



# Rivers Quarterly

Newsletter of Rivers Unlimited, Ohio's Statewide River Protection Organization

## *The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Reform at Last?*

The Corps has the potential to restore 40% of Ohio's streams. Let's act now!

*RU alluded to this in its Summer 2001 issue of Rivers Quarterly.*

Four bills in Congress have been proposed to reform the Corps, with support by U.S. Senators John McCain, Russ Feingold, Bob Smith and others. On June 9 and 10, Mike Fremont attended a National Wildlife Federation and American Rivers conference to help provide technical and political support for long overdue reform. Bad Army Corps projects were a main reason for founding American Rivers. In the early years, American Rivers held Dam Fighter Conferences in Washington at the time of Appropriations hearings in Congress. Landowners and farmers whose land would be taken by Corps dam projects were helped, land that usually amounted to 10,000 acres, half of which would be prime farmland. We prepared them for congressional hearings and they shared their experiences with others similarly threatened.

RU attended those conferences and the halls of Congress with groups from Salt Creek, Whiteoak Creek, East Fork,

Caesar Creek – in Ohio, and Red River and Falmouth in Kentucky.

The reach and power of the Corps is awesome. It has a \$52 billion construction backlog, whereas it is given less than \$1.5 billion a year to construct. That would be dreadful under-funding if the projects were any good. The average project is only 24% complete. One example of that time stretchout is in Cincinnati where the Mill Creek Flood Control (sic) project was authorized in 1970 and is 40% complete today – or zero%, depending on how you look at it.

Reform elements called out in the four bills ask for,

- True independent peer review of projects. To us that means, for the first time, honest benefit/cost figures. It can probably be shown that there is not a project in Ohio in the last 30 years that is in the national economic public interest.

See "Army Corps" on Page 3.

## Ohio River Visions

### *Ohio River Corridor Initiative River Cities Symposium held June 28-29.*

The Ohio River Visions Symposium – the interdependence of the environment and the economy – was held late June in Cincinnati, and considered the river communities from Maysville, KY to Madison, IN. Participants discussed how to reconnect with the Ohio and other rivers for restoring and preserving their natural resources and improve the regional quality of life by promoting and preserving greenspace.

A monumental task on this working river with its barge terminals, tanks, piles of sand, gravel, coal, grain elevators, conveyors, pipelines, cranes, truck depots, rail sidings. But it's a big river and the idea is to work on a greenway on each side, 120 miles each.

The keynote speaker was Lord Mayor Jim Soorley of Brisbane, Australia. He had the experience of bringing back the Brisbane River to public use,

See "Visions" on Page 6.

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## EYE ON RIVERS

### Riparian Buffer:

### *How much land on each side to protect a stream?*

by Mike Fremont

**A**nswer: As much as you can get! One thousand feet is very effective but that's 121 acres per mile of river, one side. If the price is \$3000 an acre, that's \$364,000 per mile.



Eight feet wide takes about one acre per river mile, one side; that's \$3000 per mile. Or, if it's floodplain, it may be \$1000, or farmland \$1500 an acre, etc.

The wider the buffer, the more filtration of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) and pollutants (manure, pesticides, highway runoff) and silt. Keeps them out of the river.

Earlier recommendations by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources suggested 120 feet for any size stream, figuring two 60-foot branched trees would provide a corridor for bird and animal habitat. That's not really enough even for birds.

ODNR now recommends a stream-protective border of 2.5 times the stream's width when it is running bank-full, on each side, *plus* the area proceeding from outer curve of meander to outer curve of meander to outer curve, etc. So looking down from above, you're considering a protective band width determined by the meander pattern width plus 7.5 times the stream width.

So if the stream is 20 feet wide when bank full, that will be  $20 \times 2.5 + 20 \times 2.5 + 20 = 6$  times the stream width, or 120 feet. If the distance between left and right meanders is 35 feet at some point, you would add 35 feet making the band width 155 feet. That would vary as you go from meander to meander downstream.

