

Mad River Watershed

The Mad River Watershed is one of only a few watersheds in Ohio that provides coldwater habitat for aquatic wildlife. Areas of the Mad River support freshwater Trout and are also popular fishing spots for anglers.

The Mad River flows for just over 60 miles and drains more than 657 square miles of land before flowing into the Great Miami River.

Groundwater and surface water are more completely connected in the Mad River watershed than any other river system in Ohio. Land use practices can affect both groundwater and surface water in this highly sensitive system.



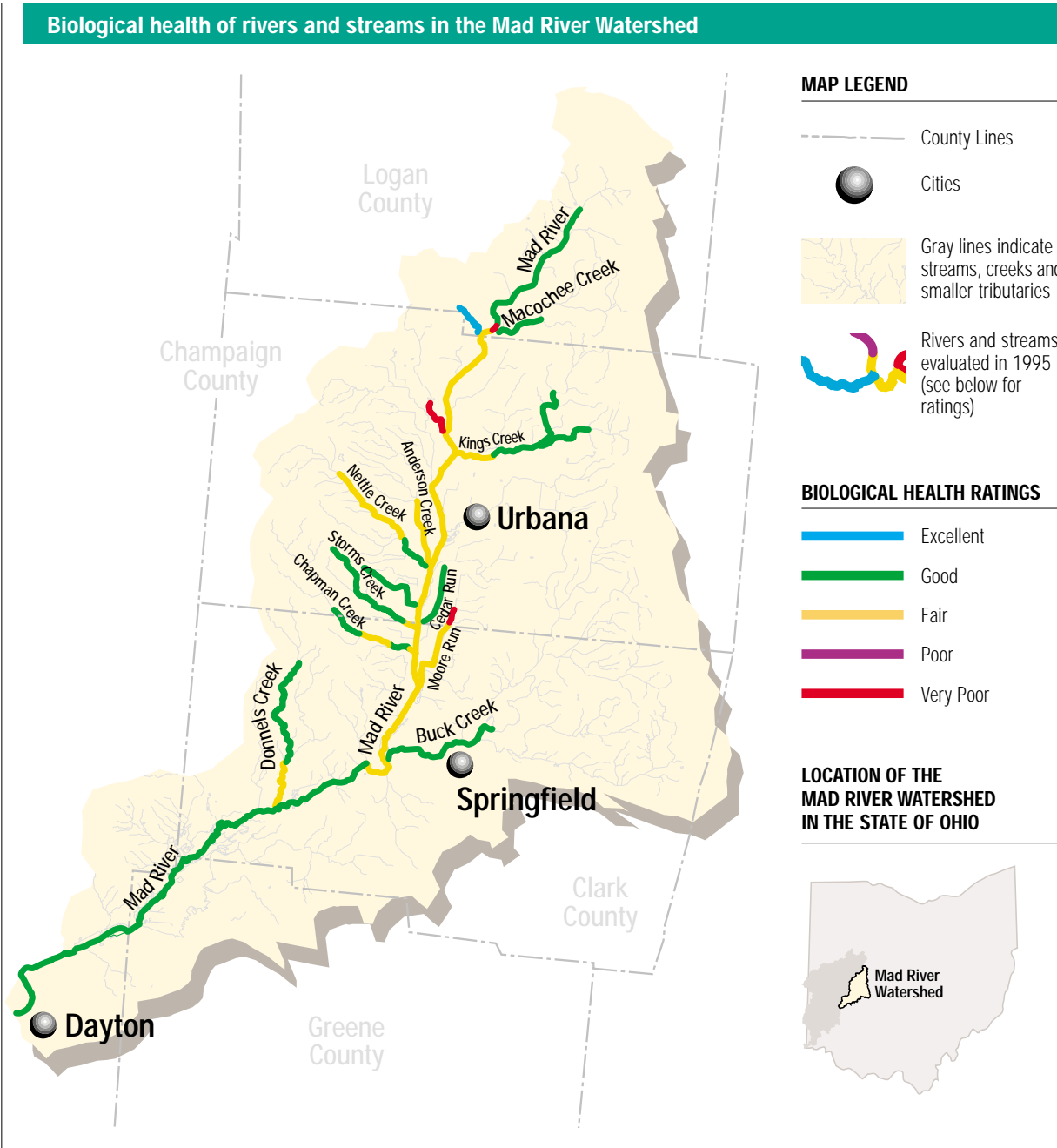
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Data courtesy Ohio EPA Technical Support Documents



TROUT FISHERY AND THE MAD RIVER

The cool water temperatures of the Mad River allow the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to stock and maintain a trout fishery. Because of poor habitat due to straightened stream channels, the Trout can only live there stocked as adults and are unable to reproduce naturally

and survive. Trout provide not only sport fishing opportunities, but are essential components in nature's food chain, as are the smaller fish and aquatic insects including the Tongue Tied Minnow — a Federally Endangered Fish Species.

RIGHT: Brown trout are a favorite catch of local fishermen along the Mad River



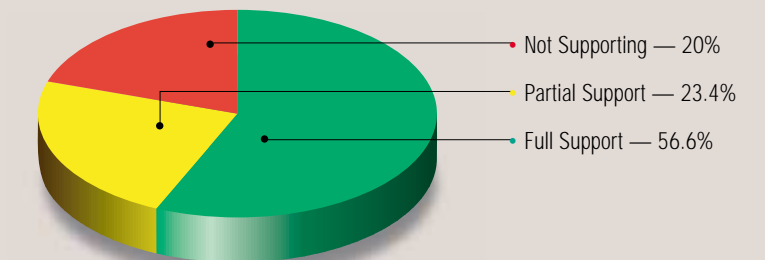
Other facts about the Mad River Watershed

HOW HEALTHY IS THE MAD RIVER WATERSHED?

Historically, many of the streams in the Mad River Watershed have been straightened and their streamside habitat removed. This practice greatly impacts the quality of aquatic (fish and insect) habitat that provides the streams with a balanced ecological environment.

Restoring streamside forests and instream habitat will greatly increase the potential for aquatic wildlife survival and improve water quality.

How streams in the Mad River Watershed support ecological water quality standards:



MONITORING THE HEALTH OF OUR RIVERS

Monitoring the biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of the streams in the Mad River Watershed provides data on the causes, sources, and extent of the impacts of pollution. Once analyzed, this data assists local leaders in making wise decisions about how to best conserve our water resources.

Unfortunately, water quality data available for the Mad River Watershed is not current or abundant, which makes management decisions difficult. Increasing water quality monitoring in the Mad River Watershed will provide a more complete indication of its health.



Monitoring of local rivers, including the Mad River, is conducted under the direction of organizations such as Ohio EPA and Miami Conservancy, and includes the help of volunteers from schools, universities and conservation groups.

THREATS TO THE MAD RIVER WATERSHED

Water pollution threatens both public health and aquatic life. The quality of the streams in the Mad River Watershed is impaired by four main sources. Point sources of pollution (pollutant sources that are easy to locate and regulate) are responsible for approximately 11%. The other impairment sources include modifications made to the shape and slope of the streambank and stream channel, polluted runoff from both rural and urban land, and development too close to the stream channel.

Sources of Impairment to the Mad River Watershed by percentage of impact:

