

Chapter Contents

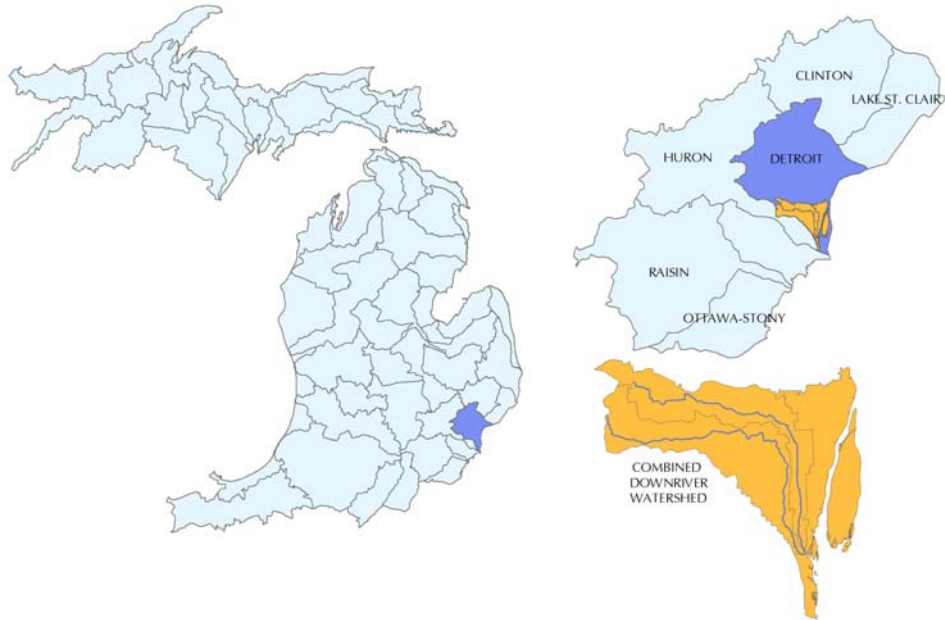
The Combined Downriver Watershed
Purpose of Watershed Management Plan

The Combined Downriver Watershed is located within Wayne County, in southeast Michigan. The Detroit River, the Frank & Poet Drain, and the Blakely Drain are the three primary water courses within the watershed. The watershed drains an area of approximately 85.9 square miles in a relatively urbanized region, including a portion of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in the headwater region of the Frank & Poet Drain.

1.1 THE COMBINED DOWNRIVER WATERSHED OVERVIEW

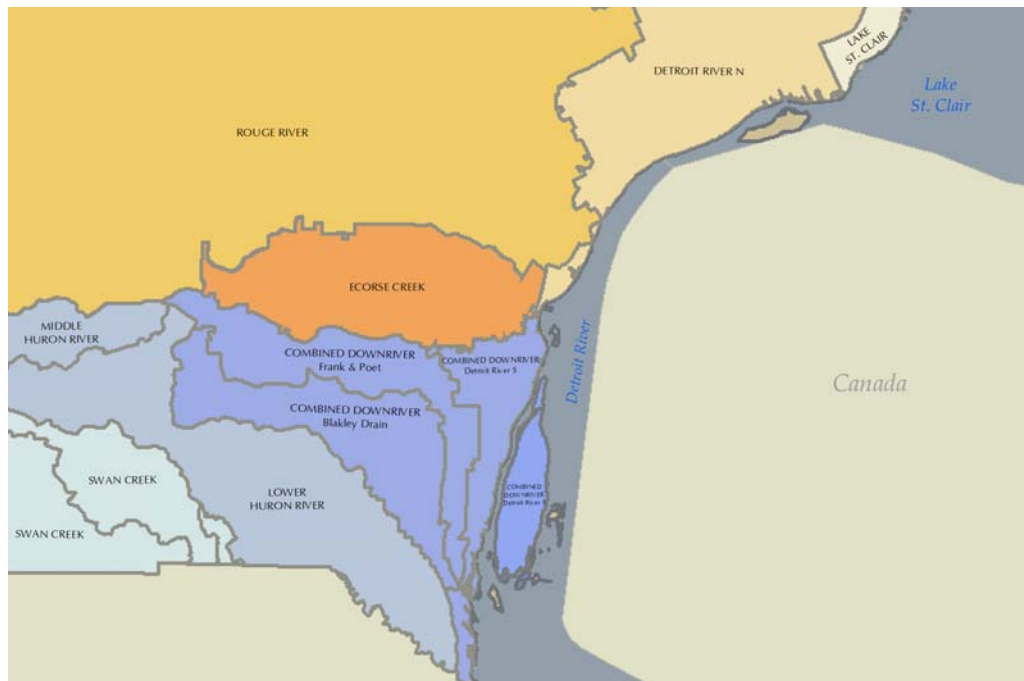
The Combined Downriver Watershed borders the Ecorse Creek Watershed to the north, the Lower Huron Watershed to the south and west, and the Detroit River to the east. Maps 1-1 and 1-2 show the location of the watershed.

