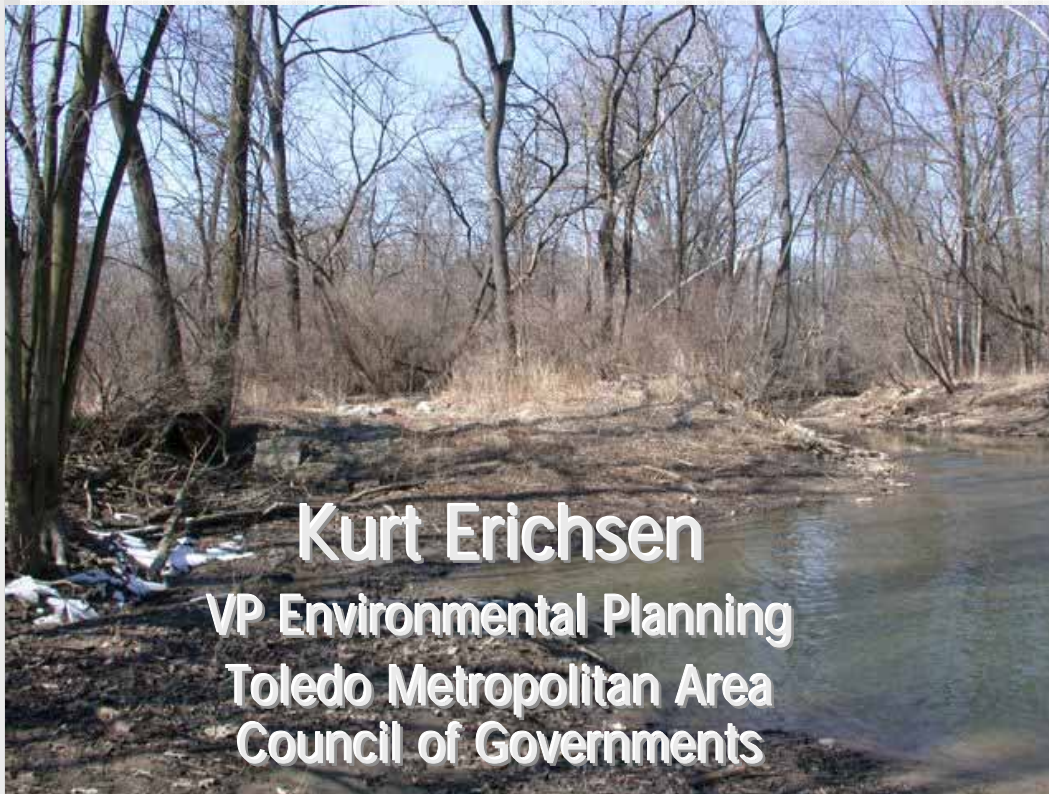


Ottawa River Habitat Restoration Inventory



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Council of Governments

**Beyond
Cleanup —
Restoring the
River**



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

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

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
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 - Kurt@tmacog.org

Thanks for the photos

- Mike Cassidy
- Phil Williams
- Paul Hotz