We're not sure how this applies to big rivers, maybe 2000 feet wide, which would amount to a band of 12,000 feet not including meanders. Call to clarify!

In the case of a channelized stream, there wouldn't be any, or many, meanders.

Certain agencies who channelized our rivers were populated with meanderthals, who had somewhat smaller brain cases than today's. Direct descendants may be found in the Ohio Drainage Hall of Fame at Ohio State University. But then we're prejudiced . . . ♦

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# Ohio EPA Survey:

*Employees dedicated, but majority see agency as failing in its mission.*

by Marilyn Wall

**D**EER, a national watchdog group for public employees, recently released a report of a survey returned by 34% of Ohio EPA employees. Overall Ohio EPA employees feel “stymied from being as productive as we could.” When asked to respond to the statement, “I would characterize Ohio EPA as a well-managed agency,” 60% disagreed or strongly disagreed, while 16% had no opinion. Fifty-six percent disagreed that Ohio EPA consistently takes enforcement action against serious environmental violators. Thirty-one percent stated that they or some one they knew had been directed in the past four years to ignore an environmental law, regulation or violation.

Complaints ranged from industries writing their own permits to lack of funding for the agency. One response stated “Big money rules every decision,” and another said “the agency no longer has the backbone to protect these resources unless it is politically expedient.” “Large violators are allowed to continue their violations for long periods of time.”

Another complaint: “When an OEPA division does try to take action against a violator, Legal tends to obfuscate and delay. Even if we can get Legal to forward the violation on to the State Attorney General, the AG will often delay for many years until the violation is gone—no cost recovery and no fines. This will get even worse now that the Governor is proposing a 5-year environmental statute of limitations. Political influence can work both ways in opposing a fine on a big corp and in focusing effort on imaginary problems.”

Another says: “The weakening of our current laws by special interest groups has destroyed our capability to protect wetlands. Our ex-governor Voinovich effectively destroyed our enforcement capabilities in wastewater by eliminating our enforcement program.”

The report continues with a scathing indictment of the lack of enforcement. Citizens across Ohio and Rivers Unlimited, unfortunately, do not find this news. Over four years ago RU began a petition process to have USEPA withdraw Ohio EPA’s authority. USEPA last fall issued a draft report finding many issues with Ohio EPA and required numerous changes to be made or USEPA would look at beginning withdrawal proceedings. It’s time for USEPA to look to see whether or not Ohio has made any progress. It is time for USEPA to see that its delegated authority to Ohio EPA is carried out. ♦

## Army Corps

(cont. from front page)

- required funding for authorized projects within five years, or drop them.
- use of 21st century science and values in planning – that includes environmental considerations, also comprehensive economic analysis.
- a reduced flood control (sic) subsidy from 65% to 50% (nobody controls floods; however, flood damage can be reduced).

This is only a glimpse of the reform. It will be bitterly fought by members of Congress from some states because of the importance for their reelection that some monster projects have, however seriously wasteful and destructive they may be.

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The Corps has the magnificent opportunity to propose the restoration of 40% of Ohio’s streams ...

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The Corps has been a millstone around the neck of our economy and a diligent destroyer (see George Laycock’s book *The Diligent Destroyers*) of rivers, the natural environment, the family farm, the railroads – and respecting the Ohio River, billions of dollars of damages to structures, roads

and utilities on the riverbanks thanks to the high dam system.

By reform, what should the public want? The Corps should act in the public’s economic, social, and environmental interest. Note that the Corps’ mission includes ecosystem restoration, not just navigation and flood damage reduction. The Corps has the magnificent opportunity to propose the restoration of that 40% of Ohio’s streams that are not fishable and swimmable – using natural means – which would serve the economic, social and environmental public interest.

Restoration of streams would help the Corps’ public image. At the same time, members of Congress could continue to use the Corps for their own election security). And money could flow to truly beneficial projects.