Map 1-1 Watershed Location



Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information

Map 1-2 Watershed Location Zoom-in



The Combined Downriver Watershed includes 11 communities (including Trenton who has an individual Jurisdictional permit) as well as the Wayne County Airport Authority (which is located within Romulus). Map 1-3 shows community boundaries within the watershed. The watershed encompasses 54,944 acres or 85.9 square miles. Brownstown Township, Taylor, Romulus, and Grosse Ile Township have the greatest amount of land area within the watershed (see Figure 1-1 and Table 1-1). It should be noted that nearly all of Wyandotte, and a portion of Southgate, are located in the Southgate-Wyandotte Drainage District. The majority of the flows in this area go directly to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (see Section 2.3).

Figure 1-1 Area of Land in Watershed by Entity

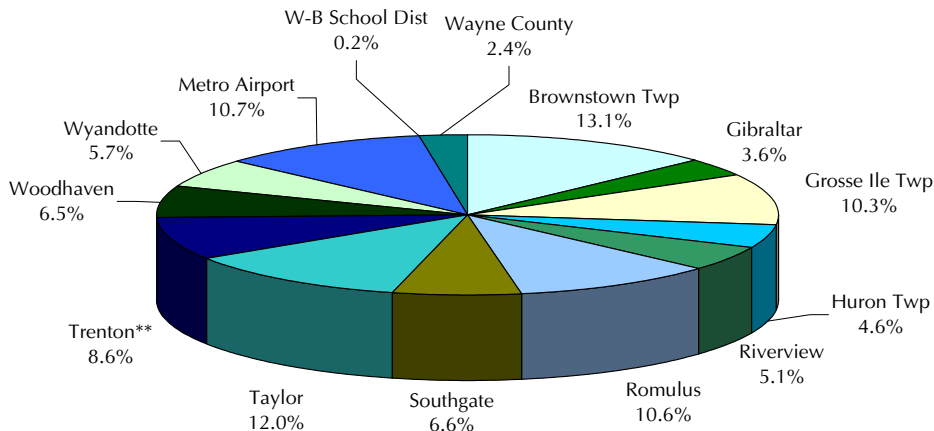


Table 1-1

Land Area of Watershed by Entity

Community	Total Area of Community (Acres)	Area of Community in Watershed* (Acres)	Percent of Community in Watershed	Percent of Total Watershed
Brownstown Twp	14,566	7,185	49.3%	13.1%
Gibraltar	2,472	1,970	79.7%	3.6%
Grosse Ile Twp	5,930	5,665	95.5%	10.3%
Huron Twp	22,975	2,502	10.9%	4.6%
Riverview	2,837	2,796	98.6%	5.1%
Romulus	16,320	5,796	35.5%	10.6%
Southgate	4,420	3,615	81.8%	6.6%
Taylor	15,109	6,565	43.5%	12.0%
Trenton**	4,694	4,694	100.0%	8.6%
Woodhaven	4,164	3,580	86.0%	6.5%
Wyandotte	3,322	3,131	94.3%	5.7%
Metro Airport	6,700	5,878	87.7%	10.7%
W-B School Dist	NA	95	NA	0.2%
Wayne County	NA	1,341	NA	2.4%
Total	103,509	54,813		100.0%

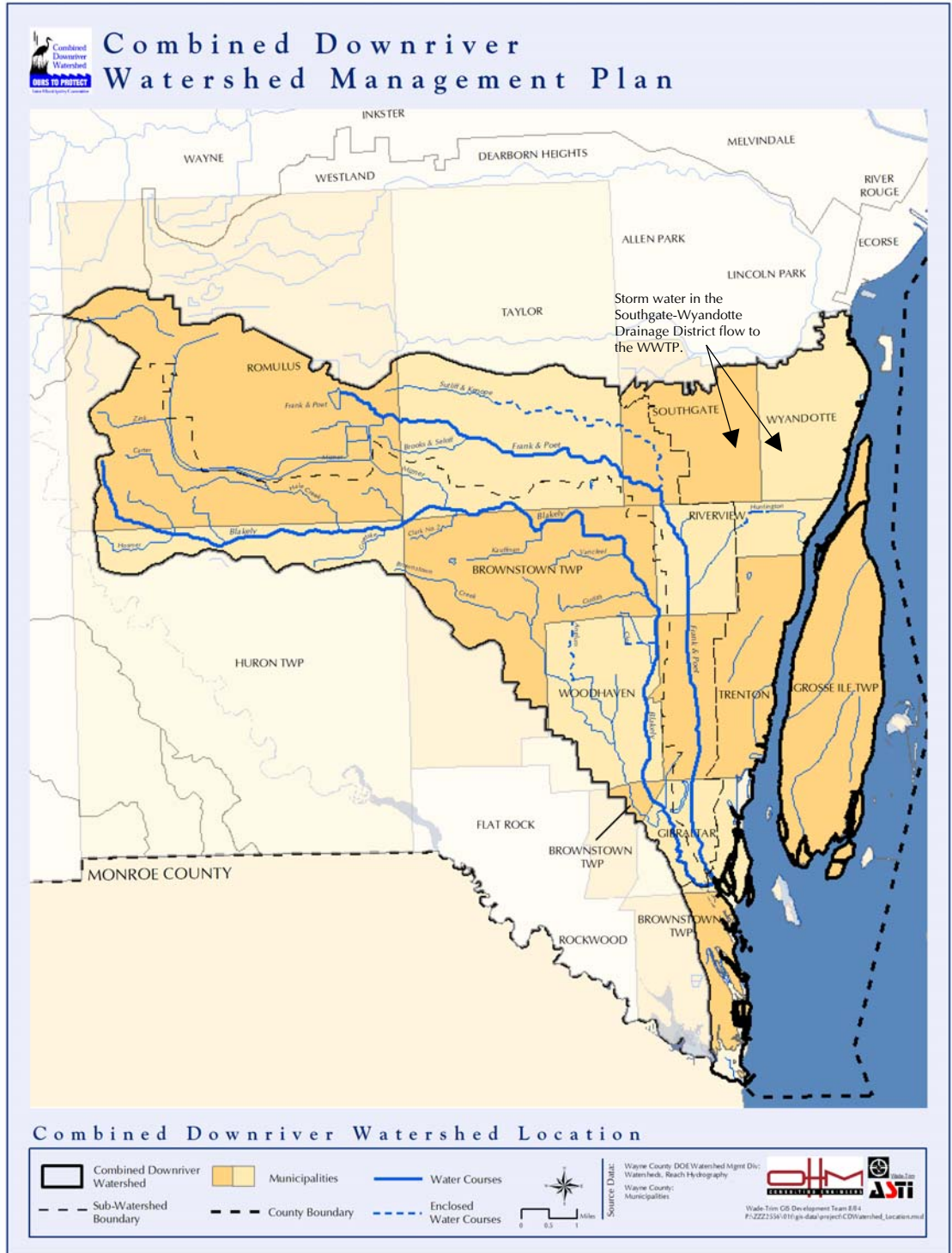
* Excludes Wayne County property within the community.

