



Fact Sheet: Loading Analysis Plan – Lower Mahoning River Watershed

In 2011 and 2013, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) conducted a biological and water quality survey in the Lower Mahoning River watershed. Based on the findings of that survey, a loading analysis plan was completed. The loading analysis plan is the third step in the new Total Maximum Daily Load development process.

What is a loading analysis plan?

A loading analysis plan (LAP) is a plan prepared by Ohio EPA that lists actions to be taken by the Agency for sampling sites found to be impaired for a beneficial use designation (aquatic life, recreation, and public water supply). Actions may include development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), follow up sampling, referral to another agency and/or no action, for example where the cause of impairment is natural.

For those sites where the Agency is planning to develop a TMDL, the LAP contains the proposed modeling approach and water quality restoration targets for a watershed study area.

How is the analytical method determined?

Ohio EPA considers numerous factors when deciding how to address impairments in TMDLs. The primary origin of the pollutant, its delivery mechanisms and the water body kinetics involved are all essential in determining which model is most appropriate. The complexity of the model utilized is dependent upon the complexity of the impairment.

When choosing a method, Ohio EPA must also look at any ongoing efforts in the watershed, previous TMDL analyses, the questions to be answered by the model and the amount of effort required to complete it. Additional data may be necessary depending on the selected method and the modeling approach is subject to change based on findings.

The Lower Mahoning River watershed LAP details the analytical methods that will be used to address aquatic life use (ALU) and recreation use impairments. Figure 1, below, depicts the ALU attainment status for each site sampled in the survey area.

Where can I learn more?

- [Loading analysis plan \(LAP\)](#)
- [Biological and Water Quality Report](#)
- [More information about biological, chemical, and physical monitoring of Ohio's waters](#)

Stakeholder Input

The comment period for the Lower Mahoning River watershed LAP ended on January 17, 2023. The LAP is the third step in the TMDL development process. The next step is the preliminary modeling results, which will additionally be available for review and comment.

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Contact Information

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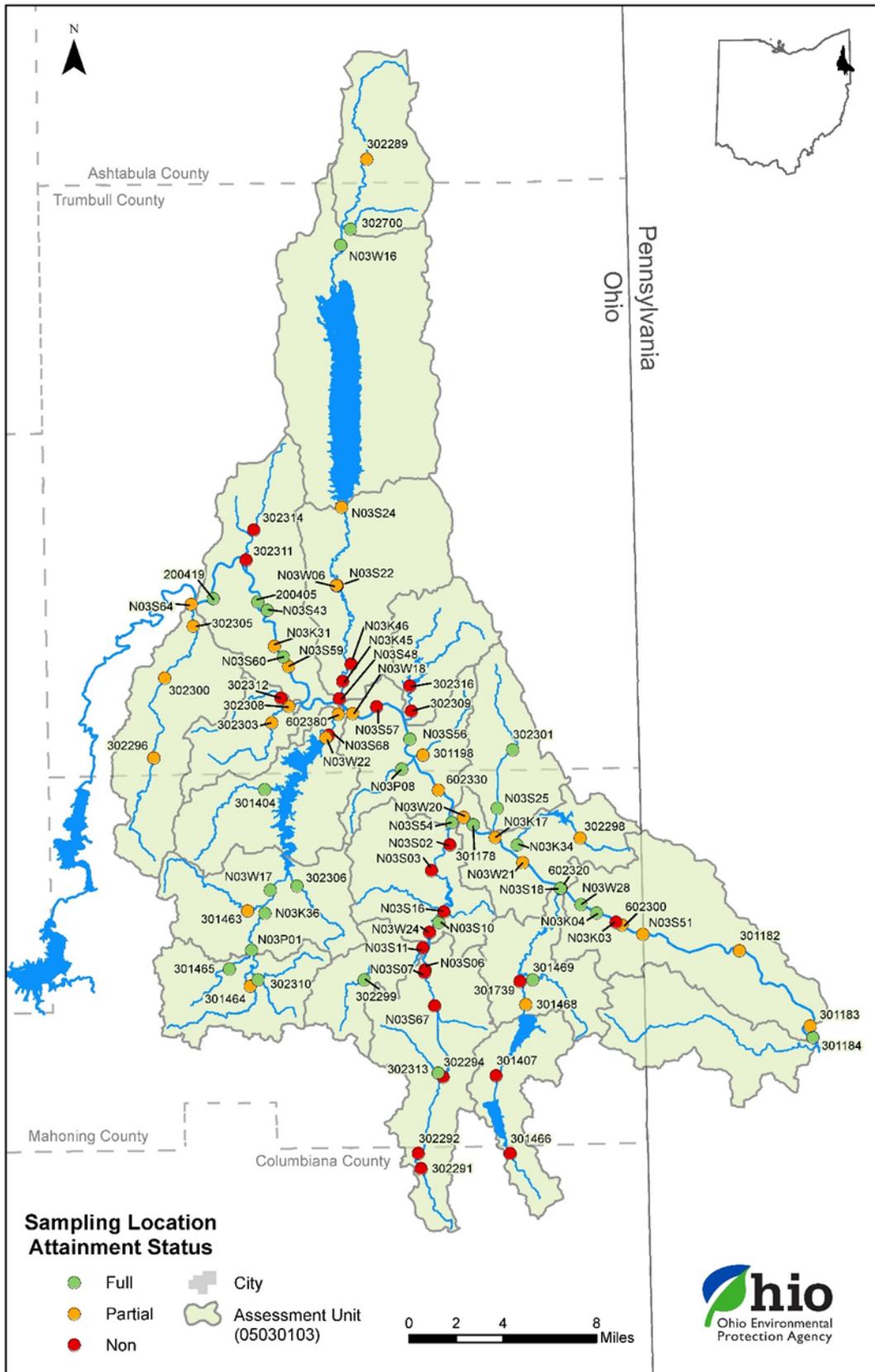


Figure 1 — Map summarizing ALU attainment status in the Lower Mahoning River watershed in 2013.