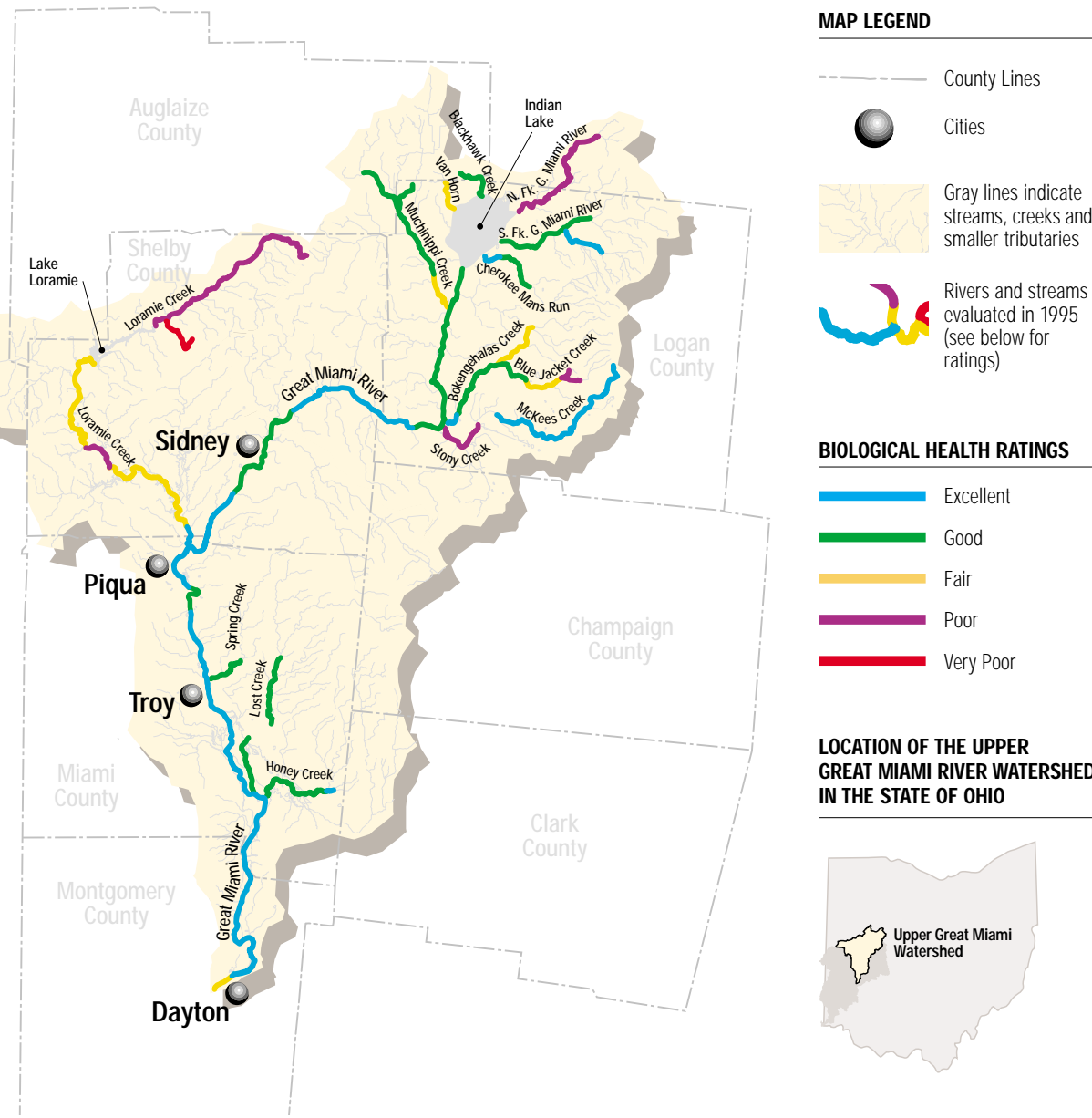


# Upper Great Miami River Watershed

The Upper Great Miami River Watershed ends at the confluence of the Wolf Creek and Great Miami Rivers at Dayton, Ohio and stretches north into ten counties, primarily Shelby, Logan, and Miami. Principal tributary streams include Loramie Creek, Honey Creek, and Spring Creek.

