



- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
- *USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service*
- *U.S. Geological Survey*
- *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Ohio Department of Natural Resources*
- *State of Ohio*
- *State of Michigan*
- *State of Indiana*
- *State Technical Committees – Ohio, Michigan, Indiana*
- *National Association of Conservation Districts*
- *Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments*

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NEWS

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WESTERN LAKE ERIE BASIN PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES GIS DATA SITE

TOLEDO, Jan. 24 - The University of Toledo and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have launched a GIS data site to assist the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership in wise stewardship of the Western Lake Erie Basin natural resources.

The site, which is housed by the University of Toledo and funded by NRCS, is available to units of governments, organizations, and the public. One of the features of the site is a web-based viewer which allows manipulation or use of the watershed data layers without extensive GIS training.

The Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toledo, Ohio, worked with NRCS in the development of a comprehensive online map database covering the Maumee Watershed area within the Western Lake Erie Basin. The aim of this database is to collect, organize, and display important relevant spatial information to assist in land management and be available for the future study of the impact of land use on water quality in the Maumee River.

Examples of data layers collected include watersheds, elevations, stream networks, surface and bedrock geology, soils, roads, and floodplains.

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Remote sensing technology is utilized to create annual maps of land cover types, including planted crops, which will allow for determination of significant land cover changes within the Maumee Watershed.

Users have the ability to make maps of these data layers, combine them with other layers, and zoom into specific regions in the watershed. The site contains instructions on how to use the online viewing and mapping tools.

“Such research and information will greatly improve our understanding of human uses of the lands within the watershed and assist in examining impacts from those activities on surface waters” says Dr. Patrick Lawrence, one of the project leaders.

Members of local government agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Maumee River Partnership, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur recently attended a training workshop at the University of Toledo’s Department of Geography and Planning to roll out the web site and Internet mapping site.

This project is the result of a 5-year agreement between the University of Toledo and NRCS to develop, maintain, and update the database from 2005 to 2010, including the annual land cover mapping.

Information on the project and access to the online map database and web viewer can be found at <http://www.maumee.utoledo.edu/> and clicking on “Online GIS” in the top left corner.

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