

Lower Great Miami River Watershed

The Lower Great Miami River Watershed begins downstream of the confluence of Wolf Creek, the Stillwater, Great Miami, and Mad Rivers at Dayton, Ohio. Principal tributary streams include Twin Creek, Sevenmile Creek, and Fourmile Creek.

Approximately 73% of the land within the Lower Great Miami Basin is used for agriculture. Urban or developed land comprises 18%, while only 6% of the land within the watershed is forested.



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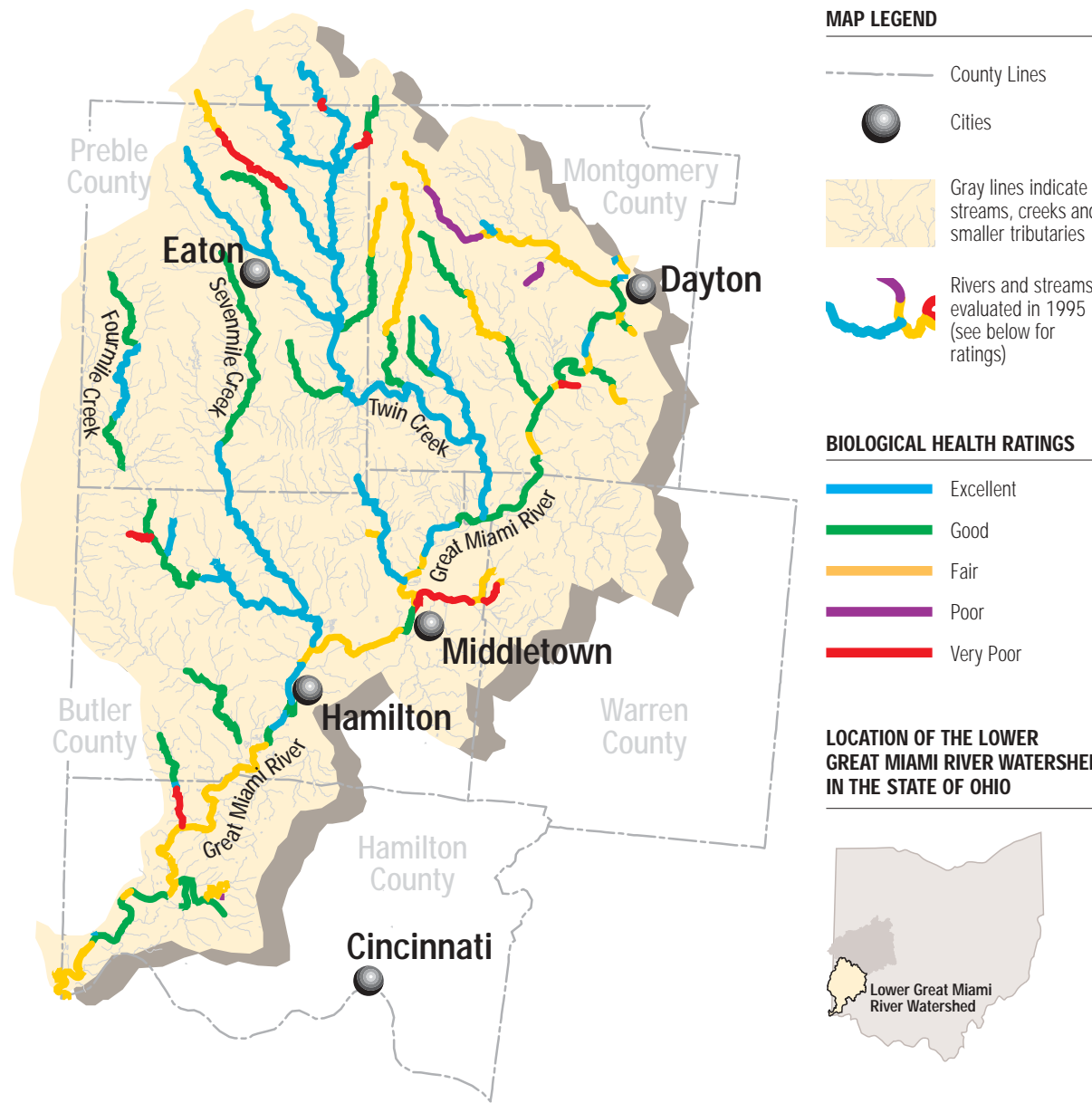
www.miamiconservancy.org

To get involved in your watershed, contact:
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Data courtesy Ohio EPA Technical Support Documents

Biological health of rivers and streams in the Lower Great Miami River Watershed



THE DIVERSITY OF FISH IS A GOOD INDICATOR OF A RIVER'S HEALTH

As the biological conditions of a river improve, the number of fish species found will increase. Smallmouth Bass are one of the most popular sport fish and can be found in growing numbers in Ohio's inland streams and rivers. The Great Miami River Watershed has some of the

best Smallmouth Bass fishing in Ohio — an indication that the Watershed's health and water quality are improving! As water quality standards are achieved, the number and diversity of fish should continue to increase.



The Smallmouth Bass — found in many of Ohio's rivers and streams

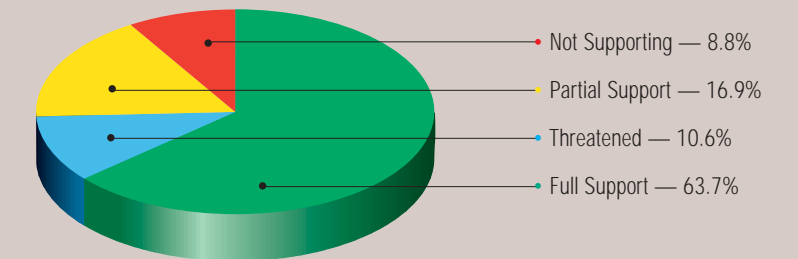
Other facts about the Lower Great Miami River Watershed

HOW HEALTHY IS THE LOWER GREAT MIAMI RIVER WATERSHED?

A 1995 Ohio EPA Biosurvey identified that the water quality of this watershed has greatly improved in the last few decades. This is mainly due to the improvement of treatment for sewage and industrial discharges before it emptying into the rivers.

One of the major challenges to fully restoring water and ecological quality in the Lower Great Miami Watershed is to maintain the progress made with pollution discharges while reversing the loss of streamside forests and restoring natural stream channels where possible.

How streams in the Lower Great Miami River Watershed support ecological water quality standards:



EFFECTS OF LOW DAMS ON STREAMS

While low dams provide certain aesthetic and recreational benefits, today's science shows they also cause considerable harm to rivers and streams. By blocking stream flow, low dams change the chemical, physical, and biological processes of rivers, which can degrade good water quality.

Many low dams have aged beyond their planned life expectancy, causing safety risks for communities. In many cases, dam removal costs less than repairing an unsafe dam. Creative solutions may include modifying the structure to allow fish migration and canoe passage.



The low dam near downtown Dayton is just one of many low dams along the Great Miami River whose positive impact must be weighed against its environmental impact to the river's ecosystem.

THREATS TO THE LOWER GREAT MIAMI RIVER

Water pollution threatens both public health and aquatic life. The quality of the streams in the Lower Great Miami River Watershed is impaired by five main sources. Point sources of pollution (pollutant sources that are easy to locate and regulate) are responsible for only about 15%. The other impairment sources include polluted runoff from both rural and urban land, and modifications made to the shape and slope of the streambank and stream channel.

Sources of Impairment to the Great Miami River Watershed by percentage of impact:

