

Black-Macatawa Watershed

Hydrologic Unit Code: 04050002

For more information, see the USEPA "Surf Your Watershed" website at cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc_code=04050002 or contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at 517-335-6969 to request a copy of the following reports:

- MI/DEQ/WB-07/086, "Monthly Water Quality Assessment of Lake Macatawa and Its Tributaries, 2006".
- MI/DEQ/WB-07/014, "A Biological Survey of Sites in the Lake Macatawa Watershed, Allegan and Ottawa Counties, Michigan, Jun 2005".
- MI/DEQ/WB-07/062, "A Biological Survey of Sites in the Pigeon River Watershed, Ottawa County, Michigan, Jul 2005".
- MI/DEQ/WD-03/077, "A Biological Survey of Sites on Select Lake Michigan Tributaries, Allegan and Van Buren Counties, Michigan".
- MI/DEQ/WD-03/067, "A Biological Survey of Sites in the Black River Watershed, Allegan and Van Buren Counties, Michigan, Aug 19 and 20, 2002".

Watershed Management Plans

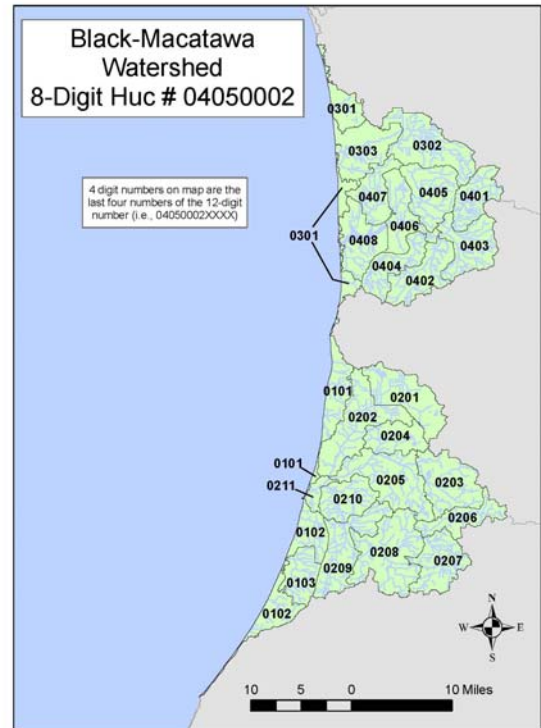
- Pigeon River -- Timberland RC&D Council
- Black River Watershed Management Plan -- Van Buren Conservation District -- www.vbco.org/natfeat8363127.asp
- Lake Macatawa Watershed Management Plan -- Macatawa Area Coordinating Council
- Black River

Watershed Groups

- Macatawa Greenway Partnership — www.macatawagreenway.org
- Macatawa Watershed Project — www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/ess-nps-fs-macatawa_208830_7.pdf
- Van Buren Conservation District -- www.vanburencd.org
- Bangor / South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association -- www.vbco.org/watertrail.asp

Watershed Overview

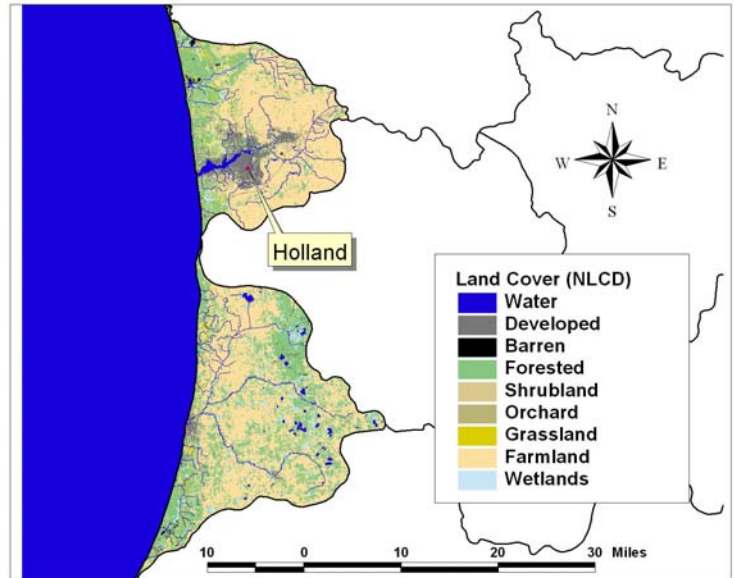
- 151 miles of the rivers and streams flow year round.
- Soil associations in the Black River watershed are generally fine sandy to sandy loam, poor to somewhat poorly drained.
- Channelization from historic dredging has removed channel diversity, reduced bank stability, and generally the quality and quantity of stream biota.
- The Macatawa watershed has two major tributaries: the Macatawa River and Pine Creek. The lake and all its tributaries in the Macatawa watershed are protected as designated warmwater systems.
- Soil erosion and sedimentation is a major problem throughout due to agricultural land use and urbanization and has modified drainage patterns, increased direct surface runoff and erosion.
- Holland and South Haven, Michigan are the two urban areas in the watershed.



