



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[Watershed and Water Quality Planning in the Maumee River Basin, Ohio](#)

Recent and ongoing initiatives are addressing watershed and related water quality issues in the Maumee River basin in northwest Ohio. As of October 2005 the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has entered into a five year Memorandum of Understanding with the Geographic Information Science & Applied Geography (GISAG) Research Center of the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toledo, Ohio. Work performed will assist NRCS in implementing the Maumee Watershed project, including sub watershed rapid resource assessments, watershed and area planning, on farm conservation planning and delivery of conservation technical assistance and conservation cost-share programs authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill that are of mutual interest to University of Toledo and NRCS. This project will include annually determining land cover and crop rotations via remote sensing techniques, establish Maumee Watershed Project Area GIS data layers for the project, and provide educational and informational outreach to share the data and information with other project partners, resource managers, and the general public. The lower Maumee River basin has been designated as an Area of Concern (AOC) by the International Joint Commission and since 1987 a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has been in development. The Maumee RAP consists of numerous state, regional, and local community agencies, organizations and partners focusing on addressing the beneficial use impairments related to water quality in several rivers, tributaries and receiving bodies of water in NW Ohio. A Watershed Restoration Plan and RAP Stage II report are in preparation to identify water quality concerns, prioritize future Maumee AOC activities and projects, and set strategic goals for the organization. Numerous research projects are underway to examine land use changes and water quality and assist in improving community education and public awareness through information exchange, online data delivery mechanisms, water quality monitoring, and sediment loadings.

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