If you want to know more about the Corps, or any project in your area, let Rivers Unlimited know! Concerns about specific projects could help influence passage of a Corps reform bill. ♦

# Local River UPdates



## Canoes Now Available at Otsego Park

The natural beauty of the Maumee, an Ohio State Scenic River, can now be seen from water level. Paddlers can retrace the historic travel routes of Native Americans and early area explorers, see the wildlife (bald eagles, osprey, and waterfowl) and maneuver through the rapids and among the islands in this unique habitat.

It has been 22 years since the last canoe livery left the river. But this summer the Wood County Park District acquired 20 canoes and offered canoeing on the Maumee River from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The district rented canoes and provided launch and pick-up service every Saturday and Sunday during the summer from Otsego Park, north of the Victorian Village of Grand Rapids on scenic Ohio Route 65.

The park district offered hourly canoe rentals to get canoeists into the river to explore the small islands just downstream and the extensive series of rapids that flow through limestone shelves. Before bridges were built, settlers used these large flat rocks to ford the river.

A longer trip could also be arranged. Paddlers traveled an eight-mile stretch of river rich in history, a part of which was used by fur traders carrying bundles of skins from Fort Defiance to Fort Detroit. These self-guided tours took about 2-1/2 to 3 hours to return to Otsego Park.

The Stone Lodge at Otsego Park is a popular location for social gatherings and is fully booked for more than a year ahead. The area is attractive for fishing, fall colors and bird watching. A pair of bald eagles that nest just upstream in Florida, Ohio, use the shallows as a fishing ground; osprey, herons, kingfishers and many more shore birds make a living on or at the edge of the water.

A naturalist is stationed at the Otsego Stone Hall and a new overlook room, office and other improvements have recently been added to this attractive structure that was built in 1934 by the WPA.

*Information from the Toledo Blade, May 8, 2002 and the Wood County Park District.*

## Saturday Boat Excursions on Toledo's Swan Creek

Boat tours of the Toledo warehouse district were offered every hour on the hour from the dock at the Erie Street Market every Saturday through Labor Day weekend. The Swan Creek Explorer, a 35-foot boat seating 24, provided 45-minute tours over two miles of this urban waterway for \$5 per passenger, with narration about the wildlife and vegetation by the boat captain.

Several prominent landmarks can be seen along the tour, including Libbey High School, the Owens Corning World Headquarters Building, Promenade Park which follows the Maumee River through downtown Toledo and the Martin Luther King Bridge.

## Two-year Hydrologic Study of Portage River Flooding

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and the study team consisting of consultants Finkbeiner, Pettis & Strout and Oxbow River & Stream Restoration presented a report to watershed landowners on May 18 in Pemberville, Ohio. The \$400,000 two-year study was funded by grants from the Lake Erie Protection Fund, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Commissioners of Wood, Sandusky, Hancock, and Ottawa Counties and the city of Fostoria. Rivers Unlimited's former Vice President Steve Phillips heads the Oxbow Firm.

Flooding that damaged crops and threatened homes and businesses occurred most recently in 1998. Areas that are prone to flooding include Pemberville and New Rochester. Many actions to relieve future flooding were proposed in the study, some relatively without cost and some very expensive. All proposals are "environmentally friendly." The report suggests reviving several oxbows that were eliminated when the Middle Branch was channelized, building a levee along part of the Pemberville floodplain, and constructing a wetland in the upper watershed to hold storm water back.

Funding for implementation will be a problem. TMACOG will work to realize the proposals one at a time, as funds become available.

See "Local River" on Page 5.

