



Citizens Environment Alliance

The Citizens Environment Alliance (CEA) is a non-profit, grass-roots, international, education and research organization. We are committed to an ecosystem approach to environmental planning and management. www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org



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photos © Tom Preney



The Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) is a community-based partnership between citizens, industry, government, scientists, and several environmental organizations responsible for the implementation of the Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan. The DRCC's main goal is to protect, restore and enhance the Detroit River ecosystem in order to remove it from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern. For more information, visit www.detroitriver.ca.



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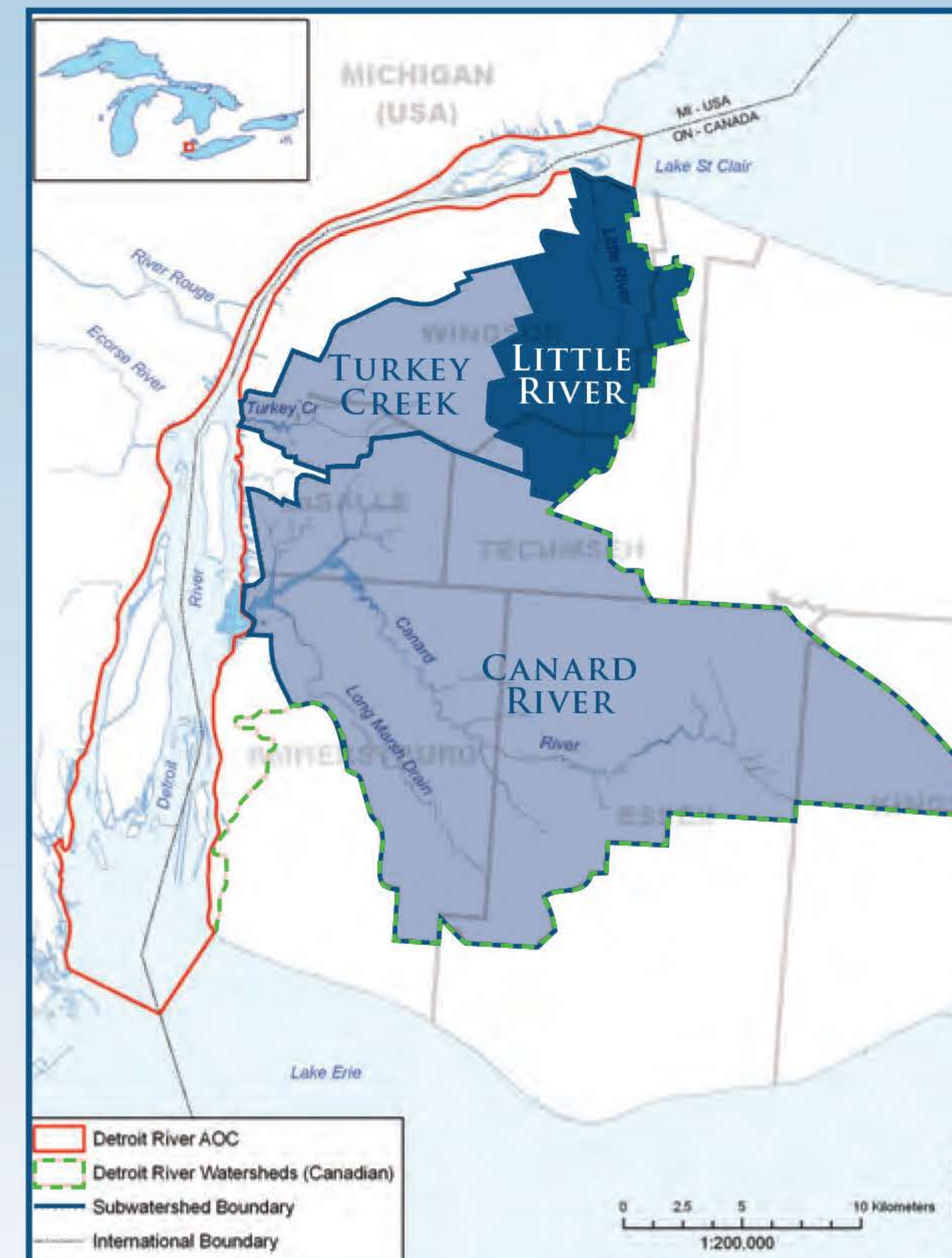
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WATERSHEDS AND AOC

