

Improved Water Quality Illicit Discharge Elimination Project

St. Clair County Health Department



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Director of Environmental Health



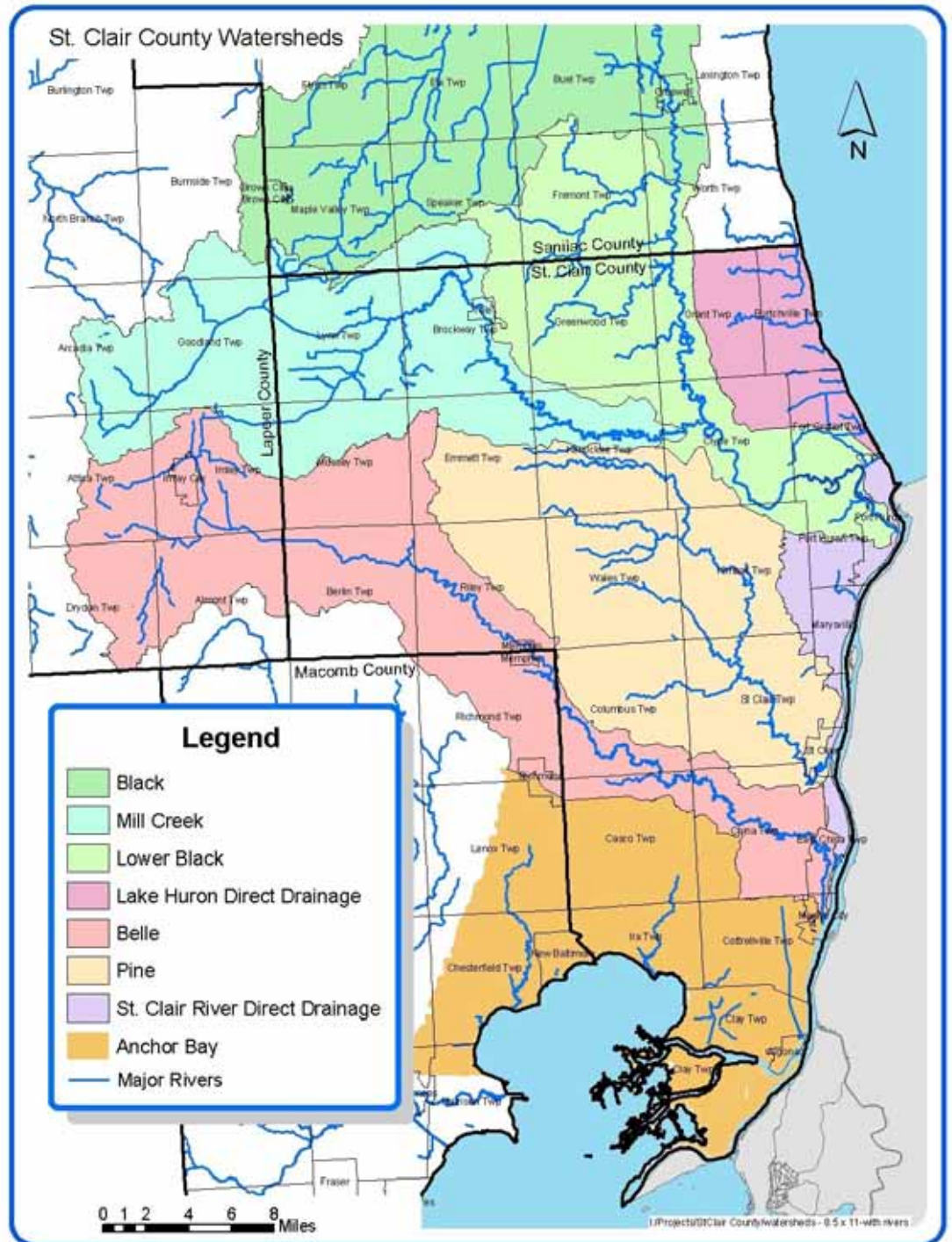
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

Illicit Discharge Elimination Program Seeds

- Beach closures
- Failing septic systems
- Public value of water quality
- Watershed initiatives
- Lake Huron Initiative Action Plan 2000
- Phase II Storm Water Permit
- CMI MDEQ IDEP Grants
- County commitment to water quality

IDEP Goals

- Locate and eliminate illicit discharges in:
 - Road Drains
 - County Drains
 - Natural Waterways
- Improve water quality
- Reduce number of beach closures



Outfall Survey

MDEQ agreement

Dry weather monitoring
Illicit discharge tracking and
correction

Geographical Positioning System

Trimble Pathfinder software

Data collection

Outfall labeling
Digital photo
Sample collection

GIS

Arc Map software



Outfall Survey

Activity	2002 - 2007
Miles of streams, shoreline and road ditches surveyed	3,087
Outfalls located	6,170
Illicit Discharges located	448



Illicit Discharge Examples



Follow up Investigations

- “Hot List” Criteria

- E coli >1000 MPN/100ml
- Surfactants >1mg/1L
- Unusual physical parameters
 - Color, odor, clarity...



