



LAND TO LAKE

magazine

issue eight | spring 2018 | landtolake.com

riverbank restoration

along Pontiac Park and Fort Street

Our Ohio Environment
new legislative protections

Habitat Connectivity

+ events, local recreation & kids corner

EVENTS & NEWS

2018:

May 11, 10:00 am

Ground breaking ceremony for the new **Black Swamp Beekeepers Association Pollinator Sanctuary and Training Facility**, at Schick Road near Evansport Road, Defiance

May 11, 8:00 - 6:00, May 12, 9:00 - 1:00

Hicksville Beautification Committee's **13th Annual Plant Sale**, Hicksville Township Building (across from school on corner of Routes 2/49) Featuring native plants and specialists to assist!

May 12, 7:30 am - 10:00 am

33rd Annual N.W. Ohio Maumee Valley **Tri-Adventure Race**. Biking. Canoeing. Kayaking. Backpacking. 419-826-5182 or <http://maumeetriadventurerace.net>

May 12, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Lilac Fest, Downtown Defiance, music, arts & crafts vendors, kids activities*

May 16, 11:00 am

Maumee River Water Trail Opening Dedication, Farnsworth Metropark, Boat Launch Area, Waterville, Ohio. Bring your own canoes & kayaks (no trailers, parking is limited)

May 19, 8:00 am - Noon

Defiance County Master Gardeners' **Annual Plant Sale**, at Eric's Ice Cream, North Clinton Street



Auglaize Village Events*

- May 19-20** Settler's Reenactment
- June 2-3** Civil War Encampment
- July 8** Motorama
- August 18** Tunes, Brews & BarBQ
- September 8** Wingfest
- October 6-7** Johnny Appleseed

Youth Summer Camps:

June 4-7

Kid's Outdoor Science Camp, at Camp Palmer, for grades 3-8. Scholarships available.

June 12-14, 9:00 am -11:30 am

Outdoor Camp at Penney Nature Center, for grades K-2.

More info: DefianceSWCD website

May 19, 9:00 am

Maumee Nature Club **Nature Hike** at Black Swamp Nature Center, Paulding. www.facebook.com/maumeenatureclub

May 26, 9:00 am - Noon

Fort Defiance Bass Anglers **Kids Fishing Derby***

June 3, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wildlife Festival, Toledo Botanical Garden, Free and open to the public. Stroll the garden, visit environmental/conservation displays, see live animals, enjoy crafts for kids, and much more.

June 16, 5:00 pm - 10:15 pm

Take Me to the Rivers ~ Jazz Festival at Kingsbury Park*

June 22-24 ~ RIVER FEST ~ Join us to

Celebrate Our Water Resources!

See Back Cover for Event Details*

CLEAN UP YOUR RIVERS DAY



The Rotary Club of Defiance presents:
Confluence Clean-Up
June 9, July 14, August 11
8:00 am - Noon

Pedestrians & Boaters needed!
Meet at Pontiac park to help the Rotary Club clean our riverbanks.*

*more info: visitdefianceohio.com



LANDToLAKE
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Published to provide the community with information on protecting the water resources of the Maumee River Watershed throughout Defiance County.

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watch for our next issue
AUTUMN 2018

On The Cover: **Boat Dock at Pontiac Park**
Photo by Jen English ©2018 City of Defiance

Our Ohio Environment

new legislative protections

Invasive Plant Species Become Illegal in Ohio

38 species of plants are now illegal to sell in Ohio. These plants have been favorites for some nurseries and homeowners because many are beautiful and vigorous growers. This vigorous growth becomes dangerous when these plants spread to natural areas. Many are from other countries and can aggressively out-compete the native plants.

Ohio's wildlife depends on native plants for food and shelter. Currently, we have 174 endangered or threatened wildlife species in our state. Invasive plant species can wreck the balance of an ecosystem, eliminating native plants by taking the available space, shading them to steal sunlight, and sucking up water with aggressive roots. Some species, like garlic mustard, can release chemicals into the ground to prevent native species from germinating.



Banned Species Include:

- Callery Pear
- Common Barberry
- Honeysuckles
- Autumn Olive
- Fig Buttercups
- Dame's Rocket
- Multiflora Rose

The move to make these harmful species illegal to sell is a step in the right direction. Much time, effort, and money are spent combating the current invasive problems. The Ohio Invasive Plants Council reports more than \$34 billion a year in damage in the U.S. in environmental, agricultural, industrial, and public health. The ban will involve inspectors visiting nurseries to make sure these plants are not on the market. Consumers should also be aware of the 38 illegal species to make sure they are not purchasing them and to remove them from their landscaping.

More information, including links to the ruling and the complete list of invasive plants can be viewed at the Ohio Invasive Plants Council website: <https://www.oipc.info/>

Numerous invasive species have been removed and will be replaced with native plants on the Maumee riverbanks along Fort Street and Pontiac Park as part of the Streambank Stabilization project. See page 4.



“The greatest danger to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it...”

—Robert Swan

Lake Erie upDate

Ohio EPA Issues Latest Water Quality Report

Ohio EPA recently released the draft 2018 water quality report. This document outlines the general condition of Ohio's waters and includes a list that identifies impaired waters as well as information about waters that have improved according to federal or state water quality goals.

Ohio EPA is proposing to designate the open waters of Lake Erie's Western Basin as impaired for recreation due to harmful algae and drinking water due to occurrences of Mycrocystin.

Previously, only the shoreline area of the Western Basin and drinking water intakes had been designated as impaired.

The State has common-sense guidance and recommended precautions for people and pets recreating in waters like Lake Erie at epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/hab/HAB_palmcard.pdf

What is happening with

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Project Partners:



—grant funding assistance,
engineering/design/permitting



—construction contractor

Defiance County Metro Parks Board

—owner of Pontiac Park



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Many of you have seen and commented on the work taking place on our riverbanks at Pontiac Park and along Fort Street, near the library.

The efforts to date have been equivalent to pulling weeds and tilling up your garden before you get it ready to plant. Most of the smaller, volunteer trees as well as several different invasive species have been removed in order to make room for the next phase of the project. (See page 3 for more information on invasives that have been outlawed!)

ERC will be replanting many native trees, shrubs and flowers along both sides of the riverbank in the fall of 2018. Think of this as phase three; these plants, in carefully selected locations, will provide numerous benefits: creating habitat, soil stability and providing a planned aesthetic that will require regular maintenance, as an important aspect of the City's Riparian Management Plan. We won't do this planting until the summer weather subsides and the perennial plants can enjoy the cooler nights.

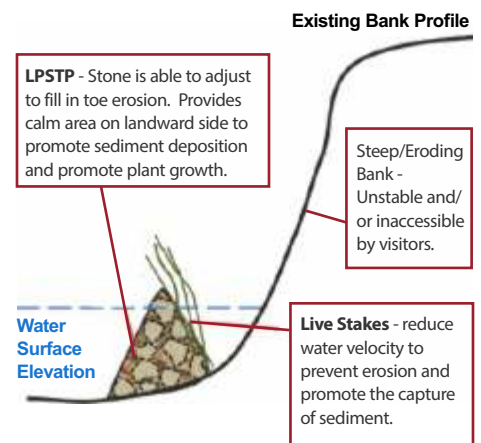


The US Army Corps of Engineers requires no in-stream work during April 15 – June 30.

Once the fish are done spawning; right around the dog days of summer, when the river is low and the flow is slow, ERC will begin to construct the longitudinal peaked stone toe protection on the Pontiac Park side of the project. (See Figure A)

This work is phase two and will hold soil in place and provide the ultimate goal of sediment reduction in the river. This rock berm will protect the existing bank and keep erosive flows from scouring away the soil that is exposed.

Figure A
Stone Toe Protection



the Riverbanks!?



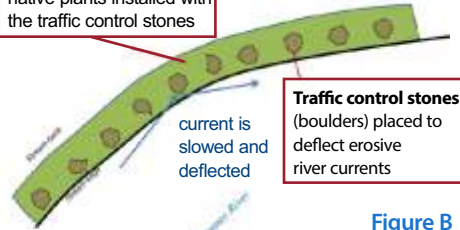
On the Fort Street side of the project, the summer phase of work will include traffic control stones. (See Figure B) These large boulders will be placed along the water's edge in the area between the bridge and retaining wall roughly parallel with the river. They will help to direct the fast-moving currents of water away from the riverbanks during periods of high flow during and after heavy rainfalls; this also helps to achieve our primary

goal of bank stabilization through sediment reduction. During periods of dry weather and low flows, they will be accessible to the public, for those who are adventurous to get a more up-close and personal view of the river.

The Mannik & Smith Group has provided assistance at every stage of the project, including grant writing, site assessment, design, archaeological services, permitting, and construction observation.

