

MS-635: Grand Lake Restoration Commission Records

Collection Number: MS-635

Title: Grand Lake Restoration Commission Records

Dates: 1960-2017 (Bulk 2010-2015)

Creator: Grand Lake Restoration Commission

Summary/Abstract:

The Grand Lake Restoration Commission Records document the efforts of a collaborative, non-profit organization to find economically and environmentally sustainable ways to restore the health of Grand Lake Saint Marys in Mercer County and Auglaize County, near Celina, Ohio. Materials include meeting minutes, reports, project files, news clippings, and photographs.

Quantity/Physical Description: 3.71 linear feet and 1.3 MB

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092, library-archives@wright.edu

Restrictions on Access:

There are no restrictions on accessing the majority of the materials in this collection. However, oversized materials in this collection are stored off site. Please contact us at least two days in advance if you would like to research this collection. Also, access to electronic files in this collection, indicated by an e-number (e.g., ms635_e0001), is restricted until they are fully processed. Requests for unprocessed electronic records can be submitted for consideration, with **at least two weeks advance notice**. Access to original electronic media is restricted.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-635, Grand Lake Restoration Commission Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries, by Bonnie Mathies, a Grand Lake Restoration Commission volunteer who served as the organization's archivist, in September 2018.

Separated Material:

Several large maps were separated to oversize storage.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms635.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Electronic files require the use of appropriate computer hardware and software. File formats include PPT.

Related Material:

Adams, E., Mark Cubberley, and Christine Junker. "Grand Lake St. Marys Archive and History" (Poster). https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/lake_research_symposium_abstracts/18/

Notes:

Grand Lake Restoration Commission is sometimes also referred to as Grand Lake St. Marys Restoration Commission.

Processing Information:

Pages from a magnetic photo album documenting construction near Grand Lake were transferred to a clamshell box. Materials removed from three-ring binders were placed in archival folders with titles reflecting the original binder's divider label.

Processed by:

Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Megan O'Connor, April 2021.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into six series (with two subseries). Material within the series arranged in chronological order.

- Series I, Administrative, 2009-2017
- Series II, Reports and Research, 1960-2016
- Series III, Projects, circa 2007-2017
- Series IV, News clippings, circa 2010-2015
- Series V, Photographs, 1996-2010
- Series VI, Publicity and Outreach, 2010-2017

Biographical/Historical Note:

Grand Lake, also known as Grand Lake Saint Marys, is a manmade lake in Mercer County and Auglaize County, Ohio, neighboring the city of Celina. The lake was constructed in the late 1830s and early 1840s to serve as a reservoir for the Miami-Erie Canal. Since at least the early twentieth century, Grand Lake has served as a recreation destination; it became a state park in 1949. In 1952, the City of Celina began using Grand Lake as its source of drinking water.

In April 2009, testing showed that Grand Lake's water contained comparatively high levels of toxins caused by cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae. These algae feed on nutrients that can wash into the water from sources like nearby fertilizer usage. Although the lake had been known for its algae problems before 2009, the toxins discovered from those tests posed health risks to lakegoers and others, who could absorb the toxins by ingesting the water or inhaling water droplets. Officials posted signs advising visitors to use caution if they partook in activities at the lake. These safety concerns made it likely that the lake would attract fewer visitors.

In January 2010, the Grand Lake Restoration Commission was established "in response to the decline of the economic and ecological health" of the lake, aiming to find economically and ecologically sustainable ways to restore and economically revitalize Grand Lake. The Commission was comprised of groups representing multiple stakeholders, including governmental groups from Mercer and Auglaize Counties and from the Cities of Celina and of St. Marys, Grand Lake St. Marys State Parks, the Grand Lake Wabash Watershed Alliance, the Lake Development Corporation, the Lake Improvement Association, the St. Marys Civic Foundation, and Wright State University (whose Lake Campus is located on the shores Grand Lake in Celina).

Scope and Content Note:

Series I, Administrative, contains materials including meeting minutes, agendas, and strategic plans generated by the Grand Lake Restoration Commission. This also includes general correspondence, primarily printed emails, regarding the Grand Lake Restoration Commission's meetings and interactions. Material dates from 2009-2017.

Series II, Reports and Research, features assorted reports and background information pertaining to Grand Lake, generally documenting the lake's status. These include technical reports created by government organizations, as well as reports by Grand Lake Restoration Commission. Several maps of Grand Lake are also included. Note that reports from specific projects are housed in Series III. *(Please note that, in the course of covering Grand Lake's ecological health, the collection does at times contain images of injured or deceased wildlife, which some may find upsetting.)* Material dates from 1960-2016.

