

2 Watershed Inventory- Part I

2.1 Watershed Location

Located near the southern tip of Lake Michigan, the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed (HUC 0404000105) drains nearly 180 mi² of north central Lake and Porter Counties into Lake Michigan through the Burns Waterway in Portage. The watershed is comprised of nine smaller drainage areas known as subwatersheds (Table 4) and several municipalities including the entirety of Hobart and Merrillville and portions of Cedar Lake, Crown Point, Gary, Griffith, Lake Station, New Chicago, St. John, Schererville, Winfield, Portage, Lakes of the Four Seasons, and Ogden Dunes (Figure 3).

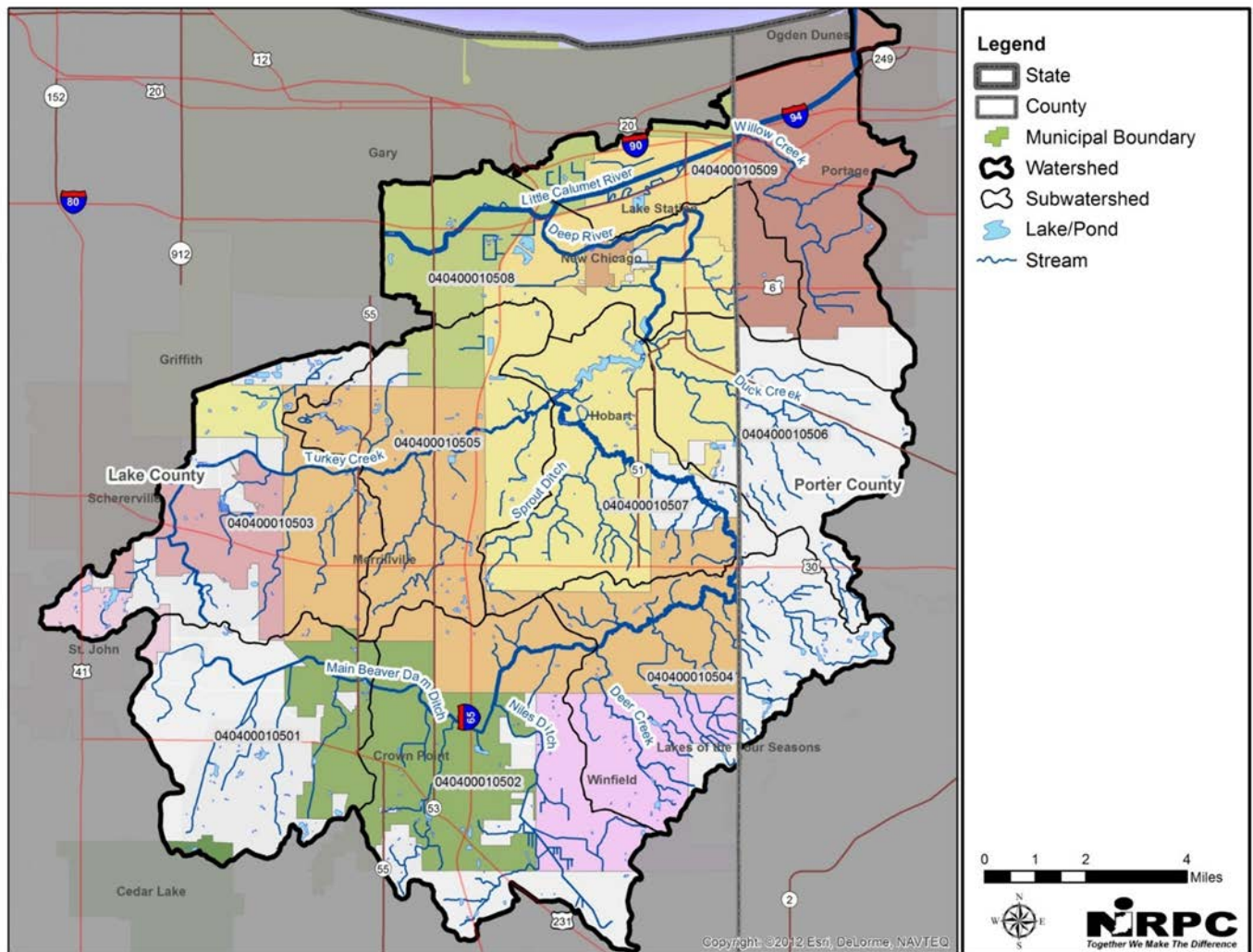


Figure 3 Subwatersheds & Municipalities

Name	HUC-12	Area (ac.)	Area (mi ²)	County	Downstream Subwatershed
Headwaters Main Beaver Dam Ditch	040400010501	11,709	18.3	Lake	040400010502
Main Beaver Dam Ditch-Deep River	040400010502	16,821	26.3	Lake	040400010504
Headwaters Turkey Creek	040400010503	13,595	21.2	Lake	040400010505
Deer Creek-Deep River	040400010504	13,745	21.5	Lake, Porter	040400010507
City of Merrillville-Turkey Creek	040400010505	12,493	19.5	Lake	040400010507
Duck Creek	040400010506	10,140	15.8	Lake, Porter	040400010507
Lake George-Deep River	040400010507	11,081	17.3	Lake, Porter	040400010508
Little Calumet River-Deep River	040400010508	12,148	19.0	Lake, Porter	040400010509
Willow Creek-Burns Ditch	040400010509	13,406	20.9	Lake, Porter	Lake Michigan
Watershed Total		115,138	179.9		

Table 4

Hydrologic Unit Codes: What Are They?

A **hydrologic unit code** or **HUC** is a numbering system used by natural resource agencies to identify watersheds. It's the numeric equivalent to a home's mailing address. The U.S. Geological Survey has mapped the entire country using three different HUC levels: 8-digit HUCs identify large drainage areas known as sub-basins (ex. the Little Calumet-Galien), 10-digit HUCs identify smaller drainage areas known as watersheds (ex. the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway), and 12-digit HUCs identify even smaller drainage areas known as subwatersheds (ex. Duck Creek). Notice how each subwatershed in the table above share the same first 10 digits? That's because they are all part of the larger Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed.