

## Hocking River Watershed – Biological and Water Quality Survey Planning, 2022

In 2022, Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water will be conducting a biological and water quality survey in the Hocking River watershed. The Hocking River is over 102 miles long and its watershed spans from central Ohio to southeastern Ohio. It drains 1,197 square miles. The watershed encompasses seven counties (Fairfield, Perry, Hocking, Athens, and parts of Morgan, Meigs and Washington). It spans one 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) and is composed of forty-one 12-digit watershed assessment units (WAUs). A HUC-12 watershed is the smallest defined hydrologic unit covering a geographic area with an average drainage area of 10-30 square miles. See Figure 1 for a map of the watershed with sampling location information. Larger municipalities in the watershed include Lancaster, Logan, Nelsonville and Athens.

### Stakeholder Input

Ohio EPA has compiled a list of sampling sites for the 2022 Hocking River Watershed Survey based upon the objectives below. A map of the sampling site locations has been included in Figure 1. Ohio EPA requested and received permission from landowners for property access to sampling sites. The detailed study plan, or Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), is available on our webpage. The study plan is the first step in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development process. The next step reports the survey results in the Biological and Water Quality Report, which will additionally be available for review and comment.

### Study Objectives

Survey sites are selected to provide adequate coverage for evaluating whether water quality standards are currently being met for each beneficial use within each of the WAUs in the basin and to establish long-term trends in water quality. For the 2022 Hocking River Watershed Survey, the sampling objectives include:

- Provide information for biennial reporting of state-wide water quality trends and an updated list of water bodies with impaired beneficial uses, such as aquatic life or recreation use (known as Ohio's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report).
- Development or reassessment of previous TMDLs to address impaired beneficial uses.
- Initial or continued evaluation of existing beneficial use designations contained in the water quality standards rules (Chapter 3745-1 of the Ohio Administrative Code).
- Evaluation of impacts from regulated wastewater and/or storm water dischargers to inform permit renewals and/or to acquire baseline information for new permits.
- Provide data for the Ohio Fish Tissue Consumption Monitoring Program
- Establishment of long-term trends in water quality within the study area.
- Evaluation of baseline and/or post-construction water quality related to nonpoint source pollution controls or habitat restoration projects.

### Previous Studies

Sunday and Monday Creek in the Hocking River watershed was last studied by the Ohio EPA in 2001 and the rest of the Hocking River was sampled in 2004. The Monday and Sunday Creek Watershed TMDL reports were approved by the U.S. EPA in 2005 and 2006, respectively. The Hocking River Watershed TMDL report, which encompasses the Hocking River watershed except Monday and Sunday Creek watersheds, was approved by the U.S. EPA in 2009.

### Additional Information

For additional information on the Hocking River Watershed Survey, including previous sampling results, current TMDLs and this fact sheet, please visit [Ohio EPA's Water Quality Programs web page](#).

### Providing Feedback

The comment period for the Hocking River Watershed Survey draft QAPP ended on April 15, 2022. The QAPP is the first step in the TMDL process. The next step is the Biological and Water Quality Report, which will additionally be available for review and comment.

### Stay Involved

Subscribe to updates on TMDL projects at: [https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/utils/login\\_form/redirect/account%252Fprofile](https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/utils/login_form/redirect/account%252Fprofile).

### Contact Information

For more information, contact Rachel Taulbee at [Rachel.Taulbee@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Rachel.Taulbee@epa.ohio.gov) or Mike Gallaway at [Michael.Gallaway@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Michael.Gallaway@epa.ohio.gov).

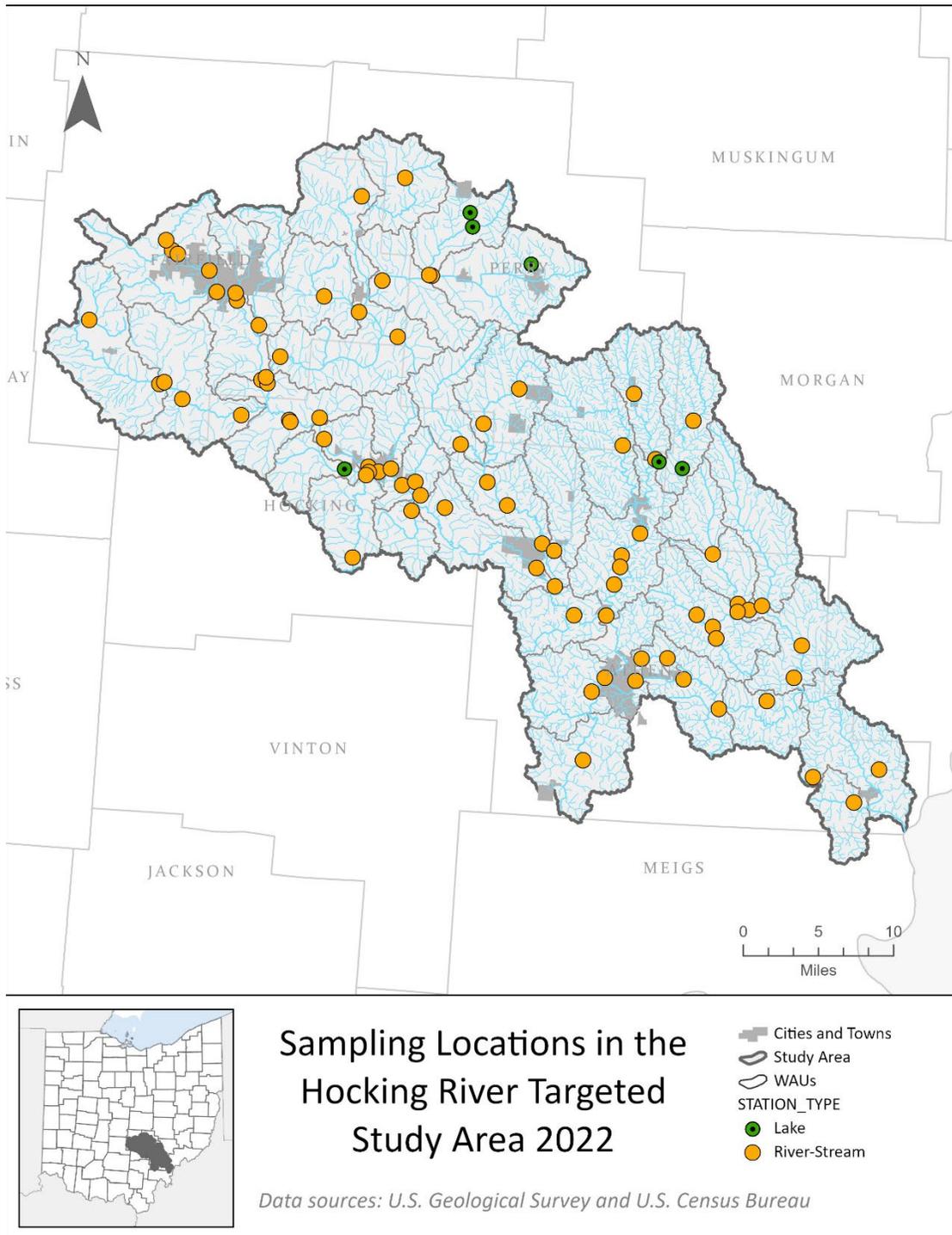


Figure 1. Sampling locations in the Hocking River Survey Area, 2022.