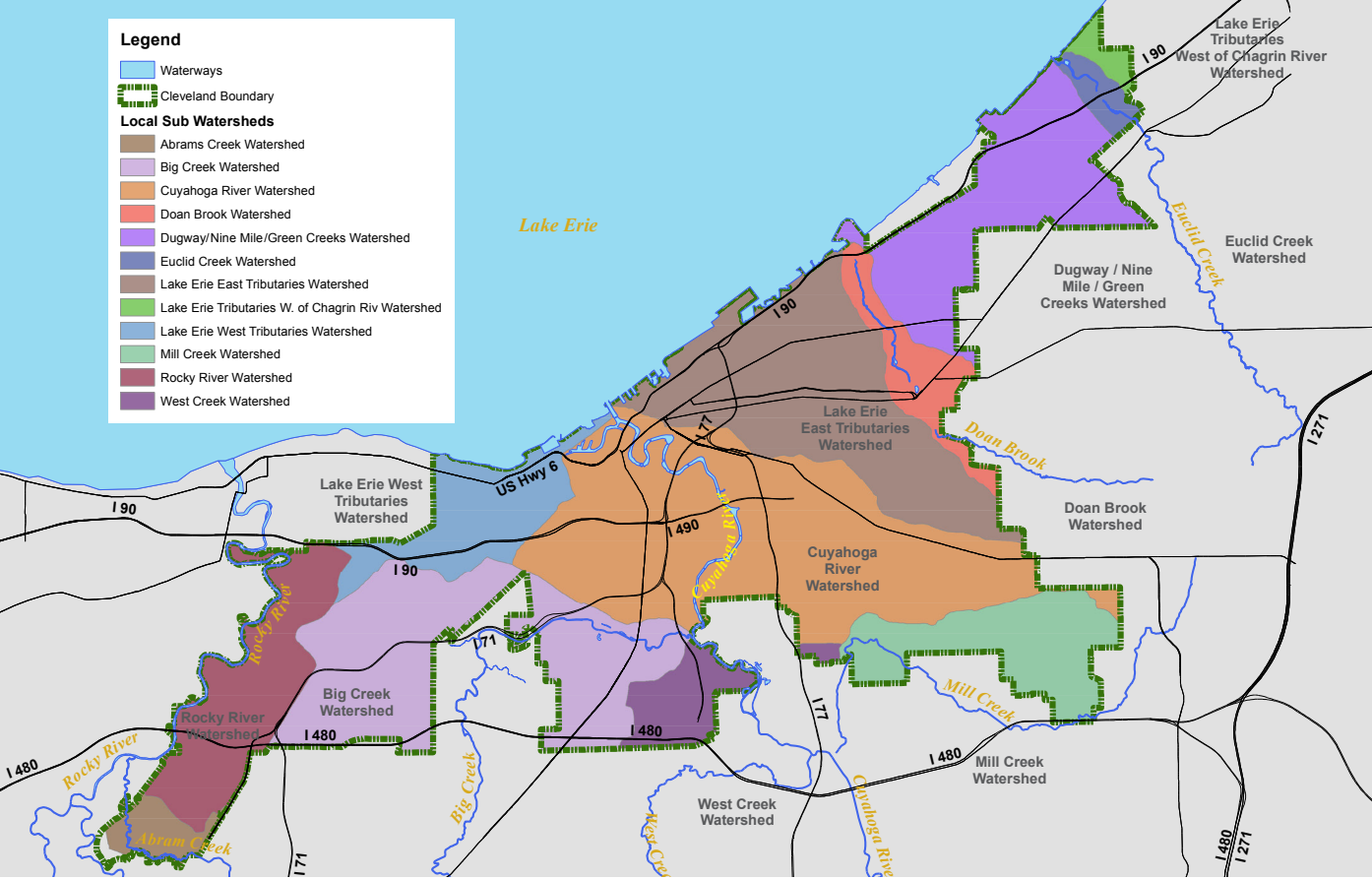


Legend

- Waterways
- Cleveland Boundary
- Local Sub Watersheds**
 - Abrams Creek Watershed
 - Big Creek Watershed
 - Cuyahoga River Watershed
 - Doan Brook Watershed
 - Dugway/Nine Mile/Green Creeks Watershed
 - Euclid Creek Watershed
 - Lake Erie East Tributaries Watershed
 - Lake Erie Tributaries W. of Chagrin Riv Watershed
 - Lake Erie West Tributaries Watershed
 - Mill Creek Watershed
 - Rocky River Watershed
 - West Creek Watershed



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

CUYAHOGA RIVER WATERSHED



Cuyahoga River Restoration was formed in 1988 when the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was created by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on behalf of the U.S.EPA, to serve as the local stakeholder group tasked with putting together a plan to remove impairments in the lower 45 miles of the Cuyahoga River watershed.

The RAP was created by the International Joint Commission, an American/Canadian government partnership dedicated to restoring and protecting the water quality and resources of the Great Lakes. Its intent was to identify Areas of Concern that contribute to the degradation of the Great Lakes, and to develop restoration plans to remedy impairments.

Learn more about the Cuyahoga River Restoration at www.cuyahogariver.org



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

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WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that drains, or sheds, rain and snowmelt into a specific larger waterway, such as a river or lake. Everyone lives in a watershed, and our actions on the land have a significant impact on water quality.

The largest watershed in Northeast Ohio is Lake Erie Watershed, which is made up of dozens of smaller watersheds. Protecting the Lake Erie watershed is important to the environment, public health and the economic well-being of Greater Cleveland. Lake Erie is Northeast Ohio's source of drinking water and major fishing and water recreation area.

Non-point source water pollution is the biggest threat to watersheds. When stormwater (rain or snow melt) flows over the ground it carries away natural and human pollutants from sidewalks, parking lots, yards and construction sites. That water flows to a nearby waterway and eventually makes its way to Lake Erie. Common non-point source pollutants are automobile fluids, paint, pet waste, cigarette butts, and even soil.

Stormwater runoff can result in flooded streets and properties, sewer overflows, land erosion, and polluted waterways.

ABOUT THE CUYAHOGA RIVER & LAKE ERIE WATERSHEDS

The Cuyahoga River Watershed drains 809 square miles, and includes 26 sub-watersheds with at least 37 tributaries that flow into the river on its way to Lake Erie.

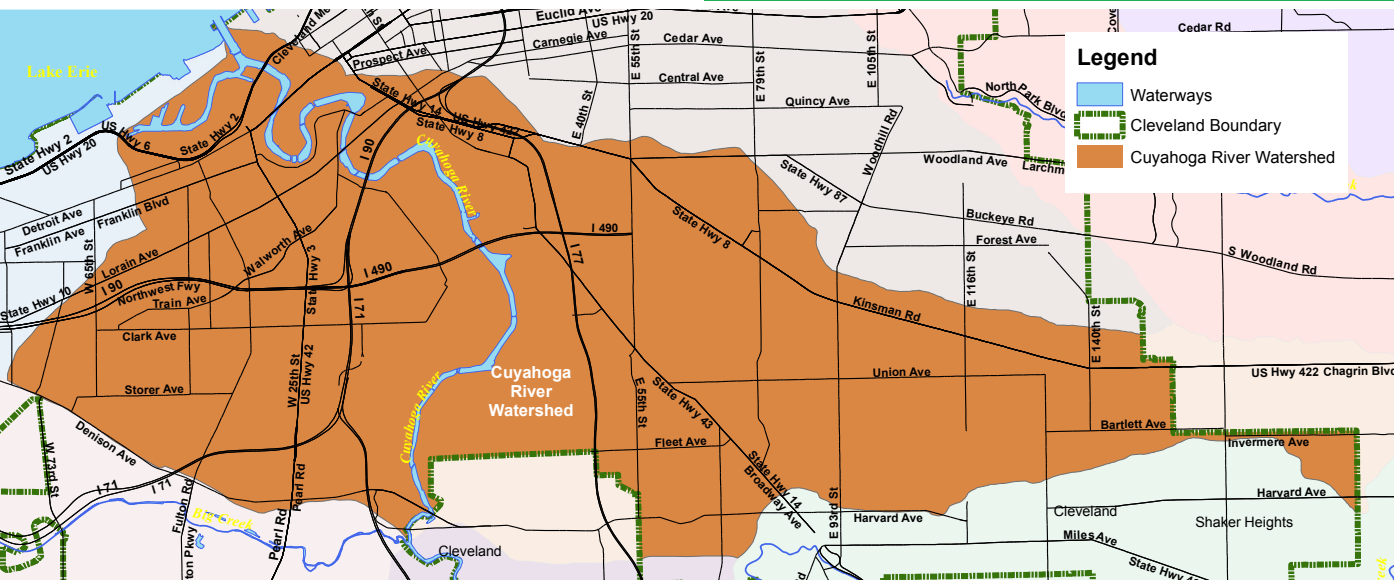
Beginning its nearly 100-mile course in Geauga County, the Cuyahoga River flows southwest through Portage County, then into Summit County just north of Akron. The river then turns north and continues up through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and into Cuyahoga County and passes through Cleveland, dividing the city east and west, until it empties into Lake Erie.

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park protects 22 miles of the Cuyahoga River under the Department of the Interior. A 1969 fire on the then-murky waters of the river and a subsequent Time magazine article prompted people to pay attention to environmental degradation. The advocacy ignited the nation and led to passage of the Clean Water Act. Stewardship by watershed groups, local governments and others have brought citizens and institutions together to work on the Cuyahoga River's revival. It is important to protect the Great Lakes because they are 80% of the country's fresh water.

Today people can enjoy the river kayaking, fishing and strolling along a new section of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail that runs alongside new fish habitat areas. Restoration continues. New housing and entertainment venues are thriving as well along the river in the Flats area.

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

- Treat waterways with respect—all life depends on it.
- Pick up trash, such as snack wrappers, Styrofoam and plastics.
- Avoid using pesticides, herbicides, and anti-bacterial products—they end up in water and harm wildlife.
- Reduce pervious pavements and create more green spaces to let the rain soak into the ground so soil bacteria can break down pollutants.
- Remove invasive weeds without using pesticides.
- Use native plants in your garden.
- Pick up your dog and cat poop and dispose of it in the trash.
- Wash vehicles at a car wash so detergents and toxins can drain into a bay.
- Recycle used oil, paint and other hazardous materials properly. Do not pour them down house or street drains.
- Use a rain barrel to capture rainwater and gray water for landscaping and gardening.
- Plan and/or participate in water quality events, such as stream or neighborhood cleanups.
- Join a watershed group; learn more and help educate others.



CUYAHOGA RIVER RESTORATION

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www.cuyahogariver.org

Explore *How's My Waterway?* at
<https://mywaterway.epa.gov> to learn about the current
water quality of the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie
Watersheds.