



**Ohio River Valley Water
Sanitation Commission
Annual Report 2024**

Table of Contents

To the President and Governors	2
Chair & Executive Director Message	3
ORSANCO Staff	4
Members of the Commission	5
What We Do	6
ORSANCO Year in Review	7
Water Quality Monitoring	8
Contact Recreation	9
Nutrient Pollution	10

Harmful Algal Blooms	11
Biological Programs	12
Catches of the Year	13
Foundation for Ohio River Education	14
Environmental Education	15
Outreach Programs	16
Ohio River Caucus	17
2023 Resources Overview	18
Staff Milestones	19

To the President and Governors*

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is an interstate water pollution control agency created in 1948 by the State of Illinois, the State of Indiana, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the State of New York, the State of Ohio, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the State of West Virginia with the approval of the Congress of the United States. The Commissioners of ORSANCO respectfully submit the following annual report of activities for 2024 to:

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor
of Illinois

The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of
Indiana

The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor of
Kentucky

The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of
New York

The Honorable Mike DeWine, Governor
of Ohio

The Honorable Josh Shapiro, Governor of
Pennsylvania

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor of
Virginia

The Honorable Jim Justice, Governor of West
Virginia

And the Honorable Joe Biden, President of
the United States

*This Annual Report reflects July 2023-June 2024

Chair's Message

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as Chair of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). ORSANCO and its partners continue their dedication to protecting and improving the water quality of the Ohio River and its tributaries.

For over 75 years, ORSANCO has played a pivotal role in safeguarding the health of one of the nation's most vital water resources. These types of collaborative efforts have not only ensured the ecological integrity of the Ohio River but also supported the millions of people and diverse ecosystems that rely on its waters. ORSANCO's success is attributed to the support and cooperation of the compact member states, federal partners, local communities, and stakeholders. All immeasurable in achieving the shared vision of a healthier Ohio River.

ORSANCO consists of an exceptional team of commissioners, staff members, and partners whose unwavering commitment and expertise have driven the mission forward. Together navigating numerous challenges, including addressing

pollution, managing emerging contaminants, and improving accessibility to our data and outreach programs, always with the goal of protecting public health and aquatic ecosystems.

Looking ahead, I am confident that ORSANCO will continue to lead with innovation, scientific rigor, and collaborative spirit. We will persist in our efforts to obtain funding, expanding our monitoring efforts, and reaching further into the Ohio River Basin to improve water quality and public perception; ensuring that the Ohio River remains a vital and vibrant resource for future generations.

I look forward to ORSANCO's continued progress in safeguarding the Ohio River for many years to come.



John M. Hoopingarner



Executive Director's Message

As I prepare to step down from my role as Executive Director in November, I reflect on the remarkable progress ORSANCO continues to make towards implementing its compact mission. I would like to take the opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the support and dedication from the Commission, staff, and partners. Collectively, we serve as stewards of the diverse interstate waters of the Ohio River Basin.

This year's annual report highlights ORSANCO's steadfast work in achieving its mission to provide the citizens of the Ohio River Valley and contributing watersheds with outstanding and well-maintained water resources for the 30 million people who call the Ohio River Basin home. Key highlights include: 1) facilitating another successful Ohio River Basin Hill Day event in Washington D.C. along with nearly 40 congressional meetings to ensure our national leaders are aware of the urgent need to elevate the restoration of Ohio River Basin waters as a national priority; 2) finalizing a draft Ohio River Basin Restoration plan produced by ORSANCO, US Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, the Ohio River Basin Alliance, the National Wildlife Federation, and numerous regional partners and distributing it to state agencies for further review; 3) welcoming several new staff members; and of course, 4) completing extensive water quality monitoring and assessment, source water protection, and public involvement programs. While consistent improvements within the basin have been accomplished; ORSANCO's work must continue to improve

water quality in the Ohio River Basin to ensure it can be used for drinking, industrial supplies, recreational purposes, and can support a healthy and diverse aquatic habit.

Working for ORSANCO and its outstanding staff, Commissioners, and partners since 2015 has been the highlight of my 40 year career. Although I am looking forward to rejoining the Northern Kentucky Water District, who joins 30 other exceptional drinking water utilities that also work tirelessly to serve over 5 million people who depend on the Ohio River as a drinking water source, I will always value the special privilege that has been granted to me to lead such an incredible team dedicated to improving the water quality of one of the most important and diverse watersheds in the world.

Thank you for all your hard work, commitment, and collaboration. It has been an honor to lead this remarkable organization, and I am excited to stay involved and see how ORSANCO continues to thrive in the future.



