Forested Riparian Zones, the key to healthy streams and rivers

LITTLE MIAMI CONSERVANCY

Jason Brownknight
Executive Director
www.littlemiami.org

Restoring and Protecting the Little Miami State & National Scenic River since 1967

LITTLE MIAMI CONSERVANCY

Our Mission is to:

Provide the leadership, resources, and public engagement necessary to protect and restore the Little Miami State and National Scenic River.

Ohio State Scenic Rivers

April 23, 1969
Upper Little Miami
1st State Scenic River

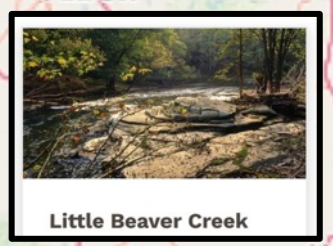
October 27, 1971
Lower Little Miami was designated

National Wild & Scenic Rivers in Ohio

Upper Little Miami was designated in 1973

Lower Little Miami was designated in 1980

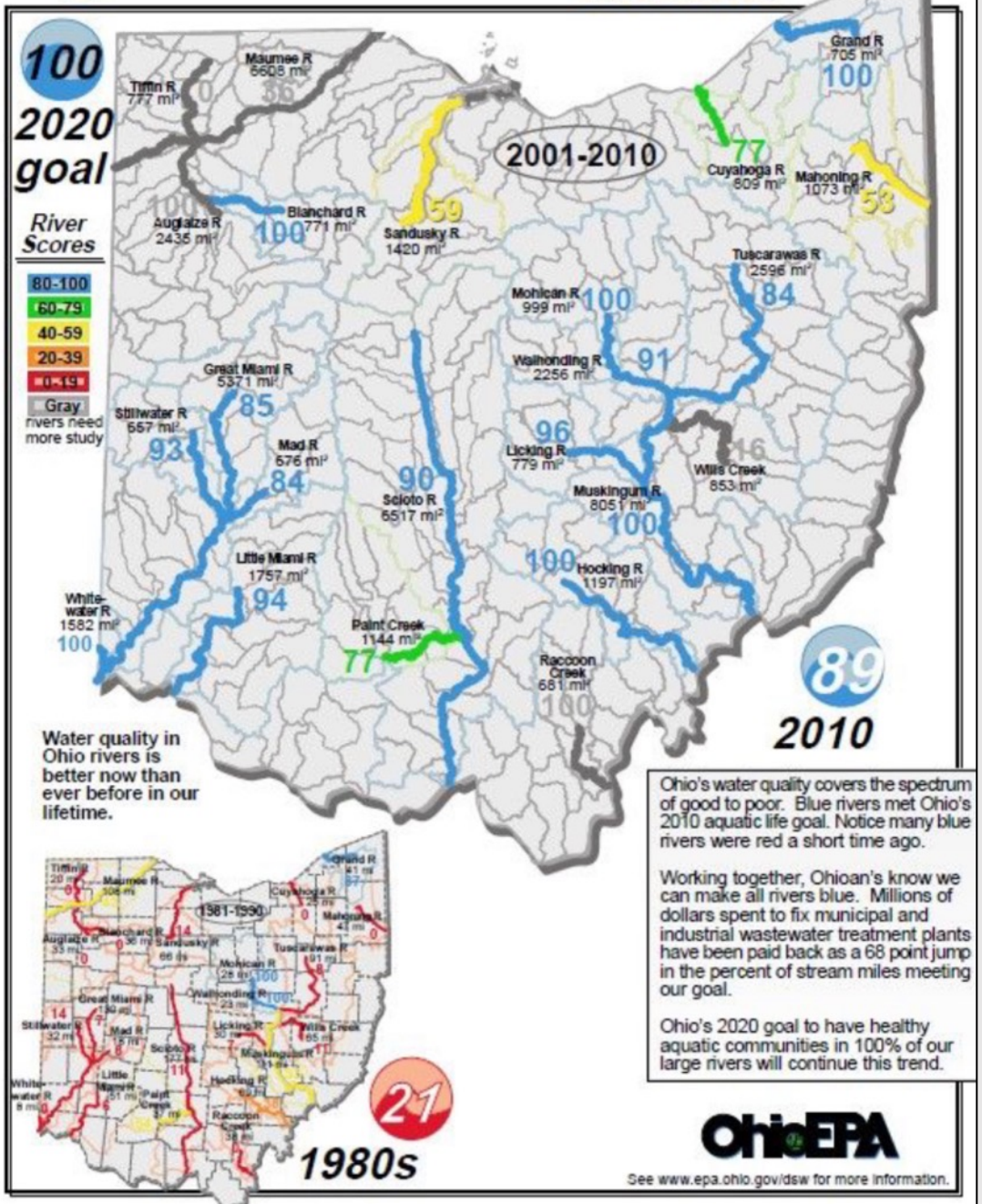
Big & Little Darby Creeks

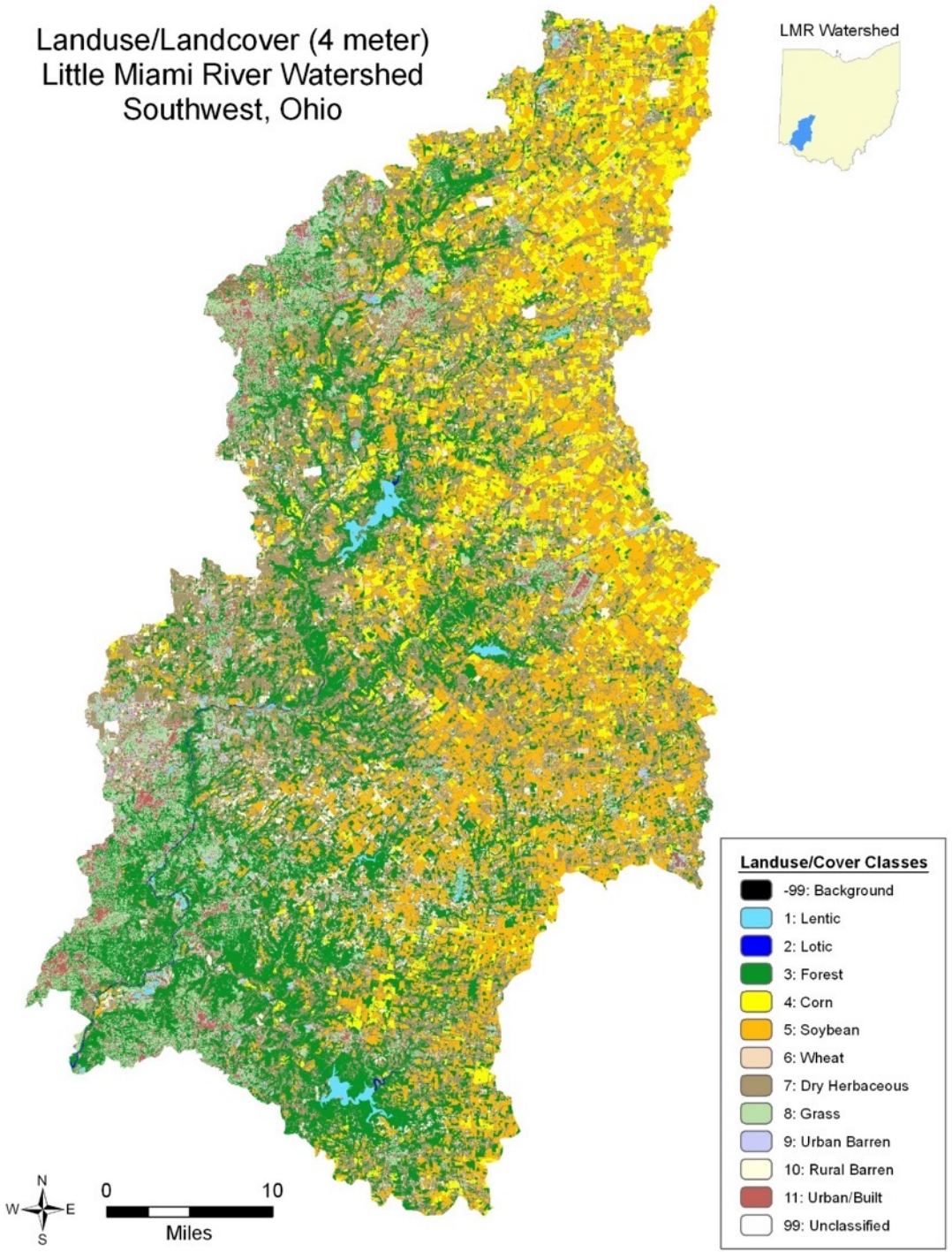


Little Beaver Creek

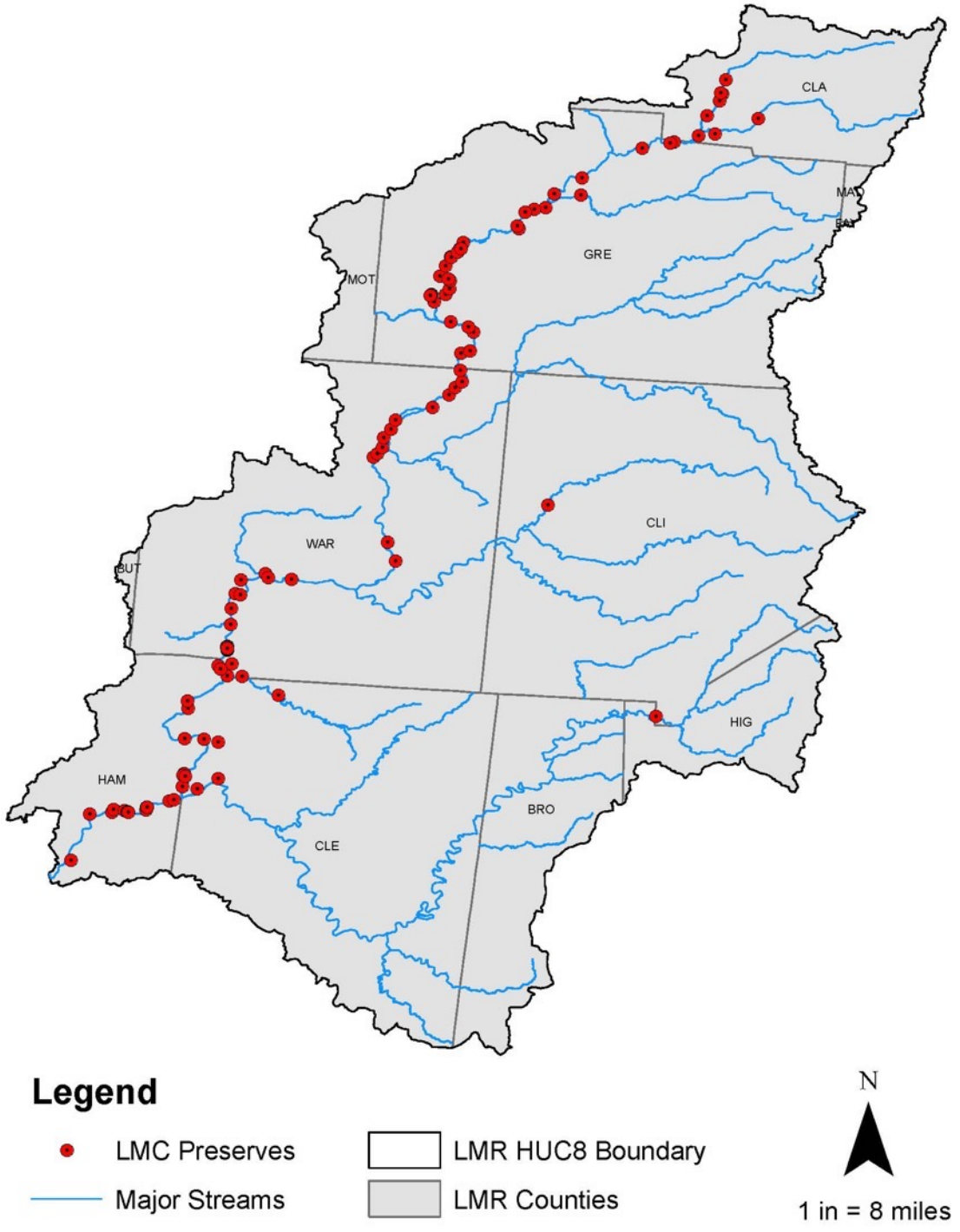
Little Miami River

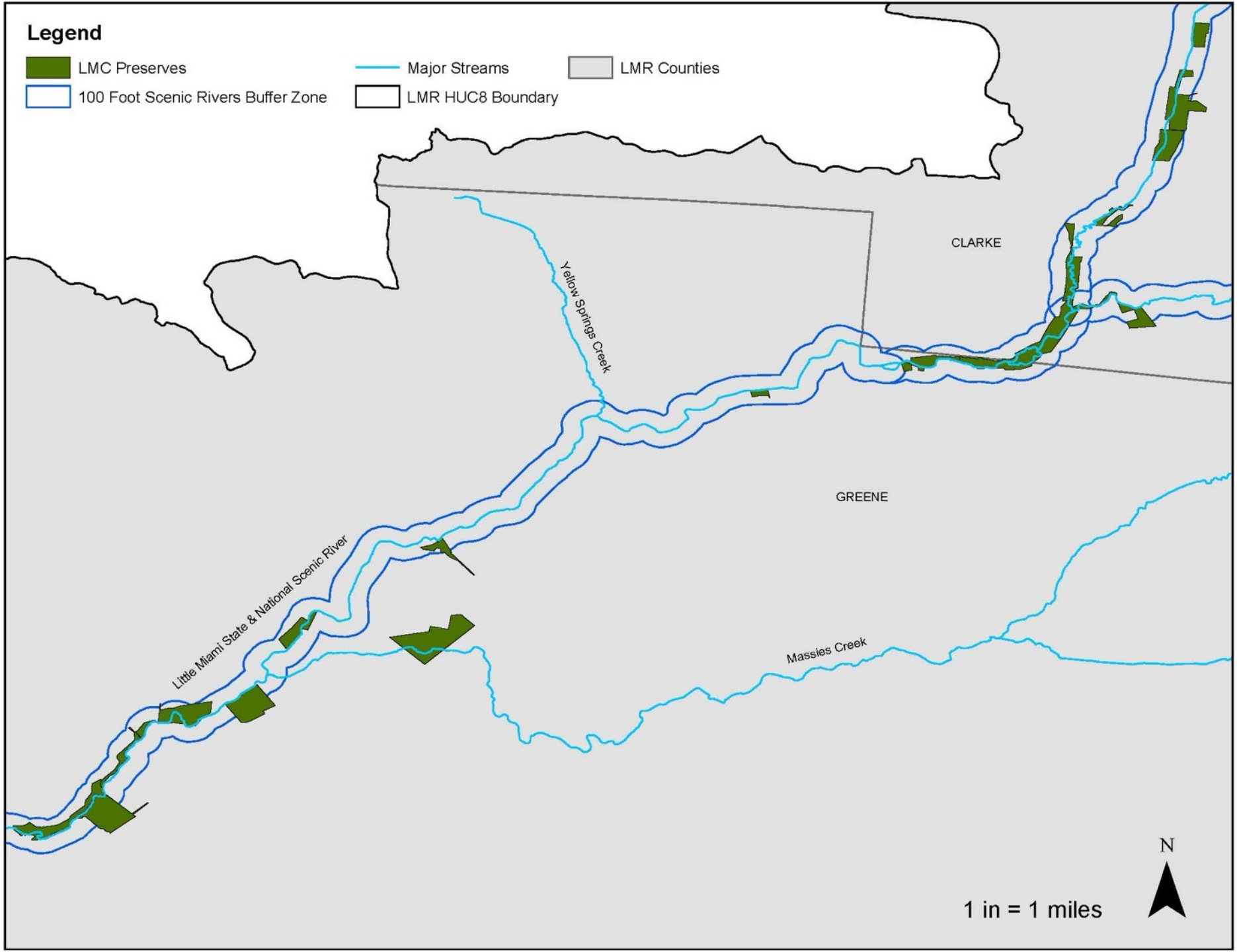
Big Rivers: Ohio's big water quality success

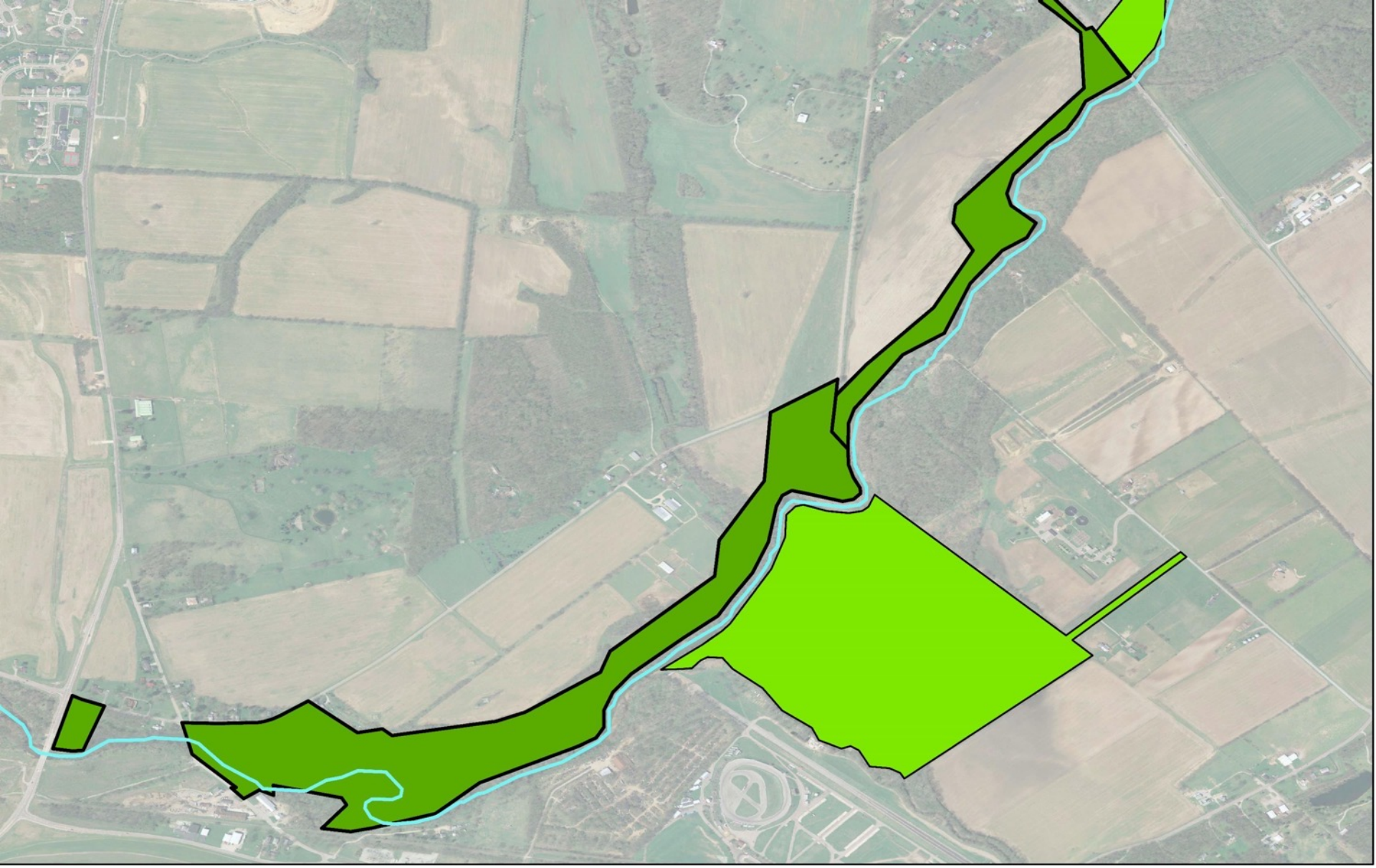



Landuse/Landcover (4 meter)
Little Miami River Watershed
Southwest, Ohio
LMR Watershed
Landuse/Cover Classes
-99: Background
1: Lentic
2: Lotic
3: Forest
4: Corn
5: Soybean
6: Wheat
7: Dry Herbaceous
8: Grass
9: Urban Barren
10: Rural Barren
11: Urban/Built
99: Unclassified
N
W
E
S
0
10
Miles

Manages ***145***
Natural Areas & Preserves
encompassing ***2,100*** acres
across 7 counties




Legend
LMC Preserves
100 Foot Scenic Rivers Buffer Zone
Major Streams
LMR HUC8 Boundary
LMR Counties
CLARKE
Yellow Springs Creek
GREENE
Little Miami State & National Scenic River
Massies Creek
N
1 in = 1 miles



Legend

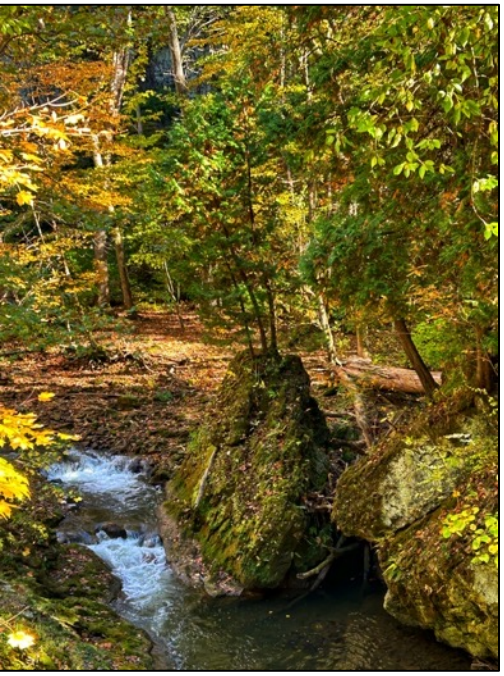
- Little Miami State & National Scenic River
- Existing LMC Nature Preserves
- Bob & Mary Nutter Nature Preserve (~92 acres)

0.5 Miles

N W E S

Sources: Greene County Auditor, ESRI, OGRIP, USGS
Note: Preserves shown are Private Property, visitation by invitation only

LITTLE MIAMI CONSERVANCY



What are riparian zones?

Riparian zones are lands that occur along the edges of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.

Examples include streambanks, riverbanks, and flood plains.

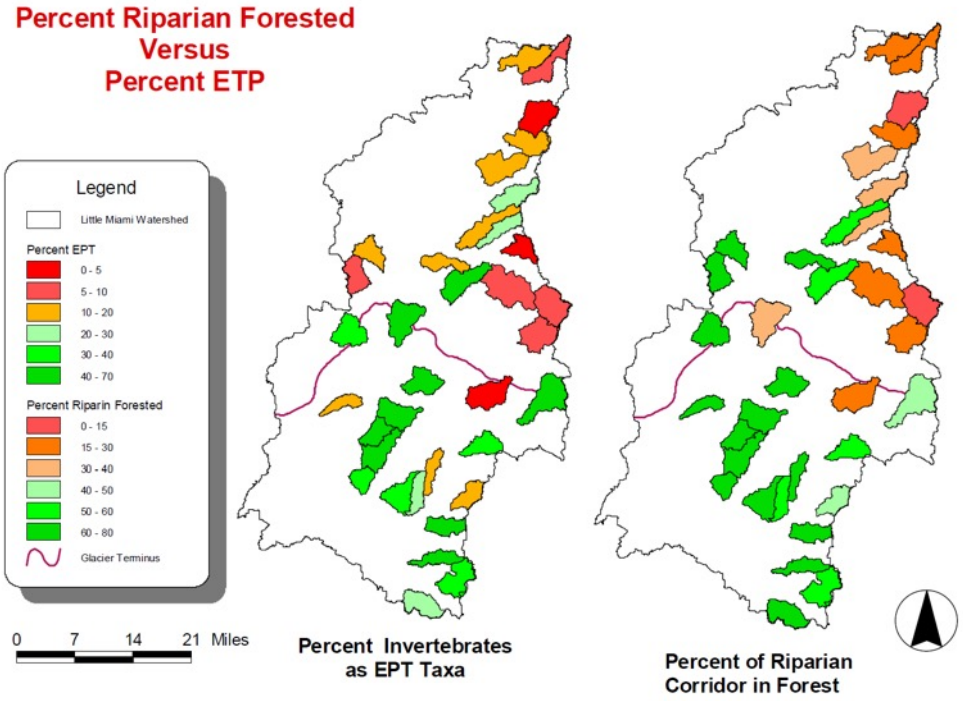
Riparian zones provide many important functions and benefits, including:

- Providing habitat (including migration routes and habitat connectors) for a diversity of wildlife,
- Maintaining water quality, by removing excess nutrients and sediment from surface runoff,
- Stabilizing stream banks and reducing floodwater velocity, and
- Providing recreation opportunities and scenic beauty.

In addition, overhanging vegetation shades streams, which reduces water temperatures for aquatic life.

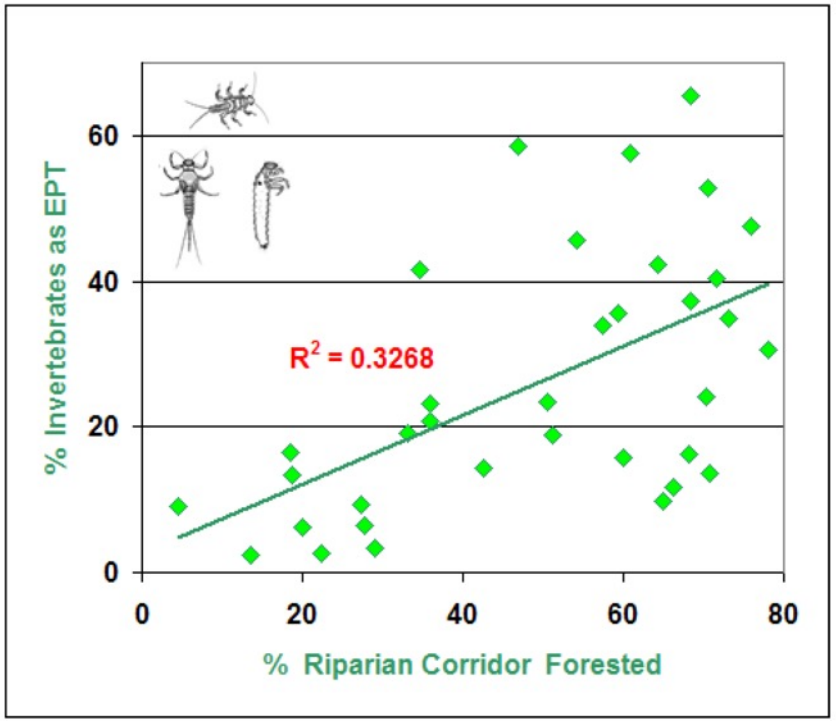
Riparian Forests and Benthic Macroinvertebrates in the Little Miami Scenic River Watershed

