

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



***"Winter Scene" by Bruce Kwiatkowski
2016 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 2016

INTRODUCTION

In 2006 the Presidents Commission on the River submitted its initial report entitled "A River That Runs Through It", which outlined concept plans and recommendations to direct work along the Ottawa River on the main campus of the University of Toledo which would focus on Beautification, Environmental Improvements, Research, Community Engagement, Public Access, Student Involvement, and Education efforts and initiatives.

Over the last decade the Commission has made major progress in all of these areas – and 2016 was no different. Significant achievements this year involving the river of which the Commission was engaged with includes 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, participation with the UT Master Plans process, and the dedication of a new river path next to the Law School (with support from the UT Student Green Fund). All of these projects and activities align closely with the aforementioned proprieties of the Commission as identified ten years ago..

As we look forward to 2017 and beyond, the time has arrived for the Commission to revisit its mission and priorities, reflect on progress made to date, and consider updates to recommendations, planning goals, projects and activities still necessary to envision the broad vision set forth in 2006 and consider new issues and approaches for our work. During the coming year, informed by the University community and the UT Master Plans, the Commission will develop a new charge and direction for our work with the continued aim to improve the 3,700 feet of Ottawa River on our campus.

Sincerely,
Dr Patrick L. Lawrence
Chair, UT President's Commission on the River
December 2016

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Replacement the David Root (Stadium Drive) Bridge

Starting in March 2016, the David Root Bridge was removed as the first stage in a four month \$ 2 million project replace with a new and improved structure. The photos below and on the next page provided a time sequence of the project to completion in August 2016.





The bridge project also required the installation of a new permanent utility truss that spans the river upstream; this feature holds numerous utilities that previously were located under the previous bridge structure (see set of photos below for timeline of install)



The bridge project was completed by DGL Ltd and subcontractors, with oversight by UT Facilities and Construction. The Commission along with UT Campus Environs and Beautification consulted on the final design which included several elements as seen below.



UT Master Plans



During 2016 the Commission participating in numerous discussions and meetings in regards with the preparation of new Master Plans for the University of Toledo campuses.

Issues raised by the Commission in regards to planning on the main campus related to the Ottawa River included:

- ✓ Protection of the Ottawa River ecosystem
- ✓ Maintaining existing open space along the river
- ✓ Storm water mitigation
- ✓ Development of a continuous river path along the entire river





Bridge View
by Tyler Westendorf
2016 Student River Photography Contest
2nd Place winner

UNIVERSITY STORM WATER PERMIT

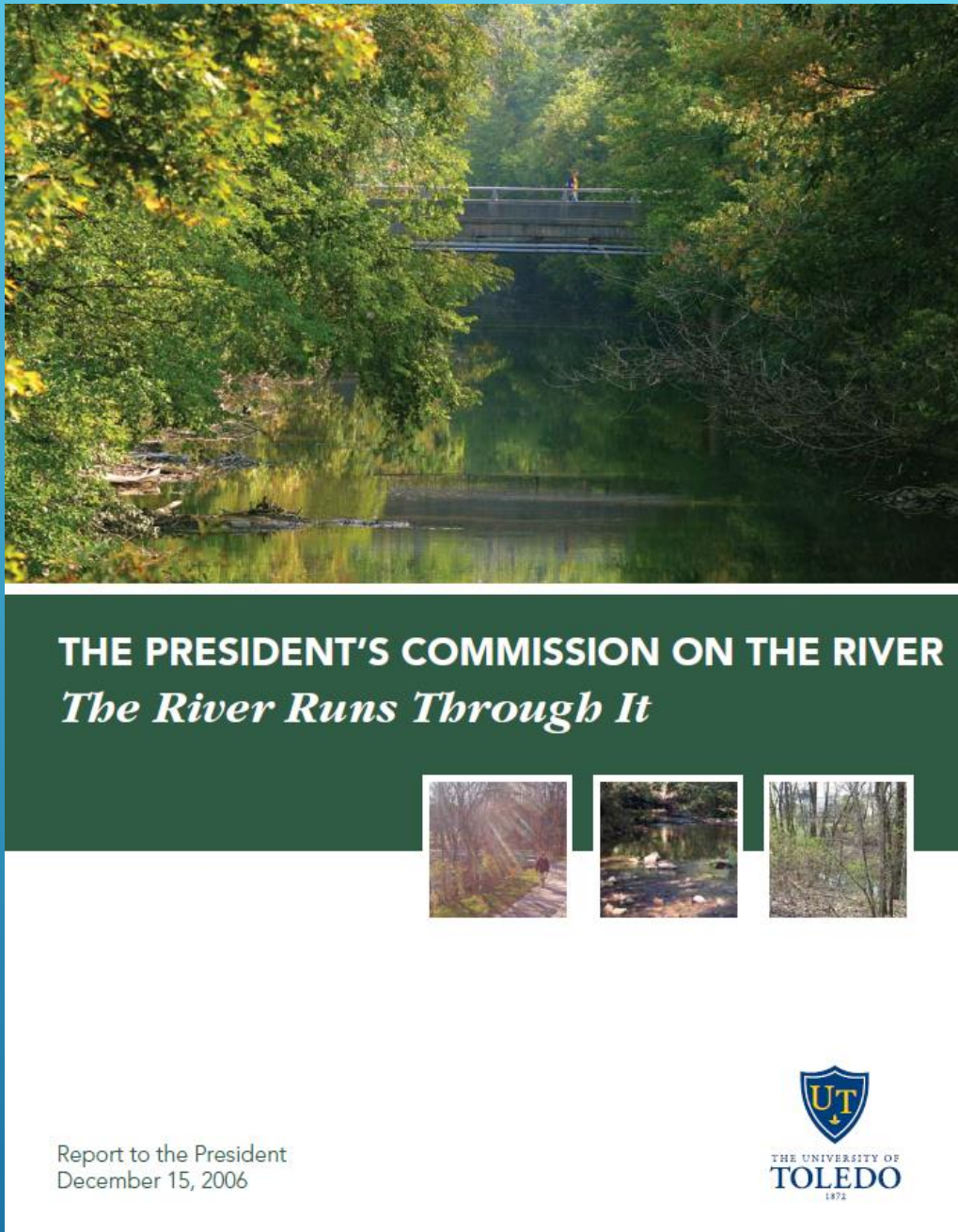


The University of Toledo operates under a current MS4 storm water permit from the Ohio EPA that requires attention and actions to address water runoff from our buildings, parking lots and other surfaces on all campuses. Work is ongoing to improve storm water management as required by this permit, including:

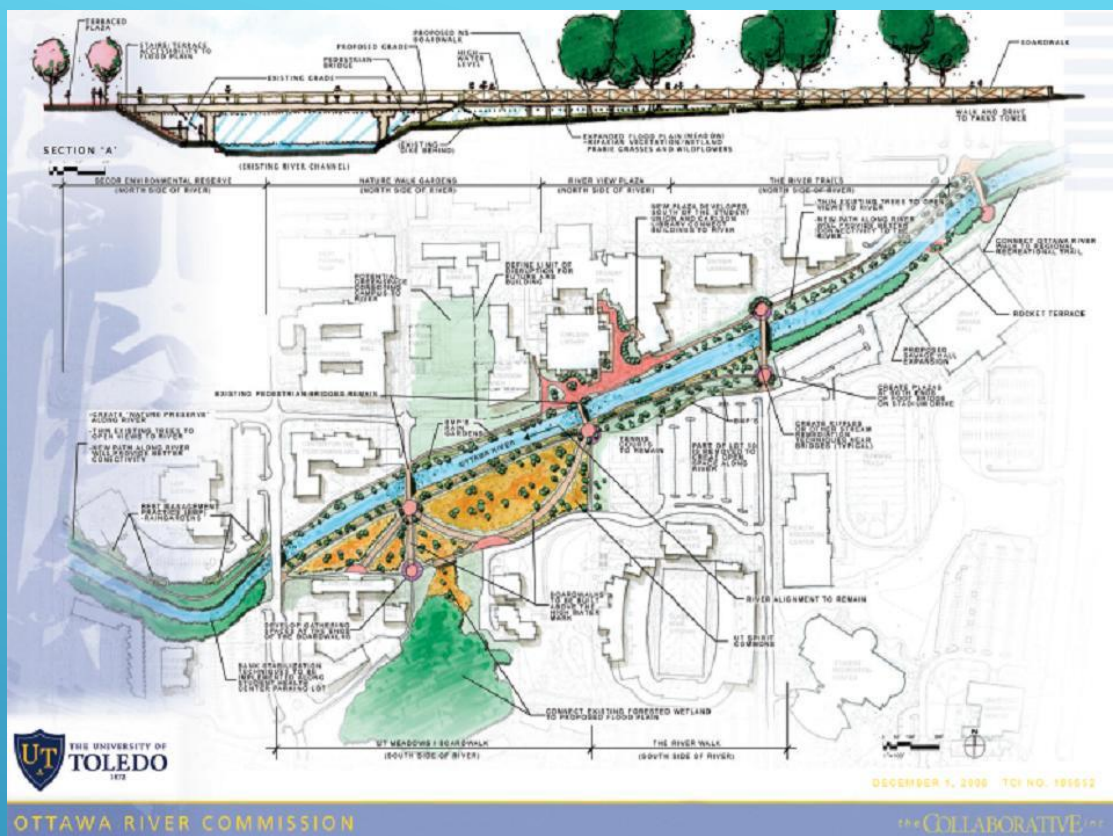
- Marking all storm drains to indicate their role as direct discharge points into a river, intent to education and address potential sources from spills (see photo above, on left)
- Dry screen sampling from all major river outfalls (see examples in photo above, on right) to determine if any significant contaminants are entering the river
- Ongoing education and outreach, including participating in the annual community Clean Your Streams events
- These and other activities will continue and expanded in future years to ensure UT is in compliance with our MS4 storm water permit