The land use within the Upper Great Miami River Watershed is primarily agricultural, but also includes several urbanized areas including Sidney, Piqua, and Troy.

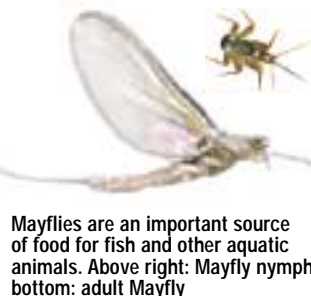
## Biological health of rivers and streams in the Upper Great Miami River Watershed



### WHO FEEDS THE FISH?

With more than 1,200 species, aquatic insects are the largest group of Ohio stream wildlife. Mayflies are one of the more abundant of these creatures, even though they only live for one day after becoming an adult. The immatures — or nymphs — live in a variety of healthy

stream habitats from which they emerge as adults in very large numbers. Both nymphs and emerging adults are important food items for many fish and other wildlife. Mayflies are excellent indicators of good water quality. (Sanders 2001)



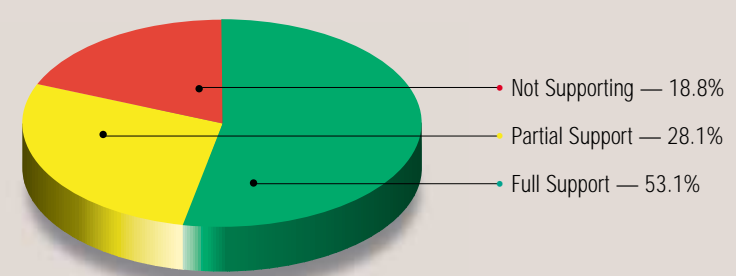
## Other facts about the Upper Great Miami River Watershed

### HOW HEALTHY IS THE UPPER GREAT MIAMI RIVER WATERSHED?

A 1995 Ohio EPA Biosurvey identified that the water quality in this watershed has greatly improved over the last few decades. This is mainly due to the improvement of treatment for sewage and industrial discharges before they empty into the rivers. "This constitutes one of the most extensive and significant recoveries witnessed in the 17 year history of the Ohio EPA biological and water quality monitoring program." (Ohio EPA 1996).

In order to continue this recovery and fully restore water and ecological quality, the progress made with pollution discharges will have to continue. Preserving streamside forests, restoring natural stream channels and where possible, educating citizens are essential steps to ongoing improvement.

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



### HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE LITTLE STREAMS?

Headwater streams are the small swales, creeks and streams that are the origin of most rivers. These small streams join together to form larger streams and rivers or run directly into larger streams and lakes. The quality of water in the larger streams and lakes has a close connection to the quality of the water coming from their source.

These headwater streams are often thought of as unimportant and just small ditches for runoff rather than a vital piece of the entire watershed. Preserving and restoring the headwater streams will have a direct effect on the health of all the streams!

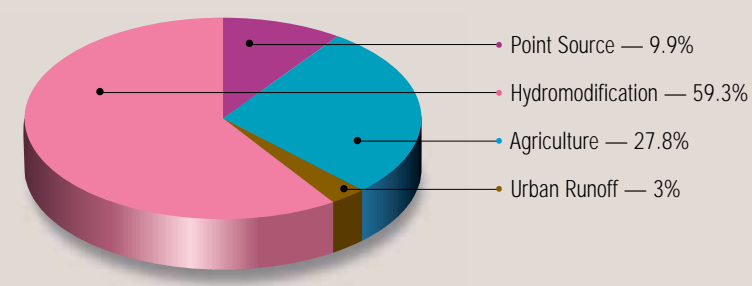


The small streams that drain the larger rivers are important building blocks of the greater watershed.

### THREATS TO THE UPPER GREAT MIAMI RIVER

Water pollution threatens both public health and aquatic life. The quality of the streams in the Upper Great Miami River Watershed is impaired by four main sources. Point sources of pollution (pollutant sources that are easy to locate and regulate) are responsible for less than 10%. The other impairment sources include polluted runoff from both rural and urban land, development too close to the stream channel, and modifications made to the shape and slope of the streambank and stream channel.

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



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