

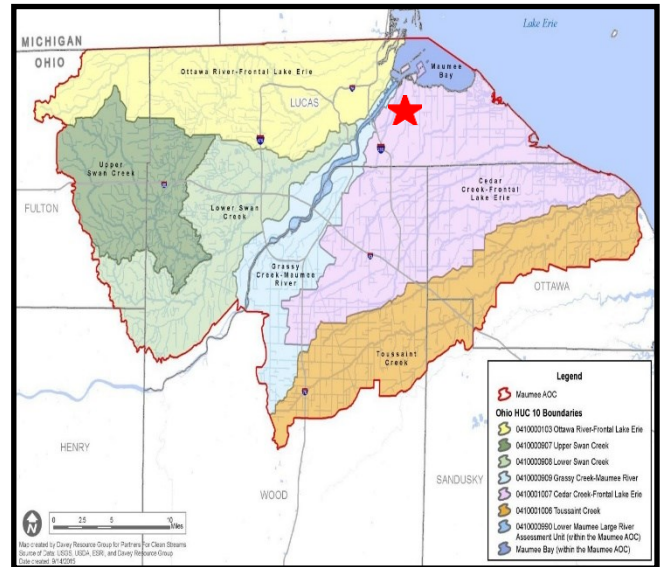


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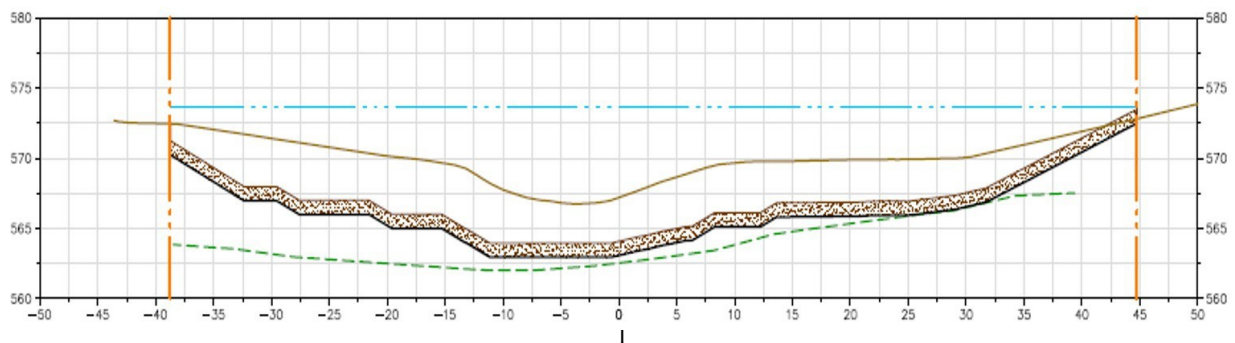
# Otter Creek, OH Great Lakes Legacy Act Technical Support

**Project Location:** Otter Creek is a small stream that runs through a highly industrialized area of Toledo and Oregon, Ohio and discharges into Western Lake Erie which is part of the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC).

**Description of Problem:** Sediments in the lower 1.7 miles of the creek and parts of its confluence with Maumee Bay contained high levels of bioavailable petroleum hydrocarbons that were found to be toxic to benthic organisms.



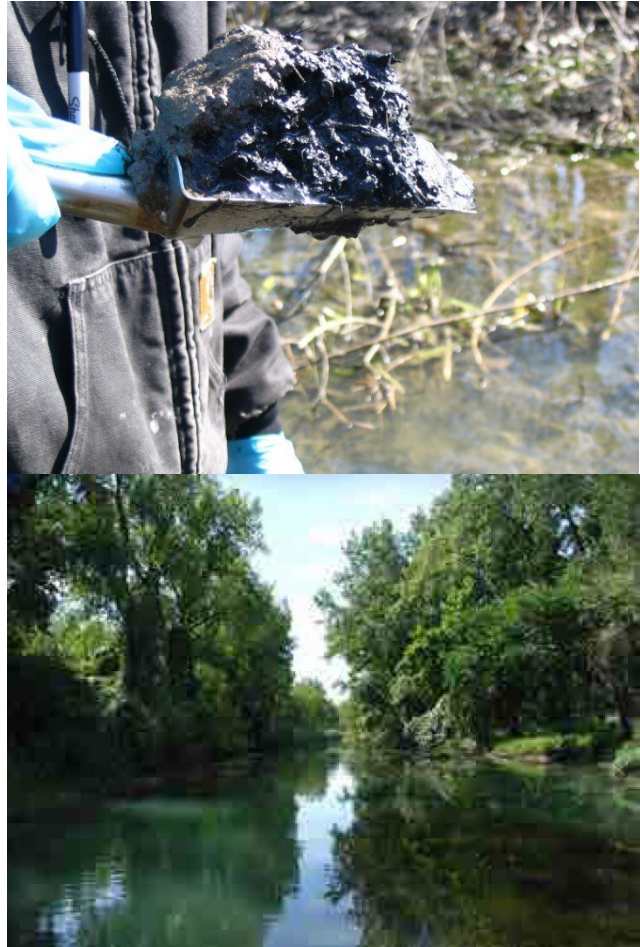
**Proposed Project:** The project involved removing approximately 50,400 cubic yards of contaminated sediment by hydraulically dredging the lower 1.7 miles of the creek and parts of its confluence with Maumee Bay. Material was pumped via a pipeline to a nearby CDF where it will remain indefinitely. A one-foot sand cover was placed within the freshly dredged creek to provide a barrier to any remaining residuals. Bendway weirs and locked brush piles were also installed to provide habitat for fish.



**Partners and Collaboration:** This is a private-public partnership between USEPA and three petroleum companies. Other project stakeholders include: Ohio EPA; USFWS; City of Oregon; Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority; and ONDR. The USACE Buffalo District is providing technical assistance to the USEPA on this project through the Economy Act.

**Project Benefits:**

- Sediment, toxic to benthic organisms, will be removed from lower Otter Creek and parts of its confluence with Maumee Bay.
- Removal of the Degradation of Aesthetics Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI).
- Indirectly contributes to the removal of the following BUIs: Degradation of Benthos; Degradation on Fish and Wildlife Populations; and Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat.
- Improvements to benthic organisms reverberate thru the food web improving the health of other aquatic species.
- Habitat features provide valuable resting and forging areas of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Sand cover provides a clean substrate and expedites the re-establishment of benthic organisms.



**Project Status:** The project was completed in August 2021.

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	\$4,000,000
Non-Federal	\$6,000,000
Total	\$10,000,000

Point of Contact
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Project Milestones	
Contract Award	September 2020
CDF Modification	November 2020
Dredging	March – June 2021
Sand Cover	July - August 2021
Bendway Weirs	August 2021
Project Completion	August 2021