REVIEW OF THE 2006 REPORT



During meetings throughout 2016 the Commission started to review the 2006 report that provided the mission, planning concepts, priorities, and recommendations for its work, and that has guided its efforts over the last decade



First, highlights from the successes and progress over the last 10 years have been noted as:

- Completion of the \$500,000 river restoration with the installation of 12 major in-stream habitat structures, plus removal of 100s of non-native plants, replaced by over 1,600 new native plants;
- Install of 8 new river information signs;
- Creation of five storm water mitigation projects, including two rain gardens;
- Improved public access with the construction of two river overlooks and over 1,200 of river paths;
- Removal of the public contact advisory and signage;
- Hosting the annual Celebrate Our River week;
- Participating in the community Clean Your Streams event, with UT serving as partner and kickoff location, and resulting in 1000s of items removed by over 1,400 total volunteers since 2005;
- Facilitating student research, engagement, outdoor classroom activities for 100s of students;
- Numerous public and professional presentations, media coverage, and publications based on this work;
- Via grants and donations, raising over \$600,000 in external funding support.



- ▶ In terms of updates to the 2006 plan, including potential future activities and projects, initial ideas have included:
 - ▶ Advance consideration for the wetland floodplain/boardwalk concept from the 2006 plan (see illustration above);
 - ▶ Continued focus on storm water mitigation, especially associated with future parking lot improvements;
 - ▶ A partnership with the UT Environs and Campus Beautification Committee;
 - ▶ Further additions of river overlook sites, plus lighting along the river;
 - ▶ Development of a long term non-native plant management plan;
 - ▶ Increased student service learning opportunities;
 - ▶ Progress on establishment of a continuous multi-use path along the entire length of the river on main campus;
 - ▶ Pursue opportunities associated with lands owned by UT along Swam Creek at the Health Science Campus.
- ▶ It is anticipated that discussions regarding a revised plan for the Commission will continue during 2017

2016 CELEBRATE OUR RIVER WEEK SEPTEMBER 14TH TO 17TH

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
 - ▶ 6th Annual Student river photography contest
 - ▶ And UT involvement in the 20th 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.



DEDICATION OF THE NEW DAVID ROOT BRIDGE



On September 15th, 2016 the University community dedicated the new David Root Bridge located on Campus Drive. The original bridge was constructed in the early 1960s and was named after David Root in 1996. The demolition of the original bridge started in March with the bridge completed in early August in time for the start of the fall term.

The new bridge incorporates many new and unique design elements including use elements of the collegiate gothic architecture style that characterizes the historical buildings on main campus, use of stone work, and the engraved name of the Ottawa river – plus wider sidewalks to improve public safety.



Link to a video of the dedication event
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vwbo8f3XX3U>

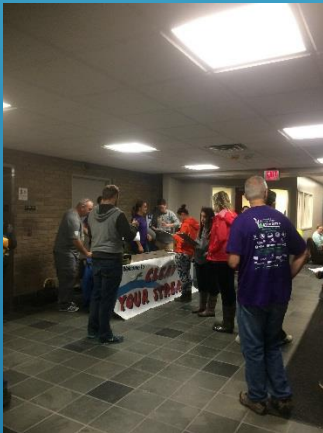


20TH ANNUAL CLEAN YOUR STREAMS EVENT

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2016

On a very wet rainy day, 244 UT and community volunteers participated in the annual CYS event, including sites at:

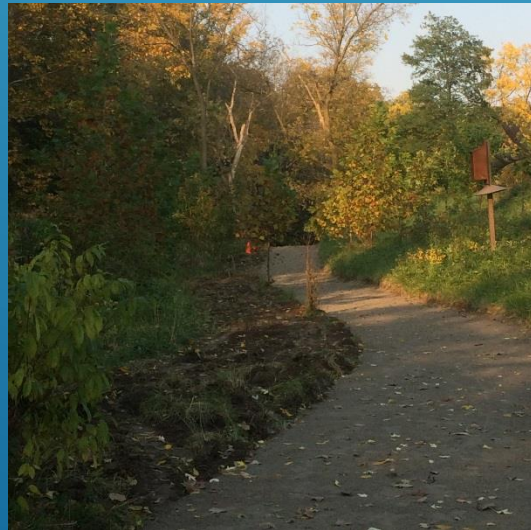
- ▶ Main Campus
- ▶ Health Sciences Campus
- ▶ Scott Park Campus
- ▶ Village of Ottawa Hills
- ▶ 100+ bags of trash
- ▶ Numerous large items removed
- ▶ Appreciation is extended to the Office of the President for their continued support of this event as a community partner