- Follow up Investigations

- Die testing, grab samples, sewer televising...

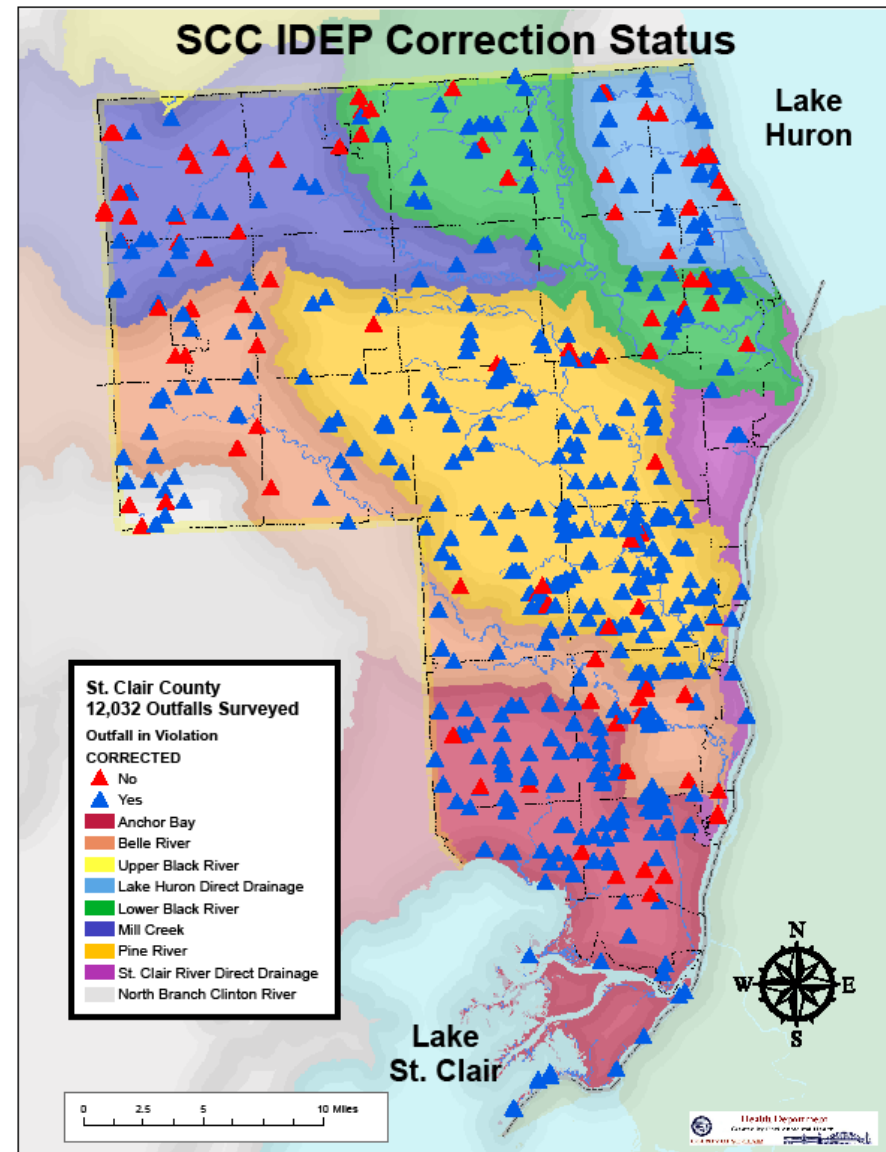


Corrections

***448 illicit discharges have been corrected;
132 are in the process of correction.***

***A reduction of over
32 million gallons of sewage
from being discharged into
St. Clair County's waterways
each year.****

* 131 gpd/ household.
Estimate of 50 gal/person, and 2.62 persons/
household per 2000 Census Data.



Public Outreach

- Watershed kick off meetings
- Brochure development
- T-shirts and hats
- Hotline Magnets
- Civic presentations

Overall Support of Program

Illicit Discharge
Elimination Program
St. Clair County



St. Clair County Health Department
Environmental Health Division
and the
Office of St. Clair County Drain
Commissioner

Beach Monitoring

20 public beaches

1998 - 2002		
Year	Closings	Days
1998	17	123
1999	11	51
2000	13	26
2001	4	10
2002	17	90
Total	62	300

2003 - 2007		
Year	Closings	Days
2003	9	23
2004	3	5
2005	7	20
2006	6	8
2007	6	6
Total	31	62



IDEP is considered a success

- 78% of failing septic systems found have been corrected
- 32 million gallons eliminated from surface water annually
- Technical expertise gained to continue IDEP
- County support of program
- Greater public and county department awareness of the importance of functioning septic systems
- Completed inventory of the entire county's waterways
- Beach closing reductions

Future activities

- Continue correcting failing septic systems
- Continue responding to complaints
- Meet new Phase II IDEP requirements
- Continue public outreach activities
- Investigate bacteria hot spots discovered through the Lake St. Clair Regional Monitoring project

Questions



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