Sediment reduction is the primary goal of the funding agencies—Ohio and US EPA—in order to achieve water quality improvement. The property owners—City of Defiance and the Defiance County Metro Parks Board—also have a vested interest in keeping the soil in place; it will protect utilities and investments that have been made over the years in infrastructure. Added benefits of the project will include reduced maintenance requirements and improved visibility!

Live Stakes and other native plants installed with the traffic control stones



Traffic control stones (boulders) placed to deflect erosive river currents

Figure B
Traffic Control Stones

Native Plants Incorporated into the Pontiac Park project :

Native Trees:

River Birch
Eastern Redbud
Tulip Tree
Black Gum
Sycamore
Swamp White Oak

SHRUBS:

Ninebark
Sumac
Meadowsweet
Buttonbush
Red Osier Dogwood
Pussy Willow
Silky Willow

FORBS:

Wild Columbine
Swamp Milkweed
Flat-top Aster
Common Grass-Leaved Goldenrod
Blue Flag Iris
Marsh Blazing Star
Great Blue Lobelia
Orange Coneflower
Heath Aster
Brown-Eyed Susan
Side-Flowering Aster
Common Spiderwort

SEDGES/RUSHES:

Bristly Sedge
Crested Oval Sedge
Bristly Cattail Sedge
Porcupine Sedge
Bottlebrush Sedge
Field Oval Sedge
Brown Fox Sedge
Path Rush

GRASSES:

Virginia Wild Rye
Fowl Mannagrass





BEAUTY and DIVERSITY IN YOUR HOME LANDSCAPE



6

Whenever land is cleared for development—constructing of roads, housing, planting of crops—the natural landscape is modified and fragmented. The resulting environment can mean a significant loss of habitat for wildlife, including native insects, birds and mammals.

HABITAT Connectivity

Natural areas in the landscape provide value as 'green spaces' for recreation and beautification. For wildlife, these natural areas are critical for foraging, breeding and maintaining healthy populations.

- **Habitat Patch** = A space large enough for a particular species to successfully carry out some part of its life cycle. How big a patch is needed depends on the species.
- **Stepping Stones** = smaller natural areas that connect pathways between two larger patches. These stepping stones can act as refuges for seeds or animals moving between larger patches.
- **Corridors**, like stepping stones, connect larger patches of habitat to one another allowing movement of wildlife from one refuge to the next.

Connected patches of habitat are necessary to provide adequate resources for maintaining healthy populations of wildlife, including birds and pollinators. When patches are too

far apart many species cannot, or will not move between those spaces.

Due to the percentage of area they occupy within the suburban landscape, residential yards have great capacity to provide connectivity. Establishing a habitat area can be as simple as planting a native flower garden, establishing tree groupings, connecting natural space with neighboring property, or even letting a portion of the landscape naturalize.

Homeowners who dedicate even a small portion of land to habitat enjoy the added benefits of beautification, presence of songbirds, and even decreased management (*less mowing!*)

For more information and resources to get you started, go to:

<http://content.yardmap.org/learn/habitat-connection/>

Make A Difference

Your garden can serve as a habitat **PATCH**, help connect a **CORRIDOR**, or provide a vital **STEPPING STONE** to help maintain a healthy habitat for wildlife.

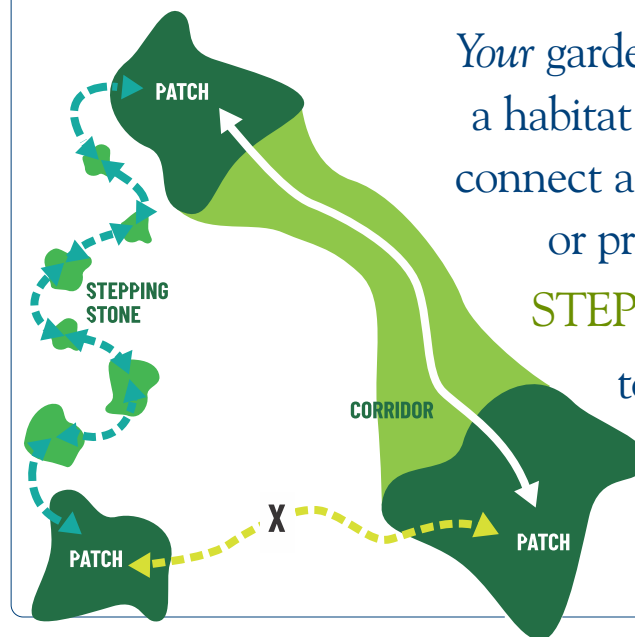


Illustration by: Habitat Network, WildOnes, and Kevin Rau

Monarch Waystation



Monarch butterflies especially benefit from naturalized areas in the home landscape. Monarchs rely on milkweed and nectar plants that are in decline due to development and agricultural practices. Homeowners can create Monarch waystations on their property to help ensure the survival of Monarch. Learn more and certify your site at www.monarchwatch.org

Local Recreation

get out and enjoy our natural resources!



