



partnerships for healthy rivers



April 2022 • Earth Day Edition

Save Maumee Grassroots Organization Hosts Earth Day Events



Save Maumee Grassroots Organization

Earth Day Weekend Event

**Noon-4 p.m. Friday-Saturday April 22-23
Rose Ave Rehab site, 501 Rose Avenue,
New Haven, IN 46745**

The headwaters of the Maumee River in downtown Fort Wayne move Eastward through neighborhoods with steep rip-rap covered banks and high flood control levees all the way to Hosey Dam. Just past the dam is the first place the Maumee finds a wooded riparian area where flood waters can spread out and allow the fast flowing water to slow down. It is also the first place that a flotsam of trash can be deposited on the river banks.

Save Maumee Grassroots Organization's early days were dedicated to cleaning up this quarter-mile stretch of wooded floodplain, adding more native trees, erosion control mats with seeds and plant plugs to preserve and stabilize the area. In 2005, people were looking for a way to do something about the rivers, which were ignored, inaccessible and polluted.

There was an enthusiastic response to Save Maumee's Earth Day events for the next eight years, when 3-400 people would come to gather up the dumpster-

full of trash that the flood waters had brought. Local bands came to play for the volunteers, refreshments were donated to feed them, and other organizations came to offer education and activities. This was all done by volunteers with funding from friends and family, and with a fiscal sponsor to manage small grants.

In 2013 an application was sent for nonprofit status and a corporation was formed. Meanwhile, an epic adventure to bring attention to the river's role in the health of Lake Erie was called Maumee Matters in spring of 2014. It was a 140-mile canoe trip by 20 people in 10 canoes on a 9-day event from the continental divide at the beginning of Junk Ditch, all the way to Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio. Along the way at Defiance, partners from the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership hosted public events to bring more participation. The canoe trip along the Maumee River to Toledo geolocated straight pipes on a map. On return from the epic adventure, notices had come in the mail for both the 501c3, and application for the first US Forest Service Riparian Buffer Initiative grant.

Save Maumee and the other Upper Maumee Watershed Partners had been working to produce the Upper Maumee Watershed Management Plan, which named Save Maumee as a group likely to implement the Plan, and pave the way for funding to do that work. The first grant was awarded in 2015 through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) with the Riparian Buffer Initiative (RBI). This work included removing invasive plant species, planting anywhere between 550 and 1,100 native trees and shrubs per project, laying native seed, trash pick up, and extensive hours of planning. After three grants through the RBI, nine sites were completed within the Trier, Bullerman, and Six Mile Creek subwatersheds with incredible efforts from hundreds of volunteers.

“The purpose of Save Maumee Grassroots Organization is to preserve, protect and improve the ecosystems of the Upper Maumee River and watershed by increasing public awareness through advocacy, collaboration, education and hands-on projects.”

Now, Save Maumee has a 58 acre property to call “home.” The property contains forested wetlands and floodplains along the Maumee River and Trier Stream (ditch) at their confluence in New Haven, IN. Save Maumee aims to fulfill this mission by bringing new life and health to 501 Rose Avenue, named the Rose Ave Rehab project. The organization will be applying for grants, utilizing all the time volunteers want to give, and fundraising to help the property become a healthy and thriving ecosystem again.

Join us in fulfilling this mission!

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Rose Ave Rehab site, 501 Rose Avenue, New Haven, IN 46745

Savemaumee.org

Facebook: facebook.com/SaveMaumee

Instagram: instagram.com/save_maumee_grassroots_org/

READ MORE...

Join us for our 17th Annual Earth Day Weekend event!

Family friendly!

Friday, April 22nd
1-4p.m.

Saturday, April 23rd
1-4p.m.

Sapling planting

Seed and plant start swap

Trash pickup along Rose Avenue and around the site

For more info, visit savemaumee.org or facebook.com/SaveMaumee



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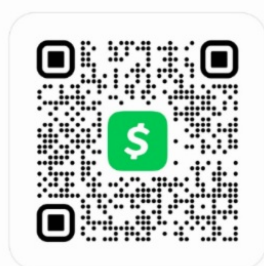
The Allen County SWCD and the Maumee Watershed Alliance have teamed up to give tours of Fort Wayne's three rivers – the St. Mary's, the St. Joseph's, and the Maumee. These tours are designed to educate both farmers and urbanites on the importance of quality and the part everyone plays in maintaining and improving the water quality around Allen County. Riding the river also gives an understanding of the programs already in place to improve and maintain water quality and the opportunities to get involved.

To book a tour for your group email us at pontoontours@maumeewatershedalliance.org

YOU CAN HELP!

Your donations support current and future efforts in water quality, community engagement and education, and the projects of the MWA and partnering watershed organizations.

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