

## About the Great Lakes Legacy Act

Although discharges of toxic substances into the Great Lakes have been reduced over the last 20 years, high concentrations of pollution remain in the bottom of some rivers and harbors. That poses potential health risks to people and wildlife, and states have issued fish advisories in many Great Lakes locations.

The tributaries and harbors identified as having pollution problems are known as “Areas of Concern,” or AOCs. There are 40 AOCs on the Great Lakes – 25 on the U.S. side, 10 in Canada and five shared between the U.S. and Canada. The Ottawa River is part of the Maumee River Area of Concern. The Maumee has the largest drainage area of any Great Lakes river covering 8,316 square miles, including the Ottawa River and several other rivers, creeks and streams.

EPA’s Great Lakes National Program Office administers the GLLA, which was reauthorized in 2008. From 2004 to 2008 congress has appropriated a total of \$126 million for the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

### For more information

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# Great Lakes Legacy Act Project to Remove Polluted Sediment

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## Ottawa River Legacy Act Site/Maumee River AOC

Toledo, Ohio

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office and several local partners will begin work this spring on a project to remove contaminated sediment from 5.6 miles of the Ottawa River in Toledo, Ohio. The federal Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) is funding the \$43 million project. The Act provides federal money that along with local matching dollars are used to clean up polluted sediment (mud) along the U.S. shores of the Great Lakes. The Ottawa River project calls for the removal of 250,000 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with PCBs and PAHs (polychlorinated biphenyls and polyaromatic hydrocarbons). The sediment will be hydraulically dredged and transported through a pipeline to a nearby commercial landfill. Some “hot spots” in the river containing hazardous levels of PCBs exist so about 25,000 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged and taken to a specially licensed facility for disposal.

### Feds and local partners share costs

GLLA and the Ottawa River Group will split the cost of the sediment cleanup 50-50. The local consortium consists of Allied Waste Industries Inc., Chrysler LLC, the city of Toledo, DuPont Co., GenCorp Inc., Honeywell International Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc., United Technologies.

Site preparation work should begin this April with dredging scheduled for August to December.



*Contaminated sediment in a 5 ½ mile stretch of the Ottawa River in Toledo, Ohio, would be cleaned up under a new Great Lakes Legacy Act project.*

## Beneficial uses

The Great Lakes Legacy Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Bush in 2002 as a tool to accelerate the pace of sediment cleanup within the Great Lakes Areas of Concern. One of the goals of the GLLA includes restoring “beneficial uses” to polluted sections in the Great Lakes AOCs. Beneficial use impairments include restrictions on dredging, loss of fish and wildlife habitat and activities such as fishing and boating.

The U.S.-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement identified contaminated sediment as a major obstacle to restoring beneficial uses in the AOCs.

In the Maumee River AOC, which includes the Ottawa River, beneficial use impairments include restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, excessive algae growth and degraded fish and wildlife habitats.

## Ottawa River cleanup history

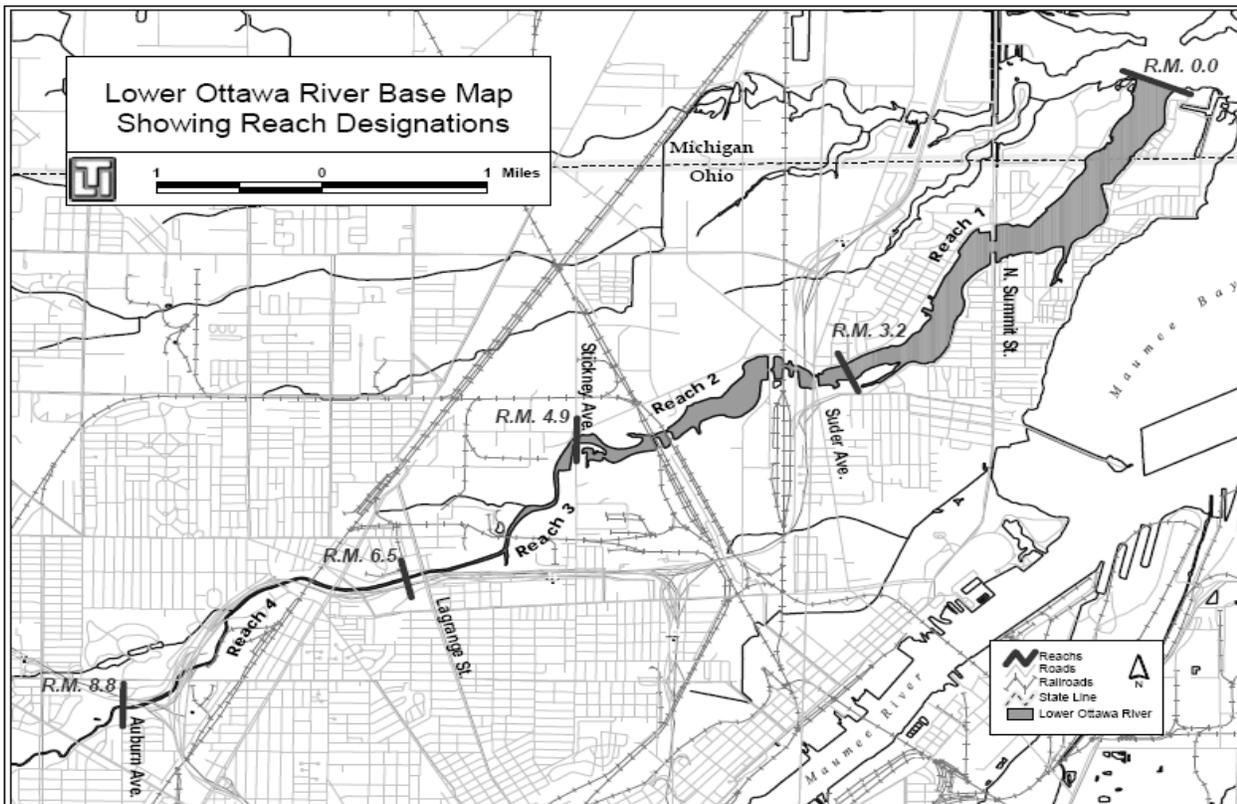
Pollution sources lining the Ottawa River include several landfills, industrial facilities and eight sewer

outlets that overflow after heavy rains. But officials have been busy the last 10 years stopping and containing several of the sources. Three landfills have been capped, five industrial sites were cleaned up and Toledo is planning work to prevent some of the sewer overflows.

## Sediment removal successes

Since 2004, five sediment cleanup projects have been completed under the Great Lakes Legacy Act and several more are scheduled to get under way this year. These projects have cleaned up more than 900,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment at a cost of almost \$97 million. Some \$53 million in Legacy Act funds have leveraged \$44 million in non-federal dollars from state, local and private partners.

This funding translated into the removal of more than 1.5 million pounds of contaminants from Great Lakes waterways, reducing risks to human health and wildlife. The Ottawa River is the second Legacy Act project in Ohio. In 2007, sediment removal was completed on the Ashtabula River in Ashtabula, Ohio.



Map shows the location of the planned Great Lakes Legacy Act project on the Ottawa River in Toledo, Ohio. Dredging scheduled to begin this summer will remove 250,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from about 5 ½ miles of the river.