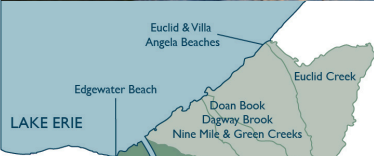




Learn More



Scan the QR code or visit cuyahogaoc.org



What's the AOC?



The lower 46.5 miles of the Cuyahoga River was identified in 1987 as an **Area of Concern (AOC)** due to its history of significant environmental harm from human activities, preventing people and wildlife from fully using or enjoying the local waterways.

Ways to Help

Everyone in the Cuyahoga River watershed has a part to play in restoring and improving conditions in the AOC. Here are some suggestions:

-  **Plant native trees and shrubs along stream banks** to prevent erosion and provide food and shelter to a wide array of plants and animals.
-  **Pick up your pet's poop.** Bacteria that runs into storm drains or right into streams can be part of the reason for beach closings.
-  **Advocate for environmental protection policies and funding,** and encourage your community to participate in watershed stewardship efforts.

This publication was financed through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, with funds from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



CUYAHOGA RIVER AOC

RESTORING THE RIVER

BRINGING 1 RIVER, 21 SUBWATERSHEDS, AND 10 MILES OF LAKE ERIE SHORE BACK TO HEALTH

Who We Are

The Cuyahoga River AOC is served by an Advisory Committee composed of local stakeholders that help drive the removal of BUIs, work on behalf of the river and its constituents, and aim to delist the river as an area of concern. As such, the committee advises the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Ohio EPA.

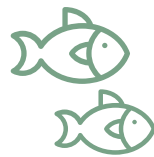
i WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
 Apply in the fall to become a part of the Advisory Committee or join us at our public meetings every quarter!



What's the Concern?

Many areas of concern have been identified across the Great Lakes. In Northeast Ohio, the Advisory Committee, selected a list of **Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs)**, where each one describes a human or ecological use of the ecosystem that has been lost or impaired as the result of environmental degradation. In collaboration with the Ohio EPA, a **Remedial Action Plan (RAP)** was developed as a road map with the recommended strategic projects and actions to restore each BUI, also known as **Management Action Projects (MAPs)**.

Impairments to Aquatic Life



- Degraded Fish Populations
- Degraded Benthos (Bugs)
- Loss of Fish Habitat
- Fish Tumors, Deformities, Eroded Fins, Lesions (DELTs)

The Solution: remove dams & barriers, plant native trees & shrubs along banks, improve instream habitat, clean up contaminated sediment, and reduce polluted stormwater runoff.

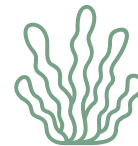
Impairments to Human Health



- Beach closings and limits on recreational contact due to bacterial contamination
- Restrictions on fish consumption

The Solution: reduce sewer overflows and septic system discharges that carry waste into waters during heavy rain, decrease impervious surface runoff that overloads storm sewers, and diminish industrial pollution that affect contaminant levels in fish.

Low Oxygen and Undesirable Algae



The Solution: reduce runoff of nutrients from human and animal waste, farm and yard fertilizers, and other sources that cause toxic algal blooms.



Restrictions on Dredging in the Navigation Channel

The Solution: remove historically contaminated sediment from the industrial channel and old river channel, and verify that the levels of contamination in new dredged sediment are safe.

Current Actions

So much has been accomplished but our work is not done. Together we can create a brighter, healthier future for the Cuyahoga River to fully delist it as an AOC. "Delisting" is getting the AOC off the U.S. EPA's list of degraded waterways by removing all ten BUIs and completing all of the Management Action Projects (MAPs).

Completed Projects



Canal Diversion
Dam Removal



Sowinski Park
Habitat Restoration



Cascade Metro Park
Valley View Area
Habitat Restoration

Active Projects



West Creek Flume
Fish Barrier Removal



Gorge Dam Removal
Sediment Remediation



Irishtown Bend
Green Bulkhead
Habitat Restoration

Future Projects

- Cuyahoga River Old Channel Sediment Cleanup
- Little Cuyahoga River Dam Removals
- East of Boston Mills Ski Area Habitat Restoration
- East 185th Spillway Fish Barrier Removal
- Memorial Parkway Habitat Restoration
- Mayfield Sand Ridge Habitat Restoration
- Wood Creek Fish Barrier Removal