



LANDToLAKE

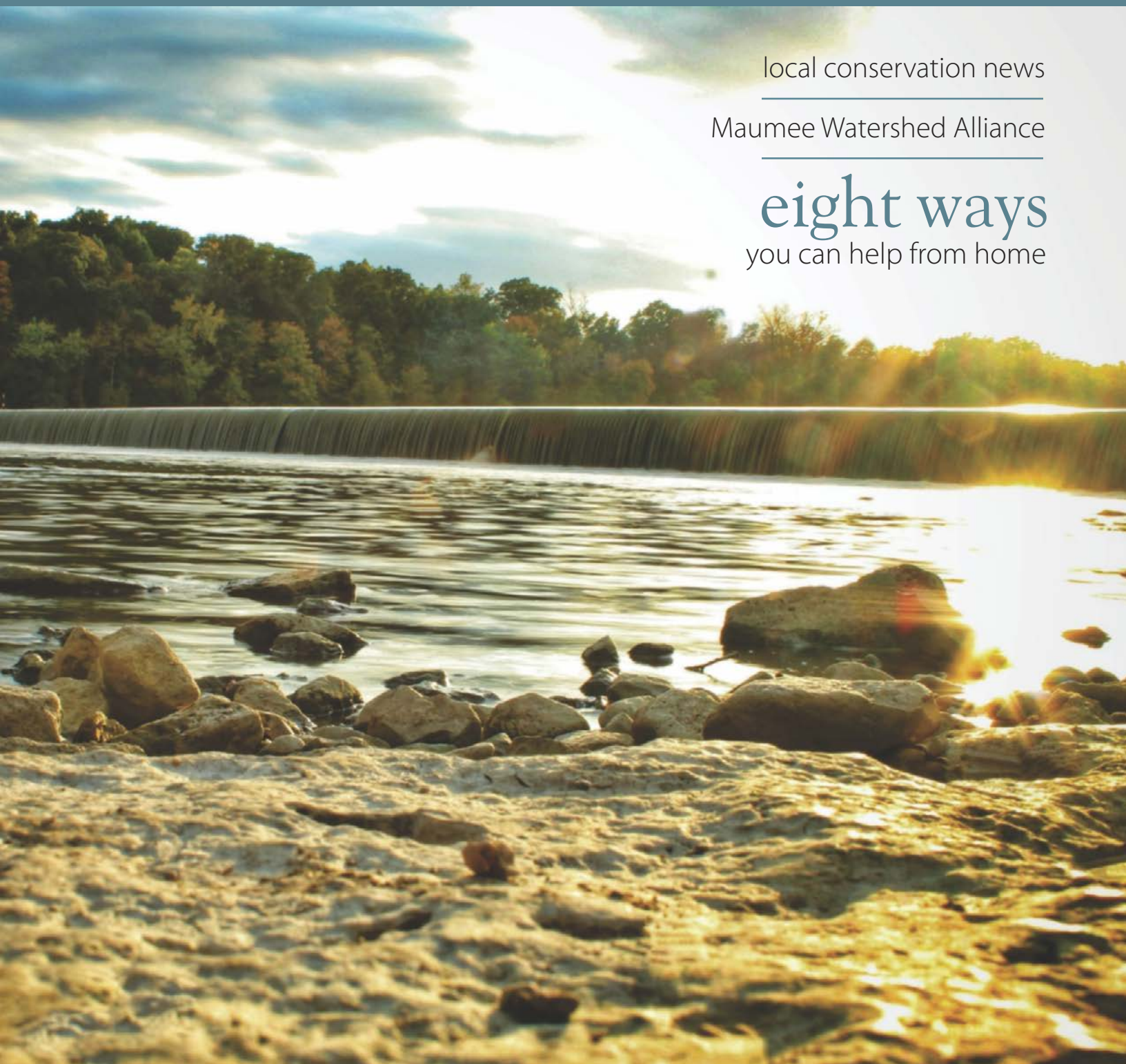
magazine

issue 12 spring/summer 2020

local conservation news

Maumee Watershed Alliance

eight ways
you can help from home



explore your watershed

MAUMEE RIVER WATERSHED

EVENTS | NEWS

Spring/Summer 2020



Native Plant Sale Rescheduled

Saturday June 6 & Saturday June 20
Maumee Watershed Alliance (MWA)
(formerly Tri-State Watershed Alliance)
425 Van Buren St, Fort Wayne

MWA will be also be offering
Rain Barrel Classes from 10-11.
Class enrollment is limited and
registration is necessary. *Please stay
tuned as details are subject to change.*
Contact Sharon ssp2655@gmail.com
or 260-755-8111 for registration,
latest schedule, or more information.

riverviewnativenursery.com

Tree Training Workshop

The City of Defiance hosted "Young Tree Training" on March 5, 2020. The workshop was conducted by Stephanie Miller, regional Urban Forester, ODNR Division of Forestry.

Ms. Miller provided instruction on the proper pruning and training of young shade trees. The program included a field training session where techniques were demonstrated on City street trees, and participants received supervised hands-on training.

City workers routinely maintain street trees as part of an ongoing effort to increase their health, beauty and safety, and to maintain Defiance's status as Tree City USA.



Photo by Debbie Stevens



Source Water Protection

The City of Defiance has developed a Source Water Protection Plan that serves as a guide for the Water Treatment Plant Staff and a number of local partners such as Defiance County, The Nature Conservancy and Ohio EPA. It is clear that the City of Defiance can achieve its source water protection goals most effectively by maintaining and extending the partnerships it has already established to encourage stewardship of the land. The City's goal is to enable agriculture to remain productive while decreasing the impacts to water quality.



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

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ECO-FRIENDLY
INKS



See current + previous magazine
issues at landtolake.com



facebook.com/land.to.lake.ohio



Share Your Event With Us!

Land to Lake supports outdoor, water-quality and conservation-related events in the region. Please submit details to
jenglish@cityofdefiance.com



COVER PHOTO: Independence Dam ©Mary Fry Comden



Organizations Working To Improve Water Quality

The Maumee Watershed Alliance (MWA) {formerly Tri-State Watershed Alliance} works as a regional leader in establishing collaborative, working partnerships to protect and improve the quality of water and health of the watersheds throughout our geographic scope. By promoting dialogue among all stakeholders, the MWA creates opportunities for diverse, and at times, competing interests to work together to better protect our natural water resources. The MWA aims to engage in education, outreach, research, networking and consensus building to accomplish its mission:

... to sustain healthy watersheds that support thriving communities and strong economies evidenced by improved water quality with increased recreational and business opportunities.

Geographic Scope

The Maumee Watershed Alliance works with residents and organizations throughout the St. Joseph, St. Marys, and Upper Maumee watersheds located within northeast Indiana, southeast Michigan, and northwest Ohio. Additionally, other watersheds that are part of the greater Western Lake Erie Basin are involved in broader scale initiatives of the MWA. Adjacent watershed organizations are also welcomed and encouraged to participate in activities of the MWA.



The Maumee has the largest watershed of any Great Lakes river, with 85% of its watershed drainage passing through Defiance, Ohio.



©Michael Shake | stock.adobe.com

The MWA strives to become a national model of collaboration for clean water, healthy habitat, and economic development through the efforts of a diverse group of stakeholders.



explore your watershed



PADDLE

- **PADDLE OHIO**

This ODNR site contains maps, safety information, events, river conditions and more. You can even get a Pin for Paddling!

www.paddle.ohiodnr.gov

- **AUGLAIZE CANOE & KAYAK**

is a local business providing river trips, equipment and even camping.

www.ack207.com

- **OHIO WATER TRAILS**

promotes public boating access by developing designated water trails on Ohio waterways, including the Maumee River Water Trail. Visit the site to download a PDF Map or use the Interactive Maumee River Water Trail Guide.

watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/watertrails

- **ENJOY our scenic parks & rivers**

This web page contains links and information specific to Defiance's parks as well as the Maumee, Auglaize, and Tiffin rivers.

visitdefianceohio.com/recreate/enjoy

OHIO STATE PARKS

- **EXPLORE OHIO PARKS** Ohio's parks are a great way to stay active & healthy. Explore all 75 of Ohio's State Parks and find lists of things to do. Click the link to the ODNR Operations Page for up-to-date information on changes due to the COVID-19 situation.

parks.ohiodnr.gov

- **INDEPENDENCE DAM STATE PARK**

All day-use areas of the park are open, including the trails and the boat launch area. Visitors can hike, fish and boat.* Visitors are asked to follow current social distancing policies. The following events are planned for Summer 2020:

- **No Motor Tuesday**

Every Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m., June 2 - Sep. 1.

- **Shoreline Fishing Tournament**

Saturday, June 20, 7:30 am - noon.

**The campground, picnic shelters and playground area are closed at time of this publication. Please check our calendar of events at*

parks.ohiodnr.gov to confirm details, contact us at 419-956-1368 or follow Independence Dam State Park on Facebook.

NATURE PRESERVES

- **OXBOW LAKE**

This State Wildlife Area is a good site for bird watching, boating and fishing. There is also a shotgun range. Fishing Map and details:

wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/oxbowlake



Oxbow Lake ©Mary Fry Comden

- **GOLL WOODS**

State Nature Preserve covers 321 acres in Fulton County and features some of the largest trees remaining in the state.

naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/gollwoods

- **OHIO NATURE PRESERVES**

Ohio's 136 state nature preserves contain some of Ohio's rarest and most delicate natural resources.

naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/findapreserve



Tow Path Trail ©Margaret Proulx

HIKING AND BIKING

- **BLACK SWAMP NATURE CENTER**
Paulding County
pauldingswcd.org/black-swamp-nature-center
- **OHIO TRAILS PARTNERSHIP**
Selected trails throughout Ohio, includes a Northwest Ohio section
trails.ohiodnr.gov/trail-highlights
- **BUCKEYE TRAIL**
"Follow the Blue Blazes" through Northwest Ohio and Around Ohio
Defiance is a Buckeye Trail Town!
buckeyetrail.org
visitdefianceohio.com/maps-trails
- **RESERVOIR NATURE TRAIL**
This multi-use, wheelchair accessible pathway joins a paved trail surrounding the municipal reservoir and connects to the Buckeye Trail along Canal Road. Total trail length: 1.25 miles
landtolake.com/reservoir-trail



Reservoir Trail ©Margaret Proulx

the adventure begins in your backyard!