Richard Harrison



WHO WE ARE



ORSANCO Staff

Technical Programs



Richard Harrison, P.E.,
Executive
Director & Chief
Engineer



Tracey Edmonds,
Administrative
Assistant



Jason Heath, P.E.,
Technical Programs
Director



Sam Dinkins,
Technical
Programs
Manager



Stacey Cochran,
Lead Senior
Environmental
Scientist



Greg Youngstrom,
Lead Senior
Environmental
Scientist



Emilee Harmeling,
Environmental
Scientist II



Jamie Tsiominas,
Environmental
Scientist/Organics
Detection System



Lila Xepoleas
Ziolkowski, Lead
Senior Analytical
Chemist and Quality
Assurance



Ryan Argo,
Technical
Programs
Manager



Rob Tewes,
Lead Senior
Biologist



Bridget Borrowdale,
Senior Aquatic
Biologist



Daniel Cleves,
Senior Aquatic
Biologist



Bridget Taylor, *5 Years
Environmental
Scientist II



Ryan Hudson,
Aquatic
Biologist II



Alexis Brandenburg,
Environmental
Scientist I



Riley Lanfear,
Environmental
Scientist I

Administrative Programs & Human Resources



Jennifer Coldiron,
Director of Finance
and Administration



David Bailey,
Director of
Administration &
Human Resources



Adam Scott,
Computer
Systems
Administrator



Joe Gilligan,
Comptroller



Nick Guthrie,
Accountant



Annette Shumard,
Communications
& Environmental
Education Manager



Nick Callahan,
Environmental
Education
and Outreach
Coordinator



Sarah Segars
Public Information
and Outreach
Coordinator

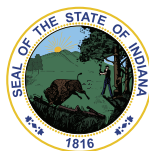


Matt Glazer,
Building
Maintenance,
Part-time

ORSANCO is an interstate compact agency for the Ohio River Basin, representing 8 states and the federal government. Member states include Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Established in 1948, ORSANCO leadership consists of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor from each member state and three appointed by the federal government. ORSANCO's compact mission is to protect the water quality of the Ohio River and its tributaries to be used as a source of drinking water, industrial supply, recreational purposes, and support a healthy and diverse aquatic community.

The Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supporting organization created to provide programming in conjunction with and in support of ORSANCO's public outreach goals. FORE's mission is to teach people of all ages within the Ohio River Basin to become environmental stewards that explore river science, improve the perception of Ohio River water quality, and encourage preserving the cultural, ecological, and economic value of basin waters.

WHO WE ARE



Members of the Commission



Chair
John M.
Hoopingarner
Ohio



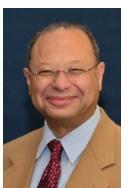
Vice Chair
David Flannery
Steptoe &
Johnson, PLLC
West Virginia



Executive Director
and Chief
Engineer
Richard Harrison
P.E.



Secretary/ Treasurer
Joseph H. Harrison, Jr.
Dentons Bingham
Greenebaum, LLP
Indiana



Federal
George
Elmaraghy



Federal
Tom Fitzgerald
Director, Kentucky
Resources Council



Federal
David Miracle
Environmental
Manager, Nucor



Illinois
John Kim
Director, Illinois
EPA



Illinois
Toby Frevert



Indiana
John Kupke



Indiana
Brian Rockensuess
Commissioner,
Department of
Environmental
Management



Kentucky
Spencer Bruce
President & CEO,
Louisville Water
Company



Kentucky
Jacqueline
Coleman
Lieutenant
Governor



Kentucky
Rebecca
Goodman
Secretary, KY
Energy and
Environment
Cabinet



New York
Douglas E. Conroe
Executive Director,
Chautauqua Lake
Association Inc.



New York
Basil Seggos
Commissioner,
New York
Department of
Environmental
Conservation



New York
Michael P. Wilson



Ohio
Holly Christmann
Assistant County
Administrator for
Hamilton County,
Ohio



Ohio
Anne Vogel
Director,
Ohio EPA



Pennsylvania
Jessica Shirley
Interim Acting
Secretary
Pennsylvania DEP



Pennsylvania
Bruce Herschlag



Virginia
Thomas Branin
Vice President
of National and
International
Distribution
for Colonial
Construction
Materials, Inc.



Virginia
Lou Ann Jessee
Wallace
Virginia Water
Control Board &
Owner of Design
Printers



Virginia
Mike Rolband
Director,
Virginia DEQ



West Virginia
Ronald R. Potesta
President, Potesta
and Associates



West Virginia
Harold Ward
Cabinet
Secretary, West
Virginia DEP

*As of June 30, 2024. A current list of ORSANCO's Commissioners is available at www.orsanco.org.



