



The 14-state Ohio River Basin includes portions of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.



OHIO RIVER BASIN
ALLIANCE



OHIO RIVER BASIN
ALLIANCE

The Ohio River is home to over 25 million people.

Over 10 million people get drinking water from the Ohio River and its tributaries.

The Ohio River Basin is internationally renowned for the biodiversity of its 16 ecoregions. It is home to 160 species of fish.

Over 120 multipurpose dams in the Basin provide flood control, water supply, hydropower and recreation opportunities.

The Ohio River generates more than \$80 billion in consumer spending through world-class nature recreation.

The Ohio River moves roughly 200 million tons of barge cargo through 140 river terminals.

The rivers, streams, and wetlands of the Ohio River Basin are a national treasure. They provide drinking water, wildlife habitat, natural flood control, water filtering, countless recreational opportunities, and unequalled scenic beauty. Careful planning, protection, and long-term investment are needed to sustain both the treasure and the economic benefits derived from it.

Contact ORBA:

Craig Butler, ORBA Chairperson
cbutler@mwcd.org
www.orsanco.org/orba/



OHIO RIVER BASIN
ALLIANCE

**A Unified Voice for
the Ohio River**

About ORBA

The Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA) is a collaborative, unified voice of stakeholders striving to sustain healthy ecosystems and vibrant river communities, with economies dependent upon world-class river resources within the Ohio River Basin.

ORBA provides a forum for addressing water resource issues in the Ohio River Basin in today's changing environment.

ORBA began in 2009 as an outgrowth of the Ohio River Basin Summit co-led by Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Today, ORBA includes over 500 members from over 200 organizations including local, state and federal agencies, as well as commissions, industry, academia, and non-profits.

The Ohio River Basin Strategic Plan

In 2019 and 2020, ORBA worked with ORSANCO and the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop a **Plan for the Ohio River Basin 2020-2025**. This document provides six Ohio River Basin-wide goals, and lays out strategic actions for meeting those goals.



ORBA Goal

Strategic Actions

Abundant Clean Water:

Ensure the quality and quantity of water in the Ohio River Basin is adequate to support the economic, social, and environmental functions that are dependent on it.

Secure Infrastructure investments for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, including green infrastructure. Investments in monitoring and assessment capabilities.

Healthy and Productive Ecosystems:

Conserve and restore ecosystems within the Ohio River Basin to support natural habitats and wildlife resources that depend upon them.

A needs analysis of the ecosystems of the Basin has provided scientific and economic justification for an Ohio River Restoration, which will be unveiled in 2023.

Knowledge and Education to Inform Decisions:

Ensure that research and education inform Ohio River Basin-wide economic, social, and environmental decisions; enhance the profile of education organizations in the Basin and synergize efforts to garner effective public involvement in the stewardship and management of the Basin's resources.

Collaboration among stakeholders to identify and prioritize challenges that need to be addressed through research; coalitions to address research priorities; and education of the public on the challenges to valuable water resource benefits and solutions to the challenges.

Nation's Most Valuable River Transportation and Commerce Corridor:

Provide for safe, efficient, and dependable commercial navigation within the Ohio River Basin to ensure a competitive advantage for our goods in global and regional markets; sustain a water use system to efficiently and effectively support agricultural, industrial, and energy productivity.

Ensure efficient funding to ensure locks and dams maintenance to prevent delays. Attract industries to the Basin that will use the inland waterways system.

Reliable Flood Risk Management:

Provide reliable flood risk management through well-managed and maintained infrastructure, including appropriate floodplain connections for water conveyance and ecosystem benefits, and management of surface and storm water runoff to better protect life, property, and economies.

Prepare a Basin-wide investment plan that addresses high flood risk areas, including areas where dams and local protection projects exist. Install and maintain sufficient stream gages to provide timely and accurate flood warnings to the public.

World-class Nature-based Recreation Opportunities:

Enrich the quality of life for people and recreation-based economies by maintaining and enhancing riverine, lake, and wetland-associated recreation within the Basin

Connect terrestrial and water trails networks to develop a highly integrated outdoor recreation system throughout the Basin that ensures adequate access, particularly for underserved communities, and that serves as an engine for economic growth.