** Not participating in development of Watershed Management Plan.

Source: Combined Downriver IMC MOA Amendment 1, July 16, 2004



Map 1-3



1.2 PURPOSE OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was initiated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972. The purpose of the program is to control the discharge of pollutants into surface water. Most storm water discharges are considered point sources and require coverage by a NPDES permit. Phase I of the NPDES storm water program required operators of “medium” and “large” municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), generally those serving a population of 100,000 or greater, to implement a storm water management program as a means to control polluted discharges. Phase II of the NPDES storm water program extends coverage to certain “small” MS4s that are located in urbanized areas, including those communities within the Combined Downriver Watershed.

The Combined Downriver communities are required to design a program that:

- Reduces the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable;
- Protects water quality; and
- Satisfies the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.

In Michigan, the Department of Environmental Quality administers the NPDES program. A Watershed Management Plan is necessary in order to satisfy requirements of the State of Michigan Phase II Watershed Based Storm Water General Permit (MIG619000). In order for the Combined Downriver Watershed Management Plan to be approved by the State of Michigan, it must contain the following:

- The geographic scope of the watershed.
- The designated uses and desired uses of the watershed.
- The water quality threats or impairments in the watershed.
- The causes of the impairments or threats, including pollutants.
- A clear statement of the water quality improvement or protection goals of the watershed management plan.
- The sources of the pollutants causing the impairments or threats and the sources that are critical to control in order to meet water quality standards or other water quality goals.
- The tasks that need to be completed to prevent or control the critical sources of pollution or address causes of impairment, including, as appropriate, all of the following:
 - The best management practices needed.
 - Revisions needed or proposed to local zoning ordinances and other land use management tools.
 - Informational and educational activities.
 - Activities needed to institutionalize watershed protection.
- The estimated cost of implementing the best management practices needed.
- A summary of the public participation process, including the opportunity for public comment, during watershed management plan development and the partners that were involved in the development of the watershed management plan.
- The estimated periods of time needed to complete each task and the proposed sequence of task completion.
- A description of the process that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of implementing the plan and achieving its goals.



In 2003, the municipalities, County and School District formed the Combined Downriver Watershed Advisory Group whose mission was to provide:

A Combined Downriver Watershed and riverine corridor system that is aesthetically pleasant, clean, healthy and safe so that watershed residents and visitors can enjoy an improved quality of life, with reduced risk of flooding and better coordination of storm water management throughout the region.

In an effort to further this mission, and as required under the Phase II storm water rules, the municipalities filed an application with the MDEQ to obtain coverage under Michigan’s NPDES Phase II Storm Water Permit (MIG619000). As has been stated, an initial requirement of the permit is to study, develop, and prepare a Watershed Management Plan.

The communities worked to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to formalize the group, and establish financial responsibilities and by-laws. Each community adopted the MOA and the Combined Downriver Watershed Inter-Municipality Committee (CDWIC) was formed in December 2003 (Appendix A). The function of the CDWIC is to coordinate and facilitate the study, development, preparation and timely filing of a Watershed Management Plan with the MDEQ. The CDWIC consists of one voting representative from each City, Township, the Airport Authority, the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, and Wayne County. Figure 1-2 illustrates the various components and elements that have gone into the development of this Watershed Management Plan.

Figure 1-2

Watershed Management Plan Elements