WHAT WE DO

ORSANCO programs include water quality monitoring and assessment, spill detection and emergency response, setting Ohio River discharge pollution control standards, and public involvement.

Water Quality Monitoring

ORSANCO operates numerous water quality monitoring programs to help ensure four designated uses of the Ohio River are protected (drinking water, industrial supply, recreation, and support of aquatic habitat). The Ohio River Basin is home to more than 30 million people and the Ohio River is a primary source of drinking water for about five million people. Monitoring programs encompass bacteria monitoring, emerging contaminants, as well as biological surveys to assess the health of the aquatic habitat in the Ohio River.

Emergency & Spill Response

The Ohio River is a working river, providing the necessary water resources to support industries for manufacturing, energy, natural gasses, and fuel production. Through the 19 locks and dams on the Ohio River, more than 184 million tons of cargo are transported annually. With the substantial industrial and commercial uses of the river, there is a significant threat for releases and discharges of pollutants. ORSANCO's Organics Detection System (ODS) monitors the Ohio River mainstem and select tributaries for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) daily. Additionally, ORSANCO receives spill reports on a 24 hour basis for state and federal agencies and relays information to the states and utilities whose drinking water may be impacted.

Public Information and Outreach

With the help of the Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE), the communication and public involvement programs at ORSANCO develop, coordinate, and disseminate ORSANCO data collection, environmental education programs, and outreach activities throughout the Ohio River Basin. ORSANCO staff work with each technical program to compile complex water quality information regarding a wide variety of topics and customize for public distribution via the ORSANCO website, various media channels, and print publications. The goal is to improve the perception of the Ohio River, promote the protection of its vital uses, and make data more accessible to the public.





YEAR IN REVIEW ORSANCO



OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

ANOTHER YEAR OF PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE VITAL USES OF THE OHIO RIVER

CONTACT RECREATION



ORSANCO monitors fecal coliform and *E. coli* bacteria levels in the river

455

samples collected

DRINKING WATER

19,000

Number of samples taken by our Organics Detection System monitoring for volatile contaminants in the Ohio River

392

Number of spills calls & notifications received by ORSANCO

19

Number of gas chromatographs (GCs) positioned along the 981 miles of the Ohio River

BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMS



Each year, ORSANCO biologists collect and assess data on habitat, substrate, aquatic vegetation, and fish and macroinvertebrate populations

45

sampling locations

FOUNDATION FOR OHIO RIVER EDUCATION (FORE)

FORE provides environmental education and outreach opportunities to people of all ages. FORE programs include:



- RiverREACH: floating classroom and canoe program
- RiverWatchers: Citizen science water quality testing program
- Educational demonstrations and public outreach events

Individuals reached in 5 states

13,730

Education & Outreach Events

64

BIMONTHLY & CLEAN METALS SAMPLING

192

samples collected

Bimonthly water quality sampling has provided long term monitoring in the Ohio River and mouth of major tributaries since 1975

96

samples collected

The Clean Metals program data evaluates the river's ability to support fish and macroinvertebrates

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

30

Number of sensors on monitoring stations along the Ohio River that collect data every thirty minutes (pH, conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and chlorophyll a)



LIFE BELOW THE WATERLINE

2,200 gallon mobile aquarium

4

Events

30

Species caught & displayed

20,340

Visitors

OHIO RIVER SWEEP

121

Clean-up events

4,596

Volunteers

85

Tons of trash collected

902

Tires removed

218.5

Miles covered

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

After all the hard work the Organics Detection System (ODS) put forth during the train derailment spill in East Palestine, OH, some notable benefactors contributed significant resources to keep the organics detection network thriving. ODS instrumentation is expensive and typically funded through external sources and grant opportunities. Due to this, system replacements are rare and staff work diligently to keep existing systems functional and operational.

Through their Vibrant Communities program, Chemours™, gifted ORSANCO with the funds needed to purchase a new volatile organics monitoring system that includes purge and trap technology with a gas chromatograph (GC) and mass spectrometer detector (GCMS) to replace the outdated, obsolete and non-functioning system currently at the site. Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), a current ODS partner,

donated one of their GCMS systems to ORSANCO, also replacing obsolete units not compatible with other units. Louisville Water Company decided to purchase a new volatiles monitoring system in order to allow the current ODS system to be replaced at another site. Components of the Louisville system were placed in current ODS sites. The Paducah site was upgraded to now include GCMS analysis.