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

- **PROJECT LEARNING TREE**
Connect the children in your life to nature, with options for at-home and backyard activities.
plt.org/activities-for-families
- **NATURE'S PATH**
This family-run organic food company provides a blog loaded with articles and ideas for families.
naturespath.com/en-ca/blog
- **VERYWELL FAMILY**
50 fun things to do outside...
verywellfamily.com/outdoor-family-activities



Explore Your Watershed photo contest

Show us what you are doing outside! We'd love to see images of our great local outdoors. Send photos to: connect@landtolake.com. We will post your photos on our Facebook page and on landtolake.com.

** Notice: by sending your photos, you are giving us permission to use the image online and/or in print promotions for the Land to Lake initiative.*



Magee Marsh, Lake Erie ©Mary Fry Comden

EXPLORE LAKE ERIE & YOUR WATERSHED

Lake Erie Access Guidebook— coastal.ohiodnr.gov/gorivers
Ohio Coastal Atlas— coastal.ohiodnr.gov/atlas
Lake Erie Literacy— coastal.ohiodnr.gov/lakeerieliteracy
Maumee Valley Scenic Byway— go-ohio.com/Maumee-Valley-Scenic-Byway

MS4: Urban Stormwater

8 Ways To Help From Home

Little Steps You Can Take For Cleaner Streams, Rivers and Lakes

Small actions can have a big impact, so we've put together a list of simple ways you can help sustain our natural surroundings and improve local water quality. More ideas, details, and resources can be found on our site: www.landtolake.com/make-a-difference



1. Install A Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are an effective way to reduce stormwater runoff entering our rivers and lakes while providing stored water for use on lawns and gardens.



2. Start Composting

Composting at home is a great way to keep grass clippings, leaves, yard waste and kitchen scraps out of our landfills and waterways while creating nutrient-rich soil for your garden.

The City Compost Site is a great alternative to get rid of yard waste: cityofdefiance.com/divisions/compost-site



3. Plant Native Plants & Trees

Natives provide food and habitat for pollinators, absorb storm water, and provide erosion control, making them a great functional choice for low-maintenance landscaping.



4. Fertilize With Care

Over-application of nutrients may impair plant growth, contaminate groundwater, and pollute rivers, lakes and streams through run-off.



5. Pick Up Pet Waste

This simple act helps reduce the potential of E. coli pollution from washing into our rivers and streams.



6. Create a Rain Garden

Native plants reduce stormwater runoff and pollution while attracting birds, butterflies and beneficial pollinators. Rain gardens absorb 30% more water than a conventional lawn.



7. Grow Your Own Food

A home garden will provide fresh food for your family. Gardens also reduce transportation costs, provide a place for mulch and compost use.



8. Inspire Others

Inspire friends and family to adopt these actions. Share what you're doing on social media with #landtolake.

Lower Auglaize Tributaries Watershed Program

by Patrick Troyer, District Technician

In July 2019, the Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), was awarded a Watershed Program Grant through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to track/implement water quality and soil health projects in the Flatrock, Auglaize River, Little Auglaize River, Blue Creek, Sixmile, Middle Creek, and Prairie Creek watersheds. The watershed program focuses on the following priorities: controlled drainage, waterways, livestock nutrient management, stream restoration, home septic systems, filter strips, wetlands, soil health, and subsurface precision fertilizer placement. Stay tuned for further progress on the Lower Auglaize Watershed Program as we seek funding and projects to help improve water quality and soil health in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Together, we can make a difference.



Contact the Paulding SWCD with any questions or project ideas at 419-399-4771 or email patrick.troyer@pauldingswcd.org.



Left: Educating the public about issues facing water quality is an important component of the Lower Auglaize Watershed Program. There was no better way to accomplish this than taking the public straight to the problem with a pontoon ride down the Auglaize River.

Below: Soil Health is a major component of this watershed program. In this component, programs such as the SB299 Small Grains encourages producers to adequately time manure application following a wheat crop and follow up their manure application with a cover crop. The cover crop helps in our effort to keep the nutrients where they belong, on the field.



keep up with the latest info



For information on regional water quality topics and outdoor events follow Land to Lake.

RIVERFEST

RiverFest 2020 will be modified to meet the needs and mandates of our community this year. Details will be announced soon!



landtolake.com



For information on **events**

in and around Defiance, follow the Defiance Development and Visitors Bureau (DDVB). Their website includes information on local merchants and links to DDVB Facebook pages, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.

visitdefianceohio.com



For municipal announcements, updates on policies for public spaces and more, follow the

City of Defiance.

Get alerts, advisories, and event notifications directly on your phone by subscribing to the nixle alert system.

cityofdefiance.com/nixle-text-messages



cityofdefiance.com