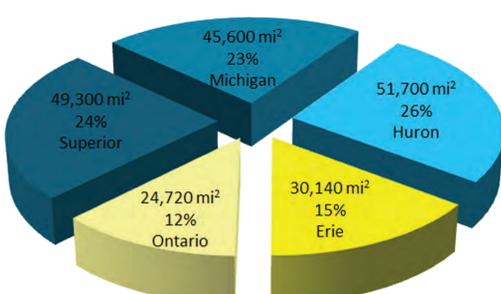


# Lake Erie and people in its watershed are connected.

A **watershed** is an area of land that water drains across on its way to a common waterbody. All tributaries (streams, creeks and rivers) in the Lake Erie Watershed drain into the lake.

Watershed (land) Drainage Area of each Great Lake in Square Miles (total area = 201,460 square miles)

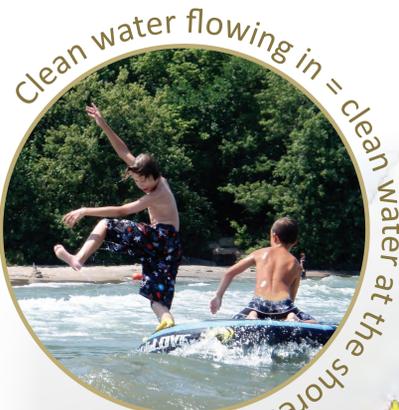


## 12 million

number of people living in Lake Erie's watershed – about 33% of the Great Lakes population.

## 30,140

square miles in Lake Erie's watershed.



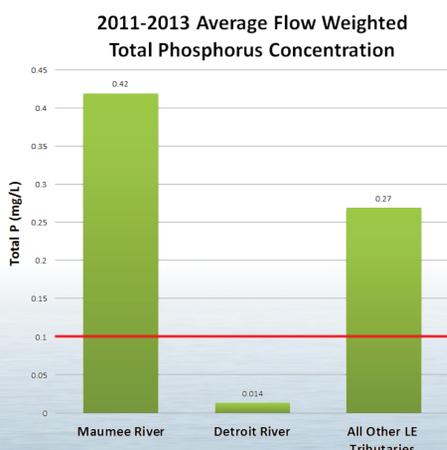
Clean water flowing in = clean water at the shore.



From 2011-2013, of the water in Lake Erie:  
94% flowed down the Detroit River  
4% flowed in from the Maumee River

From 2011-2013, of the total phosphorus loading into Lake Erie:  
47% flowed in from the Maumee River  
41% flowed down the Detroit River

**HOWEVER** what matters for algal growth is concentration of the P in the H<sub>2</sub>O. The higher the concentration of P, the more likely algal blooms will grow.



>25 micrograms/L (ppb) excess algae will start to form  
>100 micrograms/L (ppb) "blooms" are likely to grow.  
[1,000 micrograms (mcg) = 1 milligram (mg)]

(statistics and graph from Ohio Sea Grant)

**Lake Erie Literacy Principle 6f:**  
"Eutrophication is a natural process by which freshwater lakes...build up concentrations of plant nutrients as they age. Human activities in the watershed accelerate eutrophication..."

Lake Erie's watershed is the most urbanized, has the highest population density, and its land is the most intensively farmed of all the Great Lakes.