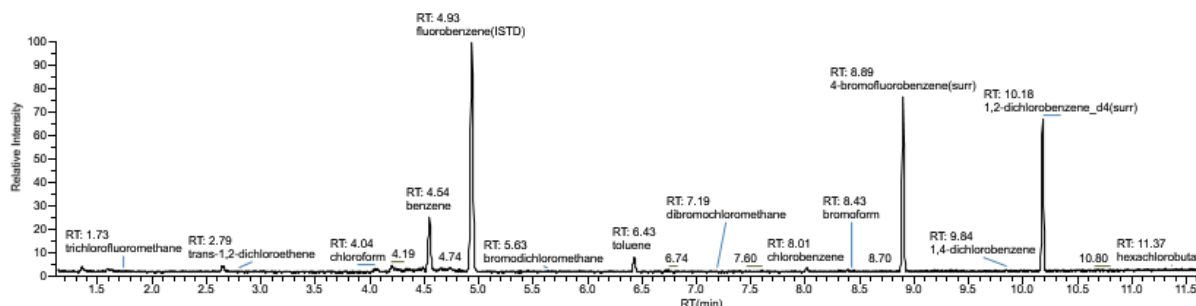
ORSANCO installed a process GC at Thomas More University Biological Field Station. The system will be used as a learning asset to biology student cohorts while providing ORSANCO relevant data on volatile pollutants.



Week of:	7/12/2024					
	PITTSBURGH	WHEELING	HUNTINGTON	CINCINNATI	LOUISVILLE	EVANSVILLE
Temperature	74.7 °F	81.0 °F	85.1 °F	81.9 °F	82.2 °F	84.2 °F
Turbidity (ntu)	10.1	5.0	3.0	4.9	4.8	13.5
pH	7.6	7.9	7.7	8.6 °F	8.3	7.7
River Stage (ft)	17.2 feet	16.2 feet	25.9 feet	26.9 feet	12.6 feet	14.4 feet
River Flow (KCF5)	5.3	8.8	24.8	23.6	36.8	51.2
River Velocity(mph)	0.2 mph	0.3 mph	0.5 mph	0.5 mph	0.4 mph	0.9 mph
Samples were collected and processed on 07/09-07/10 this week.						
E. coli RM and Conc.	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)	River Mile	Conc. (CFU/100mL)
E. coli RM and Conc.	1.4	40	86.8	20	305.1	20
E. coli RM and Conc.	4.3	35	92.8	20	314.8	20
NS=No Sample collected						
				477.5	4	

The Weekly Ohio River Water Quality Report is updated weekly and posted to the ORSANCO website and social media channels. It provides basic water quality and river information for six locations along the Ohio River: Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Huntington, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Evansville.

Chromatogram-Benzene Contamination



Gas chromatography produces large graphs called chromatograms. The three larger peaks shown are known compounds added to each sample for QA QC measures. With mass spectrometry, ORSANCO was able to identify the peaks, in this graph, benzene and toluene, caused by an unknown spill.

CONTACT RECREATION

455

Samples taken during the recreation season

13

Sites in 6 different locations (Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Huntington, Louisville, Evansville, & Cincinnati)

A real-time datasonde called the Proteus, which enables bacteria counts in seconds rather than 18-24 hours, was first utilized by ORSANCO environmental scientists in 2024. Staff are currently conducting a pilot study of the Proteus and Colilert Method (incubated) to determine if this might be an instrument to utilize in the future for bacteria monitoring. ORSANCO's Contact Recreation season began with a challenge this year due to flooding and high velocities along the Ohio River. Once the waters receded, sediment and muck made access to the river to obtain samples difficult!

ORSANCO provided additional sampling prior to the Great Ohio River Swim and Ohio River Paddlefest events again this year to inform participants that the river had safe levels of bacteria.

455 samples were taken across 13 sites in 6 different locations (Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Huntington, Louisville, Evansville, & Cincinnati). Of these samples, 15% exceeded the criteria for safe levels of bacteria for the recreation season.



NUTRIENT POLLUTION



ORSANCO

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
orsanco.org/water-quality-information

Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS)

NPS comes from many diffuse sources and occurs when runoff from rainfall or snowmelt move across and through the ground, picking up natural and man-made pollutants and depositing them into rivers, lakes, wetlands, coastal, and groundwater sources. NPS is the leading cause of water quality problems, and can have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

[Read More About What You Can Do To Prevent NPS](#)

[*EPA Non Point Source Pollution](#)

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission is a compact interstate agency. Since 1948, ORSANCO and its member states have cooperated to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin ensuring the river supports its four designated uses. ORSANCO operates monitoring programs to check for pollutants and toxins that threaten water quality of the Ohio River.



