

Michigamme River Watershed

Hydrologic Unit Code: 04030107

For more information, see the USEPA "Surf Your Watershed" website at

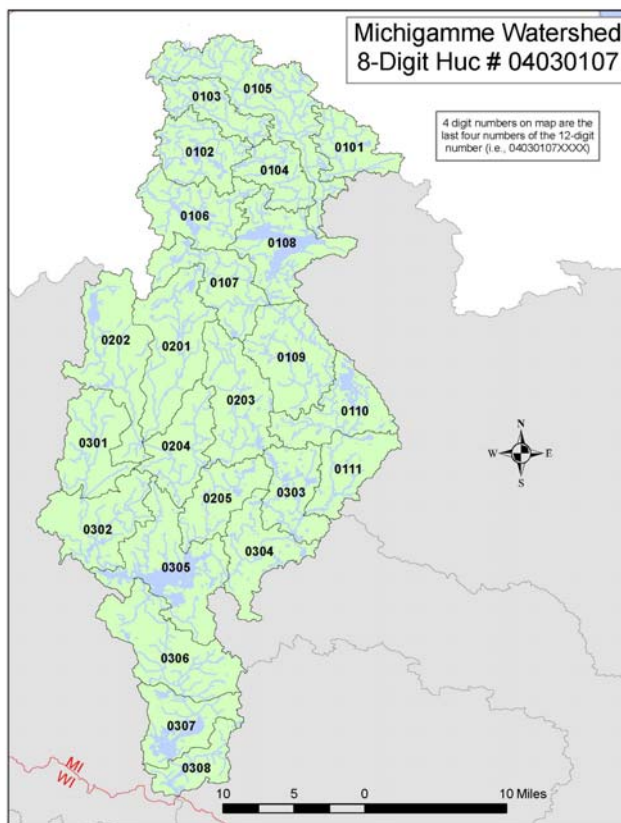
cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc_code=04030107 or contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at 517-335-6969 to request a copy of report number MI/DEQ/WD-03/032, "A Biological Survey of the Brule, Paint, and Michigamme River Watersheds, Iron and Marquette Counties, 2002."

Watershed Groups

- Michigamme Highlands Project, The Upper Peninsula Conservation Program of The Nature Conservancy — www.nature.org
- Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy — www.clslc.org/projects.htm

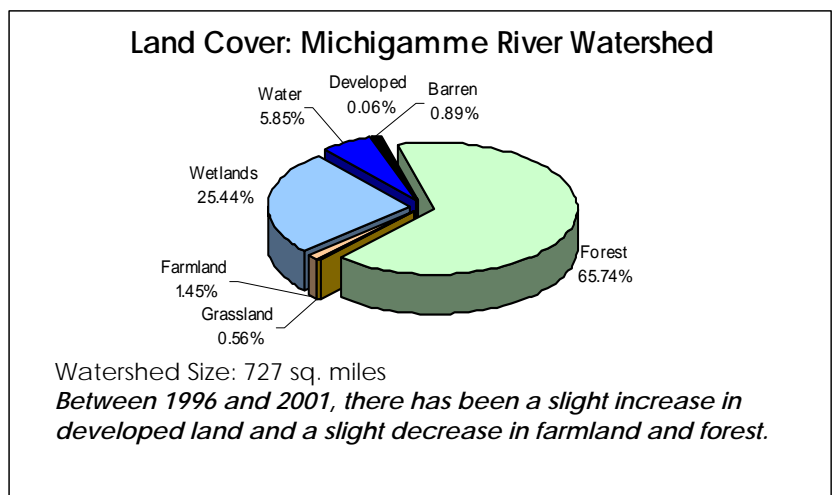
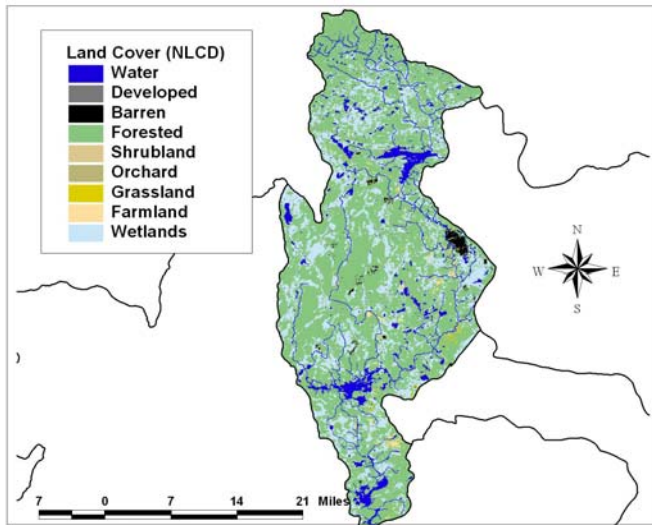
Watershed Overview