Subwatersheds in the Black-Macatawa Watershed

- 0101 Plummerville Creek-Frontal Lake Michigan
- 0102 Deerlick Creek-Frontal Lake Michigan
- 0103 Brandywine Creek
- 0201 Headwaters North Branch Black River
- 0202 North Branch Black River
- 0203 Headwaters Middle Branch Black River
- 0204 Scott Creek Drain
- 0205 Middle Branch Black River
- 0206 Great Bear Lake Drain
- 0207 Headwaters South Branch Black River
- 0208 Maple Creek-South Branch Black River
- 0209 Cedar Creek-South Branch Black River
- 0210 South Branch Black River
- 0211 Black River
- 0301 Little Pigeon Creek-Frontal Lake Michigan
- 0302 Headwaters Pigeon River
- 0303 Pigeon River
- 0401 Upper Macatawa River
- 0402 South Branch Macatawa River
- 0403 Middle Macatawa River
- 0404 North Branch Macatawa River
- 0405 Bosch and Hulst Drain
- 0406 Lower Macatawa River
- 0407 Pine Creek
- 0408 Macatawa Bay

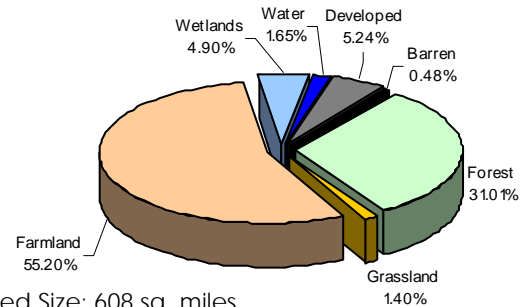
- Two and a half million visitors visit Holland, Michigan each year.
- The counties located in the watershed have a population of over 594,000.
- 96 of the 151 miles of impaired waterways (or 64%) have been assessed.
- Ottawa County is rated as Michigan's most diverse agricultural county. Products grown include apples, asparagus, strawberries, cherries, annuals, perennials, pumpkins, squash, among others.
- Large natural areas in the Black River Watershed include the Van Buren State Park, Kal-Haven Trail, and Allegan State Game Area



Watershed Activities

- A significant number of impairments are related to farming activities, including excessive phosphorus loadings as a result of the use of phosphorus-based fertilizers, sedimentation from erosion and runoff.
- The Lake Macatawa Watershed includes all the land that drains to Lake Macatawa. There is excess sedimentation due to nonpoint sources, mainly agricultural, in the Macatawa watershed and its tributaries. The Noordeloos Creek Sedimentation Project is focused on a creek that is comprised largely of agricultural land.
- Black River watershed activities include streambank stabilization and raingarden projects in two municipal parks, land conservation efforts, land use planning assistance to local municipalities to incorporate water quality objectives, and information/education activities with a strong focus on LID and landscaping for water quality.
- Restoration and protection activities focus on:
 - ◊ Reducing phosphorus loadings and sedimentation.
 - ◊ Implement Best Management Practices.
 - ◊ Provide long term protection of the Black River Watershed through improved local land use policies and land protection.
 - ◊ Improving water quality in lakes and streams.
 - ◊ Improving educational outreach to the community.
 - ◊ Performing watershed inventories.
 - ◊ Identifying pollutant sources and causes, identifying critical areas.
 - ◊ Gathering information about watershed from preexisting sources.

Land Cover: Black-Macatawa Watershed



Watershed Size: 608 sq. miles

Between 1996 and 2001, there has been a slight increase in developed land and slight decreases in cultivated land, forest, and grassland.

Impaired (303d) Waters

Waterbody	State Impairment
Huizenga Park Pond Beach	Pathogens
Lake Macatawa Duton Park Beach	Pathogens
Lake Macatawa (Macatawa River Mouth)	Chlordane Fish Consumption Advisory PCB Fish Consumption Advisory
Lake Michigan - Rosy Mound Recreation Area Beach)	Pathogens
Lake Michigan - South of Frankfort	Chlordane Fish Consumption Advisory DDT Fish Consumption Advisory Dioxin Fish Consumption Advisory PCB Fish Consumption Advisory Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Silver Lake Inlet	Macroinvertebra Community Rated Poor, Simazine

Data Sources. Land cover map and percentages: National Land Cover database, 1992 (edc.usgs.gov/products/landcover/nlcd.html); Land use change: NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program, 1996 and 2001