4 Uses

Sources of Pollution

Agriculture

(animal waste, fertilizers, pesticides)



Point Sources

(Smokestacks, discharge pipes, drainage ditches)



Urban

(oil, grease, household chemicals and detergents, pet waste, combined sewers and septic tanks)



Forests

(sediment, pathogens and bacteria from wildlife waste)



ORSANCO

- Ohio River states are responsible for performing potential contaminant source inventories for drinking water intakes within their boundaries. ORSANCO coordinates information exchange between states with its [Source Water Protection program](#).
- Excess nitrogen and phosphorus lead to significant water quality problems including harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and declines in wildlife and wildlife habitats. Read more about ORSANCO and partners' [nutrient reduction activities](#).
- The Ohio River Watershed Pollutant Reduction Program 1995-2010 identified pollutants within the Ohio River Basin to develop strategies at pollution reduction.



Ohio River Basin

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

30

Sensors on monitoring stations collect data every 30 minutes (pH, conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and chlorophyll a)

300

Different species of algae identified on the Ohio River. These algae are divided into 8 taxonomic divisions

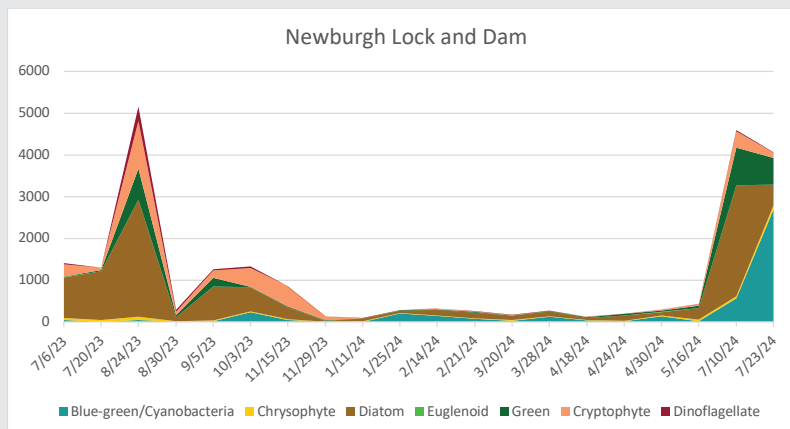
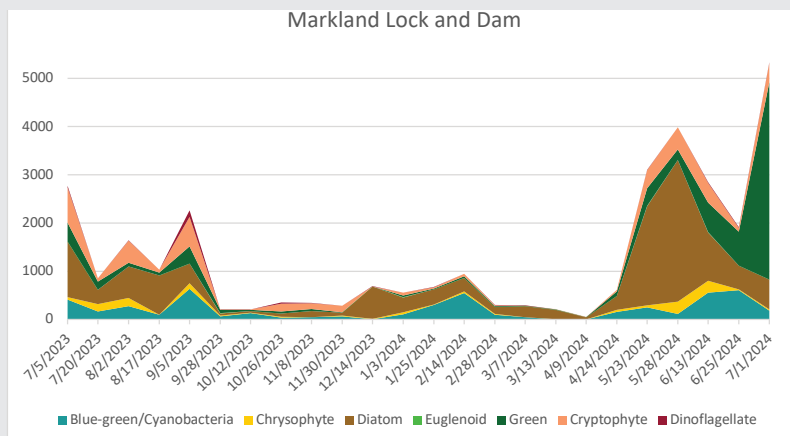
Nutrients and algae are a natural component of the Ohio River and are present throughout the year. During most months of the year, the Ohio River is dominated by diatoms, which are single-celled phytoplankton encased in a hard, intricate silica shell. Diatoms photosynthesize more efficiently than other types of phytoplankton, and can thrive in turbid, low light conditions. These conditions are common in the Ohio River due to precipitation washing sediment and other suspended materials into the water.

Other types of phytoplankton, including green algae, increase during late spring and summer months as nutrients from stormwater runoff are utilized, and sunlight and temperatures increase. Extended periods of warm, dry weather can create low flow conditions in the Ohio River, allowing even more sunlight to penetrate the warm water. Such conditions favor prolific growth of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), known as a bloom. Blooms of cyanobacteria that are capable of producing toxins are called Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

ORSANCO operates four datasondes with telemetry systems to monitor the Ohio River for bloom conditions between the months of June and September. The monitoring systems are located at the locks and dams of Pike Island, Meldahl, Markland, and Newburgh. In 2024, due to sensor issues, the telemetry systems recorded data from only the Newburgh and Markland locks and dams.



Microcystis



Algae data collected by ORSANCO

BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMS

ORSANCO biologists sample each of the 19 navigational pools in the Ohio River on a 5-7 year basis. This year, staff sampled the New Cumberland and Cannelton Pools.