# Local River

(cont. from Page 6)

## Sugar Creek Protection Society

There are many Sugar Creeks in Ohio. Even in northwest Ohio there are three known locally. One is a tributary to the Sandusky River; another flows into the Maumee. The Sugar Creek Protection Society (SCPS) represents the Sugar Creek that is in the Portage River watershed. It rises as a drainage ditch in Cygnet, Ohio, flows north and east for 29 miles and eventually joins the Portage in Harris Township of Ottawa County, near Ohio Route 590, only about 8 miles from Lake Erie. Sugar Creek runs on the west and north edge of the village of Risingsun in Wood County and does not flow through any other community.

This is the heart of the Great Black Swamp. The soil is heavy clay and early European settlers coming into the area found travel almost impossible with wagons and horses journeying to the west mired in an insect infested swamp. When the forests were cleared, ditches were dug to drain the perpetual wetland, first by hand, then with horses and finally with earth-moving equipment. The middle nine miles of Sugar Creek were channelized in 1967 to improve agricultural drainage in Sandusky County. It was the first drainage project put on permanent maintenance.

The headwaters are in Wood County and were already ditches for the most part. However, the main stem of this upper section was channelized from one side and also put on maintenance.

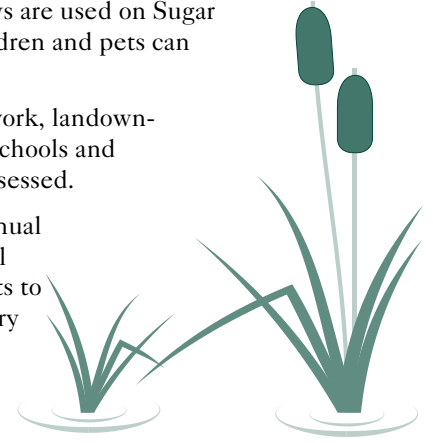
Only the lower 10 miles of Sugar Creek remain a natural free-flowing stream.

In 1973, this last section was petitioned for channelization under the Ohio Drainage Laws. The Sugar Creek Protection Society was immediately formed by farmers and landowners on the watershed who wished to preserve the creek and avoid the \$739,000 estimated construction cost. In court they won a delay of one year to remove obstructions that caused flooding. In the following year members and friends took out 46 logjams that had significantly impeded the creek's flow. As a result, the petition was dismissed and the SCPS was required to *maintain and improve* Sugar Creek.

The Society has done this for 29 years. In the spring, members of the SCPS work crew inspect the stream from the canoes, noting obstructions and areas that need maintenance. In the fall, when crops are off the fields, volunteers meet and take out blockages. Maintenance work done by the SCPS has never cost landowners anything. Relocations (there have been two) have been cost shared with landowners. Everything is donated: time, equipment,

fuel and expertise. Some services provided since 1973 by the society are:

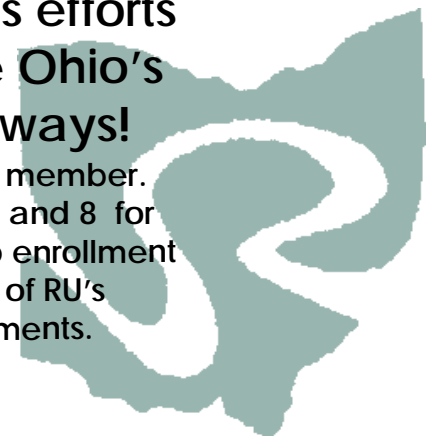
- The work crew has kept Sugar Creek free of obstructions that can cause flooding.
- No poisonous sprays are used on Sugar Creek banks. Children and pets can play safely.
- Because of SCPS work, landowners, communities, schools and churches are not assessed.
- SCPS has given annual scholarships to local high school students to attend Ohio Forestry Camp.
- Work done by the society conforms to a Department of Natural Resources plan.
- Reports on work are submitted each year to County Commissioners and Engineers and ODNR.



The SCPS has helped groups of farmers organize to prevent costly channelization projects. Members have demonstrated procedures they use to clear logjams and maintain the natural stream corridor. They will travel anywhere at any time to help others maintain natural streams and not resort to expensive and destructive stream modification projects. The Sugar Creek Newsletter is mailed to members and supporters twice each year to document the activities and accomplishments of society members. ♦

## Join RU's efforts to save Ohio's waterways!

Sign up as a member. See pages 7 and 8 for membership enrollment and a listing of RU's accomplishments.



## RU's Believe It or Not!

AK Steel wants you to have more pollution in your rivers.

Ohio EPA, against its own staff recommendations, has issued a permit modification to AK Steel allowing more cyanide to be discharged into Dicks Creek and the Great Miami River. Following that decision, Ohio EPA is now proposing to allow AK Steel to discharge more zinc and copper into these two waterways. Dicks Creek in Middletown is heavily polluted by discharges from AK Steel including numerous Clean Water Act violations and illegal discharges of PCBs. Clearly more pollution is not the answer to cleaning up our most contaminated streams. Ironically, Ohio EPA is proposing to increase the amounts of these pollutants above previously violated levels at the same time that Ohio EPA has filed legal actions against AK Steel for these violations.

On July 17, Susan Knight of Sierra Club, Marilyn Wall, and a Middletown resident discovered an oily, foamy discharge coming from a possibly unnamed waterway out of the AK Steel plant. They called Ohio EPA's emergency response hot line at (800) 282-9378.

RU encourages you to call Ohio EPA when you see such discharges on Ohio's waterways. If you'd like to get involved in citizen water testing to determine if your river is safe and clean, call Susan Knight at (513) 761-6140. ♦

## Thanks, Mike!

RU's Board voted in 1978 to preserve Alaska's wilderness and joined the Arctic Coalition. Thanks to Ohio Senator Mike DeWine who recently went against the Bush Administration and many in the Republican Party to support the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – one of our country's crown jewels. Senator DeWine committed to vote against any closure on an amendment to remove the protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that could result in drilling – protections that were established during the Eisenhower Administration.

This is not the first time the Senator has stepped up for the environment. He is very active protecting the Big and Little Darby Creeks. The Senator was able to secure \$500,000 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Big Darby Creek Watershed to be used for preservation efforts. He is working on preserving coastal wetlands along Lake Erie and has introduced the Great Lakes Legacy Act. This act would fund grants to the State and local organizations to help clean up four rivers in Ohio that are listed as *areas of concern* by the USEPA and the Canadian Government.

Senator DeWine works quietly to help protect Ohio's environment and we thank him for his commitment. We also thank him for doing the right thing in opposing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. ♦

## Visions

(cont. from front page)

cozening, buying, wresting it from private, non-conforming uses. That river flows through 27 communities. They recognize that the issue is jobs – not blue collar but intellectual capital they want to attract, and that means they must offer quality of life. The river is the means to do so and since they began, property values have gone way up. There is zero private ownership along the river now; the river belongs to the people of Brisbane; there is a 20-meter wide public right-of-way; they have River Clean, River Fire, River Feast, River Symposium, River Jazz, River Symphony and River Run; and they have water taxis and a 100-passenger high-speed tour boat in constant use.

They put signs on drains, collect toxics, use trash racks to keep debris out of the river – no walls! They have paths. The communities want to return to nature, to own it, treasure it, respect it. To them, their river is the spiritual heart of the city.

He told us nothing should come between the river and the public right of way – no roads, walls, buildings. Told us that Cincinnati riverside architecture was interesting but the front doors should be on the river side!

RU had the right idea when founding the Mill Creek Restoration Project in 1993. Governor Bob Taft just brought MCRP a check for \$432,000 to carry on this work which will include the reforestation to native vegetation of 700 acres of park land and other improvements. RU had the same vision as the Aussies as to what a polluted urban river should become.

After this keynote speech, 18 workshops with about 400 attendees focused on Commerce, Heritage, Play, Conservation, Restoration, Education and Arts. Rivers Unlimited shared a panel with an Army Corps of Engineers representative, a higher-up in the Ecosystem Restoration part of the Corps' mission. The panel's title was *What's a River Worth: River Economics and Environmental Principles*.

Lastly, RU was on the planning committee for the Ohio River Run, a canoe/kayak float (not a run) 6 miles down the Ohio ending at the Cincinnati public landing. Some 500(!) paddlers took part. Only 150 were expected. Congressman Rob Portman and his family participated. RU president Mike Fremont was Commodore of this flotilla. Next year, it will be even bigger and there will be formal canoe and kayak races.

RU believes – *truly* believes – that the powers that be in Greater Cincinnati have decided that the rivers around here are worthy of beneficial attention and that the decision has been made to move ahead on river restoration. RU now has Little Miami, Inc., Mill Creek Restoration Project, Friends of the Great Miami and Ohio River Advocacy, all the main streams of Southwestern Ohio, all non-governmental orgs – the ones that get things done – on our side. Collectively, public opinion is changing for the better, and that means moving money towards river restoration and better lives for us all! ♦

# Tier III and Ohio EPA: *Outstanding National Resource Waters*

The Clean Water Act says the states and Native American tribes have to have water quality categories for their streams and lakes – at least bad (Tier I), good (Tier II) and best (Tier III). We have discussed *good* waters, Tier II, for 8 years in these pages. It was called Antidegradation, Ohio Revised Code 6111.12, Rivers Unlimited et al v. Schregardus, etc., while we worked to restore and maintain water quality in Ohio.

Tier III waters require state protection from any additional pollution (except emergency, temporary repair situations etc.). Ohio has a Tier III category but no streams in it – or lakes.

While many streams technically qualify for this protection, as national resource waters, development interests and some municipalities fear that they can't grow if they aren't free to increase the pollution in whatever river is at hand. Their pressure on the Legislature makes it impossible for Ohio EPA even to consider including a single river in the Tier III.

You might well say that our State House has decided that there isn't a single water body in Ohio that is an outstanding national resource – out of 61,000 miles of rivers; after 30 years of the Clean Water Act; after 3 of our rivers have been put into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and 11 into our State Scenic Rivers System. Perhaps our reps and senators are afflicted with River Blindness. That's a tropical disease that may have moved north because of global climate change!

In defining Tier III, ONRW's, the Clean Water Act of 1972 says *Where high quality waters constitute an outstanding National*

*resource, such as waters of National and State parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected.* Think of Little Beaver, Little Miami, the Grand, the Chagrin, Darby Creeks.

As it is now, all 61,000 miles of streams in Ohio, perennially or intermittently flowing, are at risk from every polluting project. Every development where effluent adds pollution, every dam, diversion, dredging, every stream modification (channelization) for drainage, flood control, factory farm, sewer crossing or to make way for a mall parking lot — every one of our streams is at risk all the time.

An interesting fact is that the Clean Water Act does not specify that the water quality in a Tier III candidate must be excellent for that stream to qualify. And why should it? Everyone knows that if polluting sources in a watershed are shut off, the main stem of a river will run clean unless it has contaminated bottom sediments as in the Hudson River and our own Dicks Creek in Butler County. So in most cases, pollution can be temporary and this condition should not bar any stream from protection.\*

However, Ohio's selection process does not recognize other values of a river that should make it imperative to protect against further pollution. Perhaps that is because it is Ohio EPA that sets the standards and not ODNR, which manages the Scenic River system.

There are two reasons a river should be set aside for protection: the scenic character of its corridor — and the, at least, passable quality of its water. Yet OEPA recognizes only the

latter in its Tier II, II-1/2 etc. categories. RU has always said Ohio could have the best trout stream in the world and it wouldn't qualify to be a state scenic river (because Ohio does not acknowledge recreation to be a significant reason for designation). Now RU can also say that it doesn't matter how magnificent, how much fish and wildlife, what historical sites, what extraordinary geology attaches to the river — that river cannot be an ONRW. We flatly will not protect it! We are told that it is futile, our Legislature is adamant, forget it!

