

Menomonee River Watershed

The Menomonee River Watershed covers 136 square miles in portions of Washington, Waukesha and Milwaukee counties (Figure 8). The Menomonee River originates in wetlands in the near the Village of Germantown and the City of Mequon and runs south, south east for about 32 miles where it meets the Milwaukee and Kinnickinnic Rivers in the Milwaukee Harbor.

Nearly all of the land area in this watershed is within incorporated municipalities. Forty-two percent of the land is covered by urban uses. Grasslands (22%), agriculture (17%) forests (8%) and wetlands (7%) make up most of the remaining land uses.

Stream and wetland modification, urban and rural runoff, construction site erosion and industrial point sources of pollution are the major contributors to degraded water and habitat quality within this watershed. Over eight miles of stream are listed on the 303(d) list as impaired. Many streams in this watershed have been concrete-lined, or straightened to convey floodwaters off the land faster. Flooding continues to be a major concern in this watershed. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District is implementing several flood control projects in this watershed. Over five miles of the Little Menomonee River has been designated as the Moss American Superfund Site. Creosote contaminated sediments within the river have caused extensive environmental damage, and negotiations are underway with U.S. EPA and the responsible party for implementing a clean up remedy. ***For more information about the Moss American Superfund Site, please see the following:***

<http://www.epa.gov/region5superfund/npl/wisconsin/WID039052626.htm>.

Following the recent removal of the Falk Corporation Dam and concrete drop structure on the Menomonee River, seasonal runs of Lake Michigan trout and salmon create fishing opportunities in publicly accessible areas up to the Lepper Dam in the Village of Menomonee Falls. Most fish species resident in the streams of this watershed are tolerant of pollution and habitat degradation. Some streams within this watershed are enclosed or diverted under roads for some of their length which further restricts habitat for aquatic life.

There are no named lakes within this watershed. Some park ponds provide for some recreational opportunities for urban fishing.

Figure 7. Menomonee River Watershed

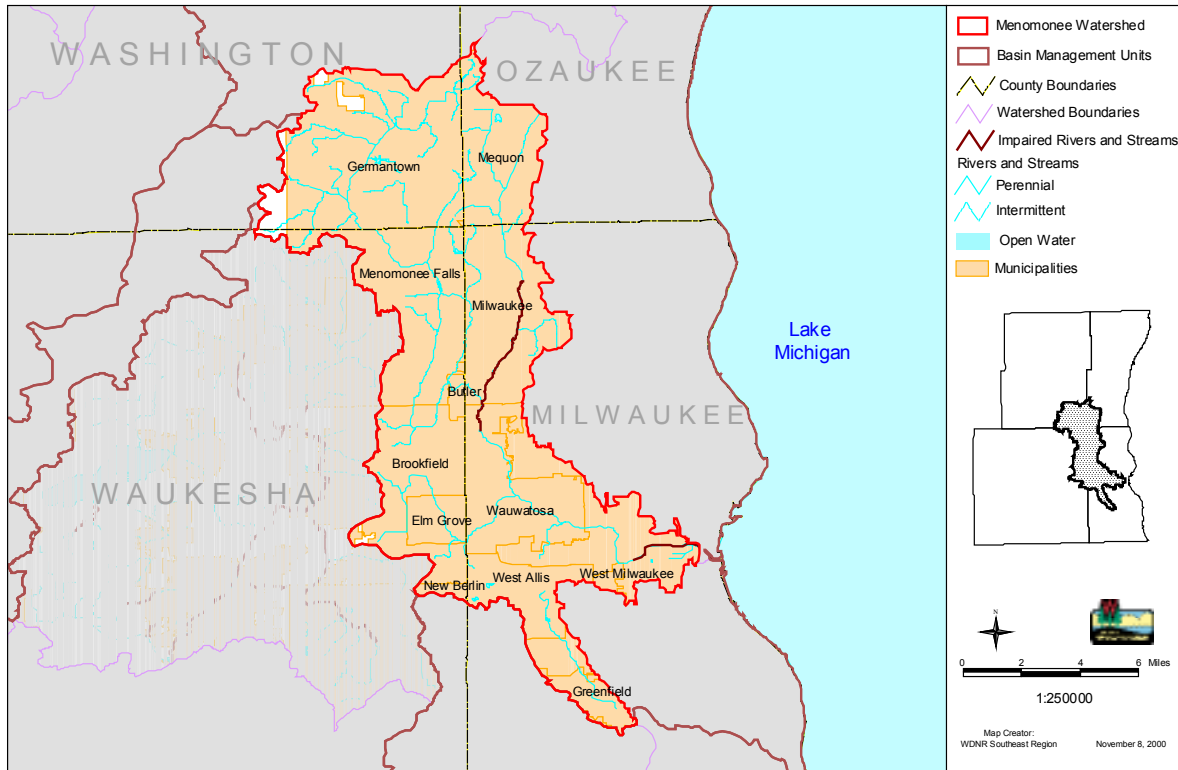


Table 6. Menomonee River Watershed at a Glance

<i>Watershed drainage area</i>	136 square miles
<i>Miles of streams</i>	96
<i>Miles of streams listed as outstanding or exceptional resource waters</i>	0
<i>Miles of streams on impaired waters list</i>	8.3
<i>General threats to stream water quality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stream and wetland modification ■ Urban and agricultural runoff ■ Construction site erosion ■ Contaminated sediments ■ Industrial and municipal point sources
<i>Number of lakes</i>	0 named lakes, several ponds
<i>Number of dams</i>	6
<i>Threats to lake/pond water quality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess nutrients • Exotic species
<i>Number of industrial wastewater treatment facilities</i>	8 specific
<i>Number of municipal wastewater treatment facilities</i>	All of watershed wastewater flows to MMSD