Between the months of June and September, staff completed 41 sites across 4 states (OH, KY, IN, & IL) for the National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA). This EPA collaborative survey provides information on the ecological condition of the nation's rivers and streams and the key stressors that affect them. The water bodies sampled in NRSA are highly variable in size and geomorphology. Sample sites include everything from small, unnamed agricultural ditches to large rivers, and everything in between. Sampling proved difficult as some sites were too deep to sample by wading, yet too inaccessible or shallow to use any of our boats. A solution that could be carried through the woods and navigate shallow waters was needed, and the electro bass buggy was born! A flat-bottom plastic bass buggy was turned into an electrofishing vessel by creating an anode extension out of wire cable, housing it in PVC, and extending it to a backpack electrofishing unit. Cathodes were installed, and a small aerated tub was situated perfectly in between the two seats.



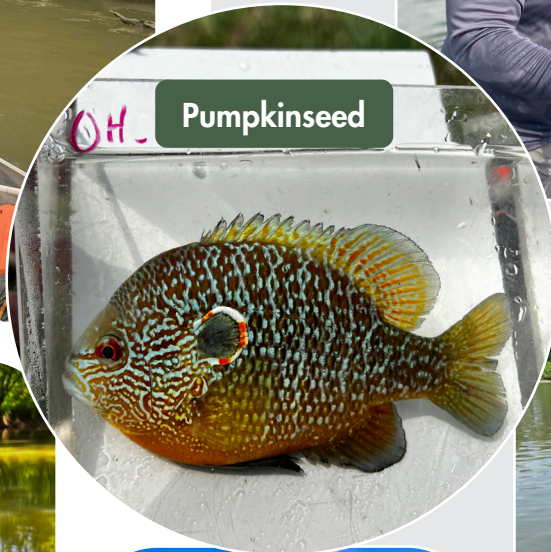
CATCHES OF THE YEAR



Blue catfish



Largemouth bass



Pumpkinseed



Smallmouth bass



Muskellunge



Flathead catfish



Shovelnose sturgeon



Snapping turtle



Bowfin



Blue sucker



FOUNDATION FOR OHIO RIVER EDUCATION

FORE is a 501(c)(3) supporting organization of ORSANCO that independently raises funds to provide environmental education and outreach activities that promote the work and impact of ORSANCO water quality monitoring and assessment. FORE educators receive training from ORSANCO scientists in the field to utilize its data to enhance the quality of experiential learning activities and curriculum development. This collaboration enables FORE to provide Ohio River scientific experiences that are true to the field of aquatic biology and chemistry while changing the perception of water quality and learning to value the vital resources of the Ohio River. FORE prioritizes fundraising to offer programming in areas throughout the basin with limited or no access to environmental science learning opportunities and outdoor based experiences.



Elizabeth Burton, Environmental Educator



Rachel Toney, Environmental Educator



2024 Program Sponsors:

Ohio EPA OEEF
Duke Energy Foundation
EQT Foundation
Elsa Sule Foundation

64

Environmental Education &
Community Events

13,730

Individuals reached across 5 states

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

River REACH: Research, Exploration, and Adventure Charters is a floating classroom program partnering with BB Riverboats to provide an exciting voyage of science and discovery along the Ohio River. While onboard, students dress the part by wearing lab coats and safety gear to test water quality. They are taught how to make habitat assessments, observe aquatic organisms like fish, macroinvertebrates, and plankton, by using the same methods and equipment as ORSANCO scientists. A canoe/kayak version of this program is also available with similar curriculum that allows students to paddle on local waterways while learning how fish and aquatic organisms are used to determine the health of the river. Thanks to funding from the Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund (OEEF), FORE offered 15 free programs to Cincinnati area high schools ranking 50% or higher on the Free and Reduced Lunch Rate Scale. In order to better enhance the program this year, a new station was integrated featuring local environmental groups to highlight additional resources and build valuable collaborative partnerships. As a result, multiple students selected environmental science fields of study and others were connected to job opportunities at BB Riverboats.

River Watchers: A citizen science volunteer monitoring program for the Ohio River and its tributaries throughout the Ohio River Basin, the program includes schools and volunteer groups located through 6 states. Since the program began, thousands of volunteers have collected samples to learn about water quality testing and analysis through the lens of a watershed approach. Through a grant awarded by EQT Foundation, three additional schools in the Monongahela watershed were added to the program and received an in person classroom training at their school. This year, improvements were made to the chemical testing kits and a new macroinvertebrate kit to increase the water quality experiential learning for students and teachers. As a result of the supplies and training, one of the new schools placed 6th overall in the Pennsylvania Envirothon competition, scoring 4th in the state for the aquatics section, and earning a \$200 scholarship for each student!

