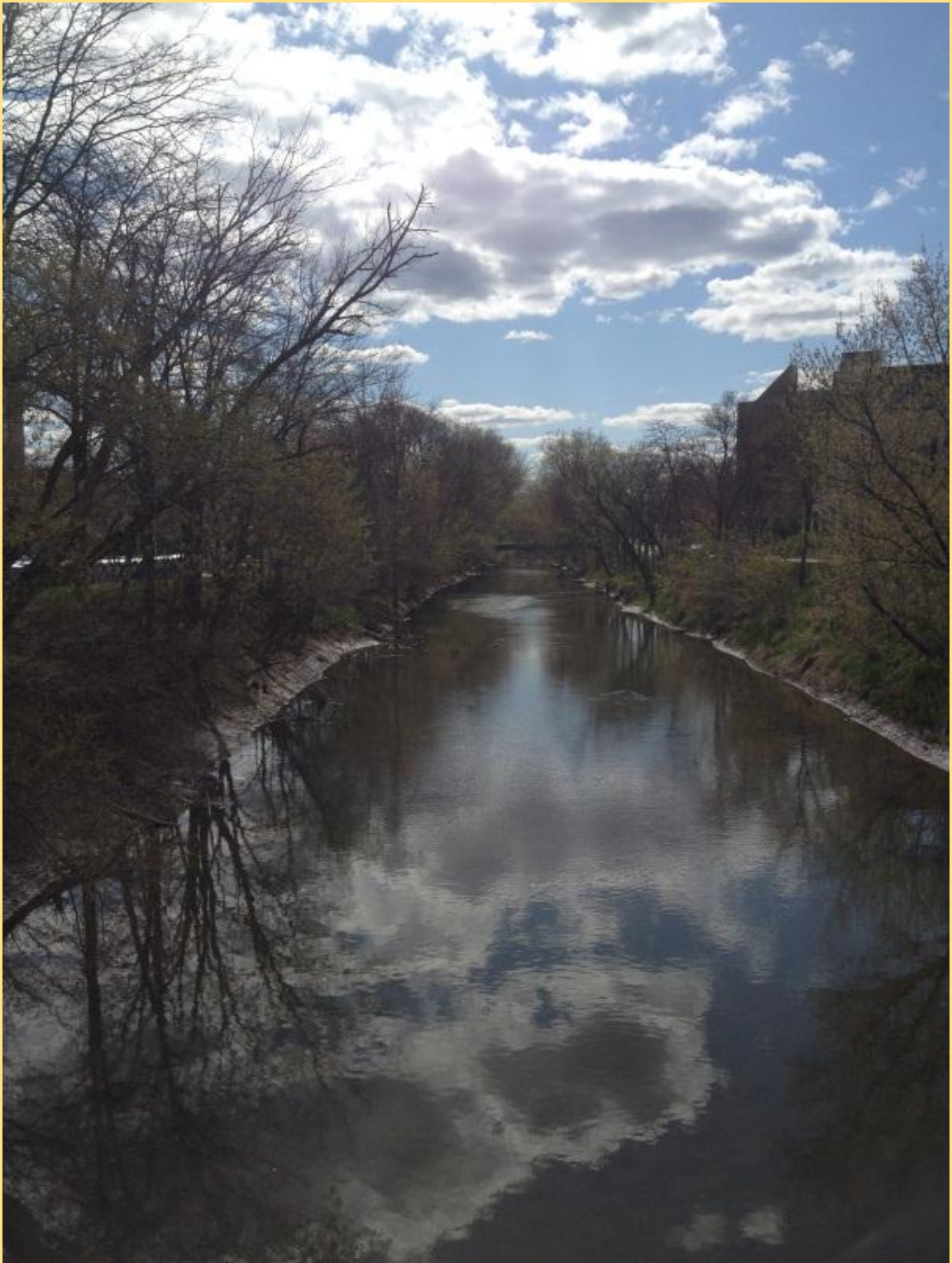


Acknowledgements

The Commission would like to recognize the following individuals and groups for their assistance and in support of our projects and activities during 2015:

- President's Office, University of Toledo
- Doug Collins, Manager, Parking and Grounds
- Jason Toth, VP for UT Facilities and Construction
- Dan Klett, UT Facilities and Construction
- 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 Libraries
- Senior design class students, UT Civil Engineering program
- Dr. Todd Crail
- UT Campus Environs & Beautification Committee
- Envirosigns
- Toledo Signs
- TMACOG
- Partners for Clean Streams Inc.
- With funding support provided by:
 - Partners for Clean Streams (NOAA funded grant)
 - UT Foundation Friends of the River
 - UT Presidents Office
 - Tim Hortons





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