We may test the legality of this denial of protection. ♦

*\*In the early '70's RU was asked to review standards for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. One of the original criteria for designation of a National river had been that the waters had to be clean. At our suggestion they removed that qualification.*

EASY MEMBERSHIP! COMPLETE STEPS 1, 2, 3, CLIP AND MAIL.

**Yes**

I do want to help Rivers Unlimited protect the 61,000 miles of rivers and streams in Ohio from pollutants and other forms of degradation. Use my gift to help the nation's oldest statewide river protection organization continue to protect and restore these scenic waterways which are vital to the health, economy and quality of life in our state.

Here is my tax-deductible contribution of:

1

- \$35 Basic Membership  
 \$50 Family or Group Membership  
 \$100 River Sustainer  
 \$250 River Steward  
 \$\_\_\_ Other

2

Please make your check payable to *Rivers Unlimited* and mail to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

3

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## So You're a "River" Organization?

**R**U's mission is to restore, maintain and improve Ohio's rivers and streams, their water quality, scenic beauty, their multiple economic and environmental uses and their effect upon Ohio's quality of life.

The waters of the United States are held in the public trust by our governments. The condition of our river waters and their corridors affects our economy, our environment, our quality of life, sustainability of our communities and environmental justice. That's what underlies our mission!

Over the past 30 years RU has acquired many diverse and useful capabilities. In general, they are technical, organizational, legal, legislative and networking. The experience of many groups, national, state and local are utilized.

Here are issues RU has been or is involved with:


- Greenways (founded Greenways for Ohio in 1990)
- River protective zoning
- Landfills, leachate, percolation, aquifers, tactics of operators and haulers
- Municipal incinerators
- Recycling
- Wells, contamination, change in water table
- Pesticide use reduction
- Gravel mining and restoration
- Bridges and highways – what they do to rivers
- Pollution permitting – NPDES, PTI's, PTO's, 401 and 404 issues
- Streambank erosion – effects, causes and cures
- Channelization – effects, causes and cures
- Sewers, septic systems, overflows – combined and sanitary
- Water quality – silt, chemical, bacteriological, biological, presence near streams, water use designations
- Founding river-protective organizations – RU founded the Mill Creek Restoration Project (1993) and Friends of the Great Miami (1999)
- Environmental justice
- Canoe and kayak floats and races
- Development – effects on rivers
- Watershed perviousness and effect on streams
- Diversion, stream relocation
- Urban rivers
- Log jams
- Service on public advisory committees on water quality, stream protection, greenways and planning affecting river corridors
- Cleanups
- Environmental impact statements – how to analyze
- River Resource Economics – the ultimate engine to drive restoration of degraded rivers – an RU innovation, funded by RU for the past 5 years at Ohio State University
- Fishing – sport, economic value
- National Wild and Scenic Rivers, State Wild and Scenic Rivers, Ohio Natural Heritage Rivers – what they can do for rivers, their limitations (Note that Ohio Natural Heritage Rivers is an RU innovation.)
- Dams – safety, removal, renewal, impacts on fish, fishing, water quality, erosion, design life, reservoir life expectancy, spillways, hydropower, alternatives
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – purposes, projects, misdeeds, reform
- Conservancy Districts
- Stream Restoration and contractors
- Land trusts
- Floods, flooding, floodplains, management, stormwater storage above and underground
- Environmental attorneys
- Clean Water Act: Antidegradation
- Wetlands
- Unexploded ordinance
- Easements
- Drainage (Ditch) laws
- TMDL's
- Joint petition to USEPA to enforce pollution permitting

Upon request RU will consult, testify, investigate, negotiate and join in lawsuits on behalf of river groups. In all, RU has acted in over 165 actions in 52 counties of Ohio. ♦



**RIVERS  
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