Ohio River Conservation Course: For the first time, FORE partnered with Thomas More University Biological Field Station, Ohio River Foundation, and Northern Kentucky Sanitation District No. 1 to host a summer camp for high school students focused on education and career exploration in aquatic science. The course introduced a variety of careers and skills used in water quality, ranging from biological/chemical sampling, to water sanitation work. Through grant funding from Duke Energy Foundation, scholarships were offered to 3 students in need.



121

Clean-up events



85

Tons of trash collected

4,596

Volunteers

902

Tires removed

218.5

Miles of shoreline cleaned



4

Events

30

Species caught and displayed

20,340

Visitors

2024 Sponsor:
Duke Energy Foundation

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Ohio River Sweep

The Ohio River Sweep program engages volunteers and promotes changed behavior through environmental stewardship. Each year from March through October, thousands of volunteers remove tons of garbage and tires along shorelines of the Ohio River and its many tributaries. The program ships free litter clean up supplies and a souvenir t-shirt anywhere throughout the basin. Participation reinforces the message that litter throughout the watershed can eventually end up in the Ohio River and impact the health of our ecosystem.

2024 Sponsors:

Antero Foundation
American Water

Aqua Ohio
Berry Global
Cleveland-Cliffs
Conifer and Current Hydro
DuPont

EQT Foundation
Koppers
LG&E and KU
Louisville Water Company
Marathon MPLX

Marathon Petroleum
Milacron

North American Stainless
Nucor Steel Gallatin
Ohio EPA
Sanitation District No.1, KY
Shell Polymers
Southwire
Styropek
WAVE Foundation
Westlake

Life Below the Waterline

The 2,200 gallon freshwater aquarium teaches about the diverse ecological habitat of over 160 species living in the Ohio River. This year, the recently revitalized program reached wider audiences in its second year back after a 4 year hiatus. FORE staff trained with the ORSANCO biologists to become more adept in electrofishing, fish husbandry, and aquarium operations, continuing to further develop the program and expanding its reach.



OHIO RIVER BASIN CAUCUS

Caucus: The Ohio River Basin Caucus is co-chaired by Congressman Morgan McGarvey (D- KY-03) and Congresswoman Erin Houchin (R-IN-09), leading a charge to restore, revitalize, and protect the Ohio River. This bipartisan group of members of Congress include: Larry Bucshon (IN-08), Thomas Massie (KY-04), Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Hal Rogers (KY-05), Max Miller (OH-07), Bob Latta (OH-05), Greg Landsman (OH-01), Emilia Sykes (OH-13), Brad Wenstrup (OH-02), Nikki Budzinski (IL-13), Chris Deluzio (PA-17), Mike Carey (OH-15), and David Trone (MD-06), James Comer (KY-01), Troy Balderson (OH-12), Scott Desjarlais (TN-04), Andy Barr (KY-06), and Carol Miller (WV-01). ORSANCO is dedicated to supporting the caucus in addressing critical economic, infrastructure, agricultural, environmental, and community issues within the entire Ohio River Basin; advocating for policies and funding that promote economic prosperity and conservation along the Ohio River.

Ohio River Basin Hill Day Event: On May 16th, 2024, ORSANCO and the Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA) completed their second annual Ohio River Basin Day on the Hill at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington D.C. This event marked a significant milestone in an ongoing collaboration aimed at advancing an Ohio River Basin Restoration Plan that will address the threats to the region's water through collaborative solutions. Over 60 participants attended the event, including community leaders, industry experts, elected officials, national agencies, environmental groups, grassroots organizations, and enthusiastic supporters. Keynote speakers included