By Bernie Daniel, USEPA Cincinnati OH 2004



EPT = Sensitive Taxa

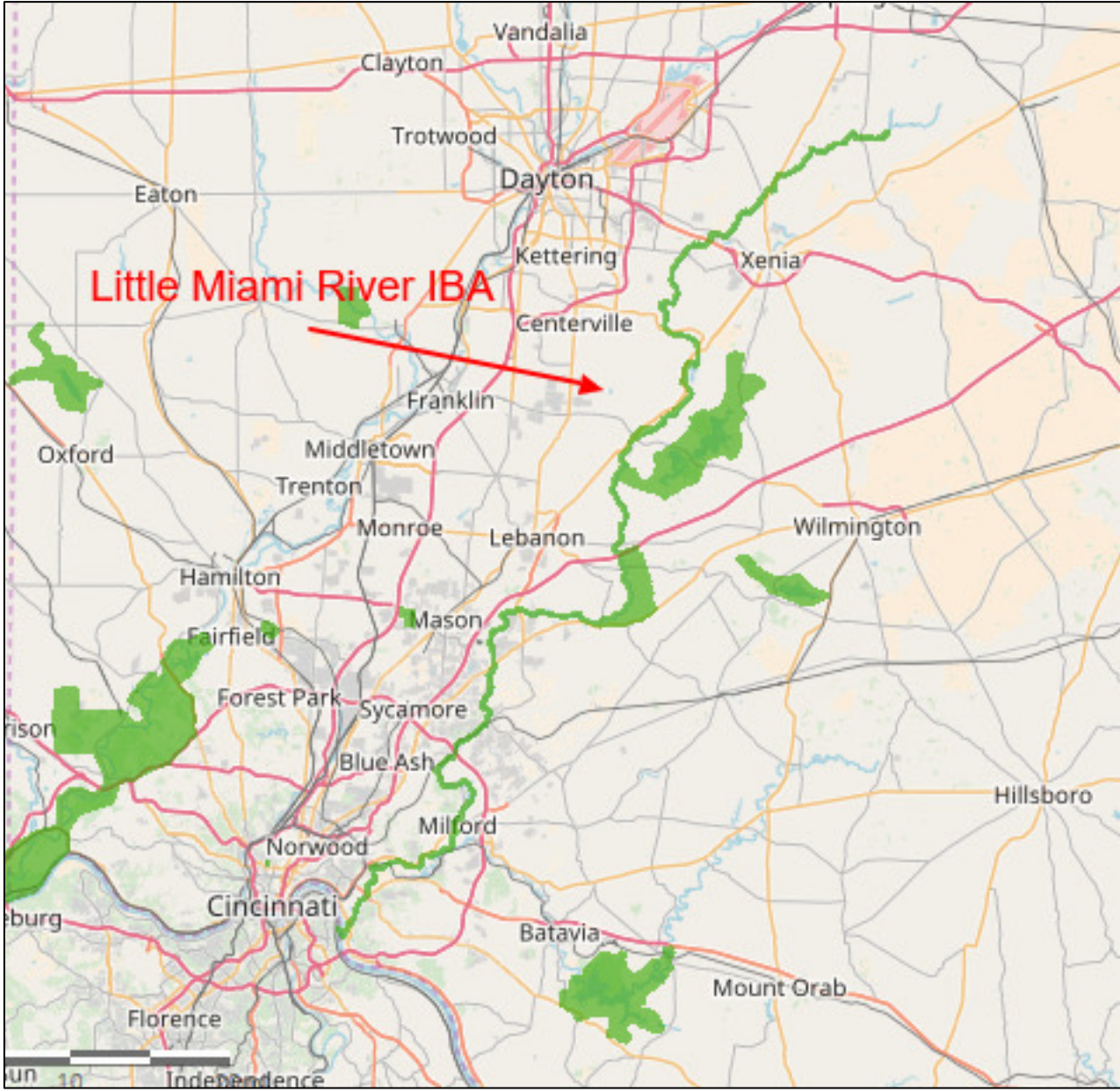
Source: http://cfb.unh.edu/StreamKey/html/biotic_indicators/indices/EPT.html



National Audubon Society

Important Bird Area

Over 250
Bird Species Utilize
the Little Miami River



Beiser Nature Preserve Riparian Corridor Restoration Project

Thank You

You can help by visiting www.littlemiami.org to learn more about our upcoming programs and projects.

Jason Brownknight

Executive Director

Little Miami Conservancy

513-578-2104

brownknight@littlemiami.org