



Cuyahoga River Tributaries – Biological and Water Quality Survey Planning

In 2018, Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water (DSW) will be conducting a biological and water quality survey in the Cuyahoga River watershed. The survey will include sampling major tributaries to the river, an in-depth sampling study of the ship channel, as well as several other select mainstem locations. The full length of the Cuyahoga River mainstem was surveyed in [2017](#). The Cuyahoga River Tributaries study area is entirely contained within the 8-digit hydrological unit code 04110002 and is composed of twenty-eight 12-digit watershed assessment units (WAUs).

Stakeholder input

Ohio EPA has compiled a proposed list of sampling sites for the Cuyahoga River Tributaries survey based upon the objectives below. A map of the proposed sampling site locations has been included in Figure 1. Additional information through an interactive map is available on Ohio EPA's [webpage](#). At this time, Ohio EPA is accepting comments on the proposed sampling sites. Any interested party wishing to provide comments on any aspects of the proposed list are welcome at the April 24, 2018 Stakeholder meeting or in writing. Ohio EPA will be requesting permission from landowners for property access to sampling sites over the next month. Once the sites have been finalized, the detailed Study Plan will be 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 a draft 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. Likewise, regulated dischargers or other known or potential sources of pollution are targeted for evaluation to assess their impact on water quality. For the 2018 Cuyahoga River Tributaries 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 beneficial use impairment status for Lake Erie's [Areas of Concern](#).
- Evaluation of impacts from regulated wastewater and/or storm water dischargers to inform permit renewals and/or to acquire baseline information for new permits.
- 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

The Cuyahoga River basin has three existing [TMDL reports](#) approved by U.S. EPA. The TMDLs, with approval dates in parentheses, were calculated for the upper (September 2014), middle (March 2000) and lower (September 2003) river sections including their associated tributaries.

Stakeholder meeting

A meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 24, 2018 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** at the Cuyahoga Falls Public Library Sutcliff Room, 2015 Third Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221.

Additional information

For additional information on the Cuyahoga River watershed, including previous study results, current TMDLs and this fact sheet, please visit

epa.ohio.gov/dsw/wq.aspx.

Providing feedback

Comments can be submitted in one of the following ways:

- By email:
EPATMDL@epa.ohio.gov
- By fax: (614) 644-2745
- By postal mail:
TMDL Program
Ohio EPA,
Division of Surface Water
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

All comments must be submitted to the Agency **no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 11, 2018**.

Stay involved

Subscribe to updates on TMDL projects at:
https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/utills/login_form/redirect/account%252Fprofile.

Contact information

For more information, contact Bill Zawiski at
William.Zawiski@epa.ohio.gov or
(330) 963-1134.

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Figure 1. Proposed Cuyahoga River Tributaries – Biological and Water Quality Survey Sampling Sites Map.