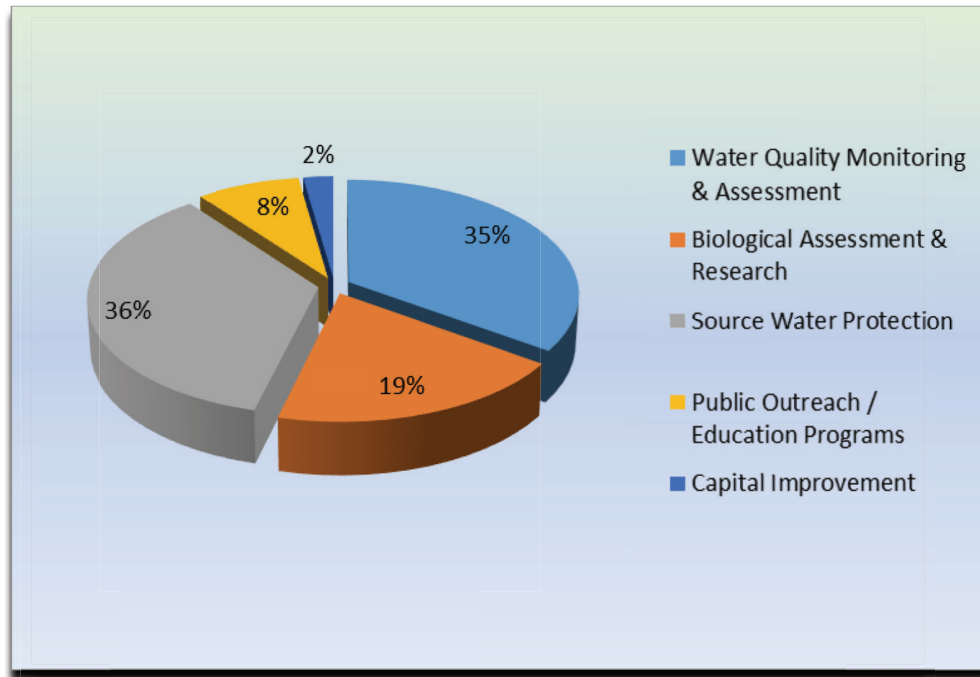
Congressman Morgan McGarvey, US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water Acting Assistant Administrator Burno Pigott, ORSANCO Executive Director Richard Harrison, National Wildlife Foundation Director Ohio River Restoration Jordan Lubetkin, National Park Service Deputy Associate Director Stephan Nofield, and Huntington District Commander Colonel Jason Putnam and Regional Programs Director Joe Savage of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. After the event, members of the alliance met with nearly 40 congressional offices to raise awareness regarding emerging challenges and rally support for the waterways of the Ohio River Basin.

Ohio River Basin Restoration Plan: More than 30 million people depend on the interconnected waters of the Ohio River Basin for their drinking water, economic development, jobs, and quality of life. Yet these waters face serious threats including toxic pollution, sewage contamination, mine waste, runoff, and flooding. The Ohio River Restoration Plan supports manageable solutions for cleaning up pollution, reducing runoff, restoring wildlife habitat, modernizing water infrastructure, and preventing unwanted, non-native species from entering our waters. The science-based plan was written by stakeholders from state and federal agencies, including ORSANCO staff, educational institutions, utilities, businesses, and non-governmental organizations with input from more than 500 residents who participated in listening sessions hosted by the National Wildlife Federation throughout the region.



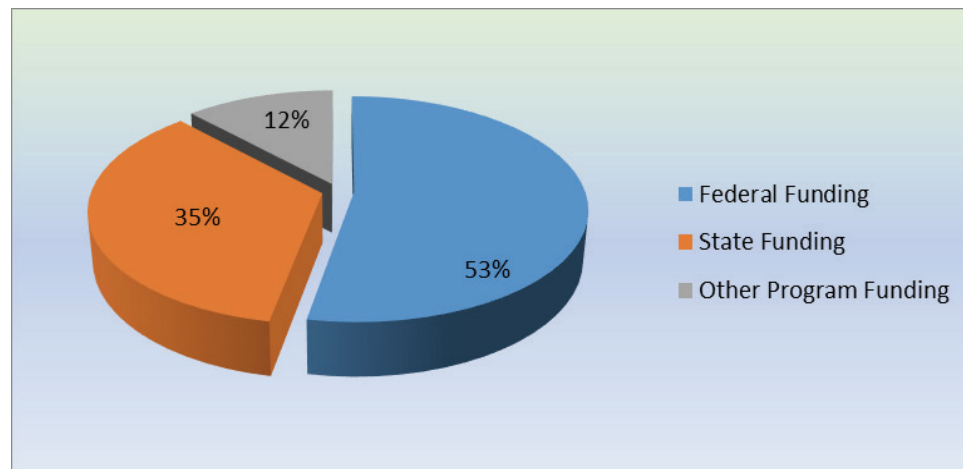
2024 ORSANCO RESOURCES OVERVIEW

Budgeted Expenditures by Major Program Area



Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment
Biological Assessment & Research
Source Water Protection
Public Outreach/Education
Capital Improvement

Budgeted Resources by Major Source



Federal Funding.....State Funding.....Other Program Funding

Audited detailed financial statements for 2024 will be available in February 2025

2024 ORSANCO STAFF MILESTONES



Danny Cleves – 5 years



Bridget Borrowdale – 5 years



Ryan Argo – 15 years



Rob Tewes – 15 years



Stacey Cochran – 20 years



Greg Youngstrum – 20 years



Lila Ziolkowski – 20 years



David Bailey – Retired
June 30th, after 24 years



Jason Heath – 35 years

ORSANCO

5735 Kellogg Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45230

Phone (513) 231-7719

www.orsanco.org

Address Service Requested

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X!

facebook.com/ORSANCO

ORSANCOchannel

instagram.com/orsancochannel

x.com/ORSANCOchannel

