



# RIVERFRONT RAPPORT

February 8th, 2017 | Save Maumee Grassroots Organization, Inc. |

## Why It Matters...

Each tree we plant holds 59 gallons of water on the land per year. As costs associated with managing our storm water increase, it's time to begin collaborating on ways to manage the water where it falls. Restoring native trees and plants on our river banks will save time and money. The beauty, improved aquatic environment and natural landscape adds a value to the community in a universal way. Clean water is everyone's business.

## Why You Should Care...

The City provides clean water for the residents of Fort Wayne, much like Lake Erie provides drinking water for 11 million people. As stewards of the headwaters, we have a responsibility to properly monitor and manage contaminants from entering the river. We are all part of the solution!

## What We're Doing...

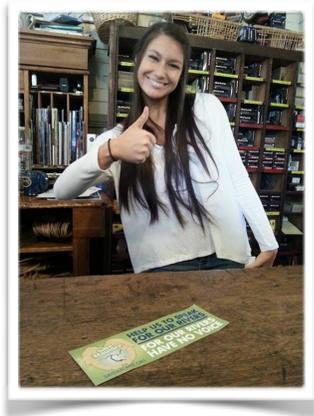
In the 2015, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) awarded Save Maumee a grant through the U.S. Forest Service. The goal of the project is to plant 2,780 native trees in the Upper Maumee River Basin and the subsequent ditches and streams that contribute to sediment loading in the river. A total of 4.13 acres of increased riparian buffers will be added along 1.36 miles of ditches and streams, to restore the 3 most critically impaired sub-watersheds. This project was designed for longevity, and these 2,780 trees will capture an estimated 164,020 gallons per year of untreated urban run-off from entering our storm drains. The federal government recognizes that the Maumee River contributes more than 40% of phosphorous and 50% of the sediment that impairs Lake Erie, and supports efforts to improve the water quality at the headwaters of the Maumee River and beyond.

### *We the people, are the only stewards this environment has...*

We need to hold ourselves accountable by examining our current practices and finding ways to minimize cost for residents in a sustainable way. As partners, in an effort to restore water sources to health, the City of Fort Wayne works to capture and hold water on the land for a longer period of time, the Maumee River Basin Commission works to reduce flooding, the National Resource Conservation Service helps landowners to make conservation improvements to their land, the Department of Natural Resources works to preserve and protect rivers and forests through prudent management. Voluntary protection at the local level is critical to the mission and the goals to increase recreation on our rivers.



## A True Community Partner.

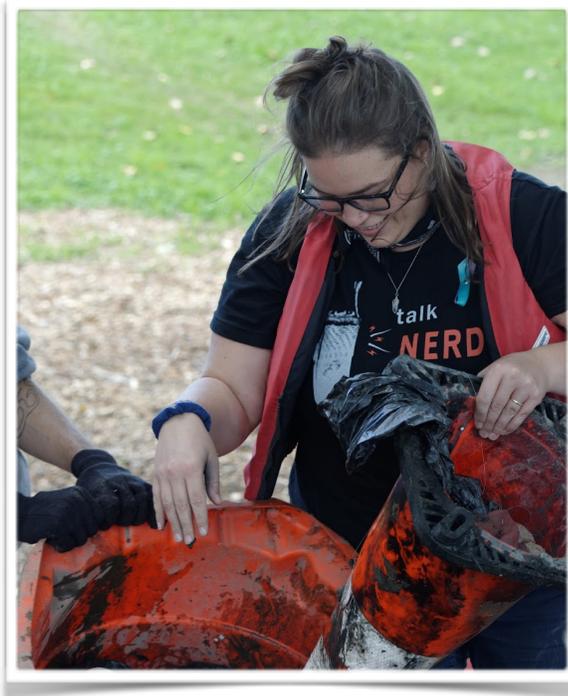


Save Maumee has built meaningful, positive relationships with community members, business owners and private land owners. Our hard work to keep the rivers beautiful for recreation has been evident in our projects since 2005:

- Removed over 30,000 pounds of trash from the Maumee, St Joe, and St. Mary's Rivers.
- Planted over 3,000 trees, hundreds of pre-grown plants and reseeded nearly 1,000 pounds of native seed along riverbanks.
- Selectively removed thousands of invasive species along public riparian buffer zones.
- Successful, hands-on, volunteer driven sustainability projects that effectively combat sediment; the #1 pollutant in our waterways.

## What We Want...

Save Maumee wants to ensure that proper stewardship of the land, water and related natural resources surrounding growth and development is present in all future projects. The Indiana Drainage Handbook recommends ways to properly manage the vegetation along our ditches and streams. These guidelines are intended to be the common practices of city planners and developers for all major drainage and construction projects. In addition to the Handbook, the City's very own Plan-it Allen has been an overlooked and most valuable resource for sustainable city planning. The plan was collaboratively written to include a section specifically dedicated to Environmental Stewardship, and includes the input of city residents. The plan recommends that the city "support and collaborate in the establishment of watershed management plans that recommend actions to address major sources of surface water contamination." Save Maumee is in a position to be part of these conversations and assist the city in maintaining a positive image in the community, as a city that values its most precious natural resource. Water quality is a priority for all of us.



Research for Save Maumee's Riparian Buffer Initiative was conducted in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding. Grant recipients of the USDA Forest Service have responsibilities to conduct their programs according to the USDA's nondiscrimination policy. Save Maumee and the USDA are equal opportunity providers, employers, and lenders.