Buckeye Trail

Follow the Blue Blazes

Working with DDVB, the City of Defiance has recently applied for and been designated as a “Buckeye Trail Town”. Join us during RiverFest (see back page!) to celebrate and learn more about the Buckeye Trail – an important resource that helps promote CONNECTIVITY through our community and our state. If you “Follow the Blue Blazes” through Defiance (coming from the south), it will take you past the municipal reservoir, through the historic downtown and Fort Grounds, over the Maumee River **through Pontiac Park and on to the east ... next stop... Independence Dam State Park!***



<http://buckeyetrail.org/>

**This is the same 4-mile stretch that is slated for “enhanced shoulders”—a widening of the roadway to create a safer pedestrian experience. With only 5% of funding provided locally by Defiance City and Defiance County, the remaining 95% of funding is from Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).*

Maumee River Water Trail

The Maumee River is officially designated as an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Water Trail. More information and trail maps at: metroparkstoleado.com/features-and-rentals/maumee-river-water-trail/

Defiance County Local trips:

Super Short: (2 miles=About 1 hour)

Put in at Dey Bridge Canoe Launch on the Tiffin River, take out at Pontiac Park.

Day Trip: (10 miles=About 3-5 hours

depending on water speed) Put in at The Bend Bridge, take out at Pontiac Park.

Overnight Trip: Put in at Pontiac Park

and paddle about 3 miles to camp at Independence Dam State Park. Camping reservations at:

ohiostateparks.reserveamerica.com



Always follow safety guidelines: Never boat alone, wear a life jacket, file a float plan, be prepared to swim, be aware of motorized boats, carry plenty of drinking water, avoid overexertion, and know your location in case of an emergency.

Kids Corner

Everybody can make a difference! Even a small patch of native plants can provide food and shelter for birds, beetles, insects, and butterflies.



The grass in your yard does not provide food for hungry wildlife, or habitat for pollinators.



Try this:

Square Foot Garden

Take 1 square foot of your yard & plant a few native plants.

1. Remove grass
2. Plant native plant plugs or seeds
3. Water
4. Watch wildlife

Suggested plants: milkweed, purple coneflower, blazing star, columbine

Read more about 1 Foot Challenge:

landtolake.com/make-a-difference/

RIVERFEST 2018

JUNE 22, 23 & 24
Celebrating Our Water Resources

Enjoy live music, food vendors,
boating, kids activities & more
at the confluence of the rivers!

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

FRI
JUNE 22

Pontiac Park
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

- **FREE Kayak and Pontoon rides** — provided by Ohio State Parks and Tri State Watershed Alliance
- **Family Fun Fest - ALL FREE!** Magic and comedy by Jim Barron, kids activities, carnival food, bouncy houses, Police, Sheriff, and Fire dept. and MORE! Hosted by Ravens Care and Community Churches



SAT
JUNE 23

Pontiac Park
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

- **FREE Kayak and Pontoon rides** — until 4pm by Auglaize Canoe & Kayak and Tri State Watershed Alliance
 - **Woodland & Wildlife Family Festival** until 2pm - Kids "River Passport" Activities and Nature Displays by Northwest Ohio's Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - **Live Music** - 1:00 Distorted Generation; 3:00 Rebel Roots
 - **+ Kids Zone, Big Boy Toy Show, Cornhole Tournament, Vendor Fair**
- Kingsbury Park**
- **FREE Public Swim** @ Kingsbury Pool
 - **Tunes, Brews & BBQs** - 5:00 G-Men, 7:00 Rick and Isaac, 8:30 Jen and the Foggy Creek Band

SUN
JUNE 24

Fort Grounds
10:30 am to 4:00 pm

- **38th Annual ART IN THE PARK** Fine Art and Craft Vendors, Friends of the Defiance Public Library **Used Book Sale**, Children's Community Art Project, Food, Live Music + more



visitdefianceohio.com