NEW RIVER PATH



With \$15,000 in support provided by the UT Student Green Fund, a new 970 ft. river path was constructed adjacent to the UT Law School. The 6ft wide stone path extends from the Secor Road bridge to the West Rocket Drive on main campus. Project was completed in October 2016 by Blanchard Tree and Lawn. In addition to the path, two benches will be installed at the site to improve public access and enjoyment of the river.



FINANCIAL REPORT

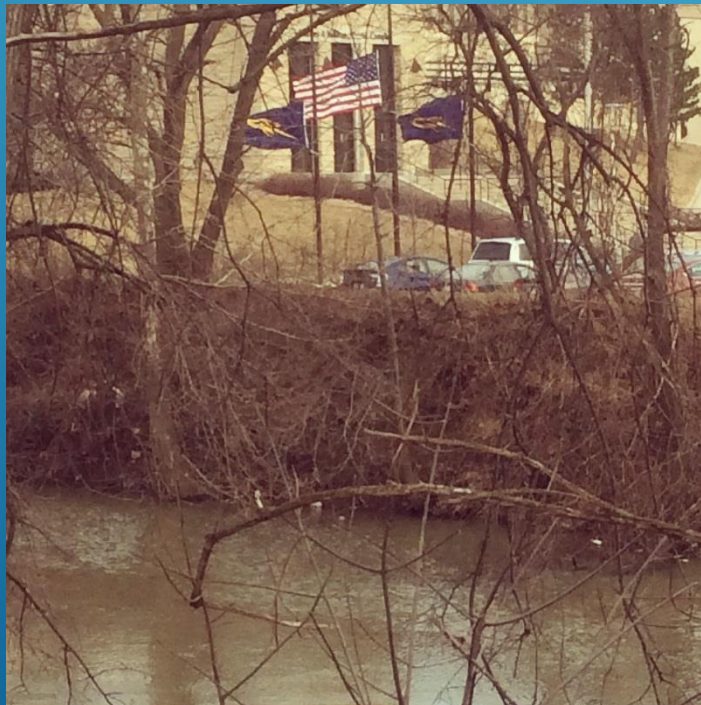
Friends of the River Fund (UT Foundation account) (FY 2016: July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016)

▶ FY15 balance forward	= \$ 603.20
▶ Income (donations*)	= \$ 825.27
▶ Expenses	= \$ 0.00
Balance	= \$1428.47

* includes pledges committed

Notes:

1. 2015 CYS expenses - included supplies and food - were paid for by Partners for Clean Streams Inc.
2. Not included here is the support of \$5,000 provided by the UT Office of the President to Partners for Clean Streams Inc. for the 2016 Clean Your Streams event and other community events by PCS that the Commission was involved with.



COMMISSION PRIORITIES FOR 2017

- ▶ Implementation of relevant recommendations from the UT Master Plans
- ▶ Update of the 2006 Commission Report “A River Runs Through it”, including revisions and updates
- ▶ Increased engagement and partnerships with the UT Campus Environs and Beautification Committee
- ▶ Consider project and planning opportunities for the portions of Swan Creek owned by the University of Toledo at the Health Sciences Campus



COMMISSION MEMBERS (2016)



Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT faculty (chair)

Jay Brewster, Blanchard Tree and Lawn

Mike Cassidy, Community

Doug Collins, UT staff

Don Curtis, UT staff

Dick Eastop, UT retired

Phil Enderle, The Collaborative

Dr. Hans Gottgens, UT faculty

Matt Horvat, Mannik and Smith

Dr. Cyndee Gurden, UT faculty

Dr. Steve LeBlanc, UT faculty

Amal Mohamel, UT student

Dr. Carol Stepien, UT faculty

Neil Tabor, UT Sustainability Coordinator

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Commission would like to recognize the following individuals and groups for their assistance and in support of our projects and activities during 2016:

- 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
- Aramark
- Senior design class students, UT Civil Engineering program
- UT Campus Environs & Beautification Committee
- Partners for Clean Streams Inc.
- With funding support provided by:
 - UT Foundation Friends of the River
 - UT Presidents Office



“ Reflections”

by Isha Muthreja

2016 Student River Photography Contest

3rd Place winner

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