- The Michigamme River watershed covers approximately 727 square miles.
- There are 465 miles of rivers and streams in the watershed.
- The Michigamme River system flows into the Menominee River watershed.
- Approximately 66 percent of the watershed is forested. The predominant vegetation in the hilly uplands are Sugar Maple, basswood, and Yellow Birch while the lowland vegetation is dominated by American Elm, Black Ash, Trembling Aspen, and Red Maple. The vegetation of drier outwash sand plains include Balsam Fir, White Pine, Red Pine, and Paper Birch.
- Forty percent of Michigan's "blue ribbon" trout streams are found in the Brule, Michigamme, and Paint River systems.
- Most of the forested lands in the Michigamme watershed are owned by private forest product companies.
- Forestry, wood products, and tourism are the dominant industries. Other major activities include winter sports, fishing, hunting, camping, boating, fall color tours, and sightseeing.
- The watershed topography is characterized by sandy hills and elliptical ridges. These sandy deposits have high infiltration rates, can be up to 200 feet thick, and are a major source of cold groundwater to the rivers.
- The lower Michigamme River watershed has a large area of pitted and flat glacial outwash plains. Most of the streams originate in sedge and forested wetlands or sallow kettle lakes, which causes the water to appear strained from the presence of decaying plant material.
- Bedrock outcrops are common.
- Many abandoned mines can be found in the watershed.
- Most waters are heavily stained with tannins from wetland drainages.
- There are five listed impaired waters.
- Macroinvertebrate community status was assessed at 10 different sites within the Michigamme River watershed. Half received macroinvertebrate community ratings of "excellent," while the other half rated acceptable.



Subwatersheds of the Michigamme River Watershed

- 0101 Dishno Creek
- 0102 Craig Lake
- 0103 Lake Elinor-West Branch Peshekee River
- 0104 West Branch Peshekee River
- 0105 Baraga Lake-Peshekee River
- 0106 Spurr River
- 0107 Spruce River
- 0108 Lake Michigamme Dam-Michigamme River
- 0109 Michigamme Basin Dam-Michigamme River
- 0110 Gambles Creek-Michigamme River
- 0111 Camp Floodwood-Michigamme River
- 0201 East Branch Fence River
- 0202 West Branch Fence River
- 0203 Mitchigan River
- 0204 Smith Creek-Fence River
- 0205 Fence River
- 0301 Johnson Creek-Deer River
- 0302 Deer River
- 0303 Squaw Creek-Michigamme River
- 0304 Crescent Pond Outlet-Michigamme River
- 0305 Michigamme Reservoir-Michigamme River
- 0306 Camp Six Creek-Michigamme River
- 0307 Peavy Pond-Michigamme River
- 0308 Michigamme River



Impaired (303d) Waters

Waterbody Name	Impairment
Beaufort Lake	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Craig Lake	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Lake Michigamme	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Michigamme Reservoir (Michigamme River Imp.)	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Michigamme River	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Peavy Pond	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Perch Lake	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Runkle Lake	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Silver Lake	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Unnamed Lake	Mercury (Fish Tissue)

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 (www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/lca/ccap.html); Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Impaired Waters: Surf Your Watershed (www.epa.gov/surf)