Series III, Projects, contains material documenting the planning and implementation of projects designed to address the issues surrounding Grand Lake's environmental health. These largely include grants, research, and equipment acquisition done in collaboration with entities including Wal-Mart, Battelle, Ball State University, Wright State University, and local businesses. Prominent in the series are grant applications, correspondence, and notes discussing the efficacy of various solutions. The series included two three-ring binders used by the organization, and the original orders of these two sets of files have been maintained. One was a binder concerning Battelle. The other binder was labeled "Organizational Binder," and it contained "working" files reflecting multiple aspects of the Grand Lake Restoration Commission's projects. Material in Series III dates from circa 2007-2017.

Series IV, News clippings, consists of news articles, opinion pieces, and other outside observations reporting on action about Grand Lake, the Grand Lake Restoration Commission, and related projects, entities, and themes. These were originally in three ring binders identified as “Media Binders.” Additional clippings include material about Grand Lake’s environmental health as part of a larger, statewide concern. Material dates from circa 2010-2015.

Series V, Photographs, contains images of Grand Lake and its surroundings. These include pages from a magnetic photo album documenting construction of the Grand Lake Saint Marys Spillway in 1996-1997. It also features color photocopies (modern reproductions) of historical postcards and images of Grand Lake, showing the lake and region’s appearance and usage in the early to mid-twentieth century. Material dates from circa 1996-2015.

Series VI, Publicity and Outreach, contains materials used to promote Grand Lake Restoration Commission, including brochures and donation mailings. Material dates from circa 2010-2017.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Knapke, Thomas
Mathies, Bonnie K.

Organizations/Corporate Names

Grand Lake Restoration Commission
Wright State University—Lake Campus

Places

Celina (Ohio)
Mercer County (Ohio)
Grand Lake Saint Marys
Grand Lake (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Cyanobacteria--Control
Cyanobacteria toxins
Lakes--Ohio
Water--Pollution--Ohio.

Material Types

Minutes
Photographs
Clippings
Reports

Occupations

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
Series I: Administrative			2009-2017
1	1	Planning and announcements	2009
1	2	Agendas	2010
1	3	Blank sign-in sheets	circa 2010
1	4	Committees for Lake Plan implementation	circa 2010
1	5	Financial	circa 2010-2011
1	6	General correspondence	2010-2011
1	7	Grand Lake Restoration Accomplishments and Items for Immediate Action	2010
1	8	Lake restoration presentations	2010
1	9	Minutes	2010
1	10	Organizational chart, members, mission	circa 2010-2015
1	11	Agendas, 2011 (1 of 2)	2011
1	12	Agendas, 2011 (2 of 2)	2011
1	13	Consolidated action plan for Grand Lake St Marys with Grand Lake-Wabash Watershed Alliance and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	2011
1	14	Minutes (1 of 2)	2011
1	15	Minutes (2 of 2)	2011
1	16	Strategic Plan	2011
1	17	Agendas	2012
1	18	Minutes	2012
1	19	Strategic Plan presentation	2012
1	20	Adaptive Management Plan	2017
1	21	Planning and announcements	2009
1	22	Agendas	2010
1	23	Blank sign-in sheets	circa 2010
1	24	Committees for Lake Plan implementation	circa 2010
Series II: Reports and Research			1960-2016
1	25	"Lake St. Marys and Its Management" (Ohio Department of Natural Resources)	1960
1	26	Early Grand Lake Development meeting minutes	1977-1978
1	27	"Grand Lake Water Quality" (Report)	1980
1	28	"Grand Lake St. Marys Ohio: Survey Report for Flood Control and Allied Purposes" Volume 1 of 2	1981 August
2	1	"Grand Lake St. Marys Ohio: Survey Report for Flood Control and Allied Purposes" Volume 2 of 2	1981 August
2	2	"Grand Lake St. Marys: The Restoration of a Canal Lake"	circa 1987
2	3	"Grand Lake Water Quality"	1980

Box	File	Description	Date
2	4	Grand Lake St Marys Watershed Protection Project, Auglaize and Mercer Counties, Ohio	1999
2	5	"In-Stream Management of an Estuarine Bay"	Circa 2002
OS		Grand Lake maps	2006-2016
2	6	"First results of Bentophos – applications in Germany" lake restoration	2007
2	7	Lake Development Corporation: Legislative Day on the Lake	2008
2	8	"Grand Lake St Marys Matters"	2010
2	9	Grand Lake St Marys Sediments Investigation (1 of 2)	2012
2	10	Grand Lake St Marys Sediments Investigation (2 of 2)	2012
2	11	"Harmful Algal Bloom State Survey: Summary of Results and Recommendations"	2014
Series III: Projects			circa 2007-2017
2	12	"Airy-Gator" information and reports	2010
2	13	"Beemats" floating wetlands	2010
2	14	Carp Derby	2010
2	15	Collaboration leads	2010
2	16	EcoSummit Symposium Abstracts	circa 2011-2017
2	17	Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	2010
2	18	Manure Processing Plant - Facts and Information	circa 2010-2017
2	19	Muck and water test instructions	2010
2	20	Ohio Department of Development - Grant agreement with the Board of Mercer County Commissioners	circa 2010-2017
2	21	Ohio Department of Natural Resources "Environmental Specialist 2" job description	2010
2	22	Ohio EPA Grant Ideas	2010
2	23	Otterbein St. Marys Water Quality/Algae Bloom update information	2010
2	24	Public Proposals for Grand Lake Restoration	2010
2	25	Representative names	circa 2010-2011
3	1	State actions for water quality improvements at Grand Lake St. Marys	2010
3	2	Technical critiques on restoration plans	circa 2010-2015
3	3	Wal-Mart grant material: Safety Island Restoration	2010
3	4	Water and Earth Associates - Initial Correspondence	2010
3	5	Water and Earth Associates - Presentation, ferrous removal of phosphorous	2010
ms635_e0001		Water and Earth Associates - Presentation, ferrous removal of phosphorous (digital version)	2010

Box	File	Description	Date
3	6	Ag Solutions (agricultural matters)	2011
3	7	Emergency liquid manure application plan	2011
3	8	Environmental Protection Agency i6 Green Challenge Grant material, Wright State Lake Campus, Center of Advanced Energy from Water Technology Innovations	2011
3	9	Funding research report	2011
3	10	Governor's Cup Regatta	2011
3	11	Grand Lake water testing results	2011
3	12	OEEF grant committee	2011
3	13	SePRO - Grand Lake St. Marys Scoping Cyanobacteria Mitigation Pilot Tests	2011
3	14	Ball State University - communications and marketing consultations	2012
3	15	Reports on effectiveness of alum treatment - Tetra Tech	2012
3	16	Wright State University Inland Lake Restoration Institute - Proposal	2012
3	17	Battelle - Assessment of Restoration	2011
3	18	Battelle - Draft report and assorted presentations	2011
3	19	Battelle - email and notes	2011
3	20	Battelle - letter from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture	2011
3	21	Battelle - Summary report: interim	2011
3	22	Battelle - Email correspondence	2010-2011
3	23	Battelle - Summary report: final	2011 October 12
3	24	Battelle - press release "Battelle report gives recommendations to Grand Lake St Marys Restoration Commission"	circa 2011
3	25	Battelle	2012
4	1	Org. Binder - Solutions: organizational binder	2007-2011
4	2	Org. Binder - Business cards: organizational binder	circa 2008-2017
4	3	Org. Binder - Legislative: organizational binder	2008-2011
4	4	Org. Binder - Alum: organizational binder	2010
4	5	Org. Binder - Business: organizational binder	2010
4	6	Org. Binder - Masterplan: organizational binder	2010-2011
4	7	Org. Binder - Press releases: organizational binder	2010-2011
4	8	Org. Binder - Grants: organizational binder	2011
4	9	Org. Binder - Funds: organizational binder	2011-2012
Series IV: News Clippings			2010-2015
4	10	Grand Lake Press Releases	2010-2011

Box	File	Description	Date
4	11	GLRC "Media 2010" (1 of 3)	2010
4	12	GLRC "Media 2010" (2 of 3)	2010
4	13	GLRC "Media 2010" (3 of 3)	2010
4	14	News clippings	2010
4	15	GLRC "Media 2011" (1 of 2)	2011
5	1	GLRC "Media 2011" (2 of 2)	2011
5	2	GLRC "Media 2012"	2012
5	3	News clippings	2012
5	4	GLRC "2013 news articles"	2013
5	5	News clippings	2013
6	1	GLRC "2014 news articles" (1 of 2)	2014
6	2	GLRC "2014 news articles" (2 of 2)	2014
6	3	GLRC "2015 news articles" (1 of 2)	2015
6	4	GLRC "2015 news articles" (2 of 2)	2015
Series V: Photographs			circa 1996-2015
6	5	Historical postcards and images	circa 2010-2015
7	1	Photo Album: Construction of Grand Lake St Marys Spillway	1996-1997
Series VI: Publicity and Outreach			circa 2010-2017
6	6	Report to the community and booth registrations	2010
6	7	Grand Lake St Marys Community update	2010 September 7
6	8	Grand Lake Restoration promotional material	circa 2010-2017