Ottawa River
Habitat Restoration Inventory

Beyond Cleanup — Restoring the River

Kurt Erichsen
VP Environmental Planning
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
Restoring the River

- Removing contamination is a start.
- Restoring habitat is the rest.
Value of Wetlands & Riparian Habitat

- Remove pollutants from river water
- Help reduce flooding by giving runoff water a place to pond
- Habitat for plants and animals that support the food chain — fish and birds
- Restore the beauty of the river
The Ottawa River Today

- Parts have been filled, channelized, moved
- Some wetlands along river have low habitat value — e.g. invasive species
Wetland Mitigation Opportunities

- Make up for development that fills or drains wetlands
- Mitigation for roadway projects
- Supplemental Environmental Projects
- Property owner can get wetland grants
- Regulations require that mitigation sites be located within the same watershed, unless no such opportunities exist
- In the past, mitigation sites have been built in other watersheds far removed from the areas of impact
Habitat Restoration Inventory

- Watershed survey using databases to identify potential sites
- Ground-truthing most likely sites
- Prioritize sites: environmental potential, access
- Preliminary restoration plan for top three sites
- Present to agencies that conduct mitigation
## Project Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Milestones</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select Consultant (Mannik &amp; Smith)</td>
<td>4/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct public watershed meeting</td>
<td>Right now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidate past data</td>
<td>7/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial site list; habitat corridor survey</td>
<td>7/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen top 3 sites; conceptual site plans</td>
<td>7/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft report: Prioritize restoration sites</td>
<td>1/2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final report submitted to agencies, &amp; on web</td>
<td>3/2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits of Participating

- Totally voluntary!
- Permit applicant will pay for the wetland restoration
- Permit applicant will either purchase wetland site, or establish an easement to preserve it
- Possible tax benefits for owner (consult tax advisor)
- Contribute to healthy environment and restore a beautiful riverfront
We’re asking of you ....

- Share your knowledge of the river
- Do you know areas along the river that might be restored as wetlands?
- Do you own such property?
- Do you know the owner?
- Our consultant will need written permission for access to the top priority sites
- We appreciate your help!
Please contact us!

- Former wetlands to restore
- Existing wetlands to enhance
- Cooperation of owner is essential
- Please contact:
  - Kurt Erichsen, TMACOG
  - 419-241-9155 extension 126
  - Kurt@tmacog.org

Thanks for the photos
- Mike Cassidy
- Phil Williams
- Paul Hotz