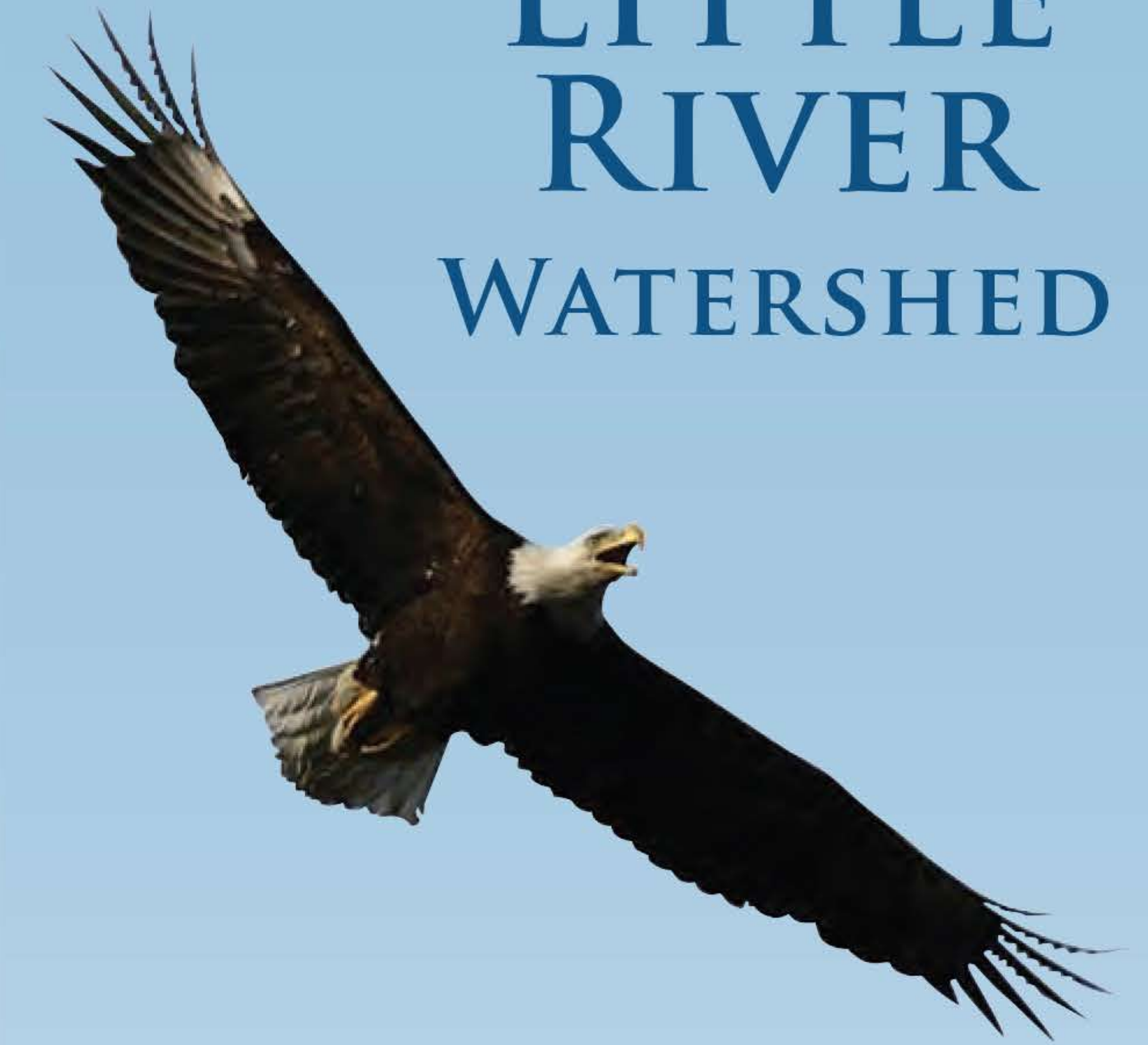
A watershed is all the land that is drained by a lake, river, creek or drain. The Canadian side of the Detroit River watershed includes three sub-watersheds: Little River, Turkey Creek, and the Canard River. Together, they drain almost 431 km² of land.

An Area of Concern (AOC) is a degraded location in the Great Lakes' basin. Below is a map of the Detroit River AOC and its Canadian watersheds.



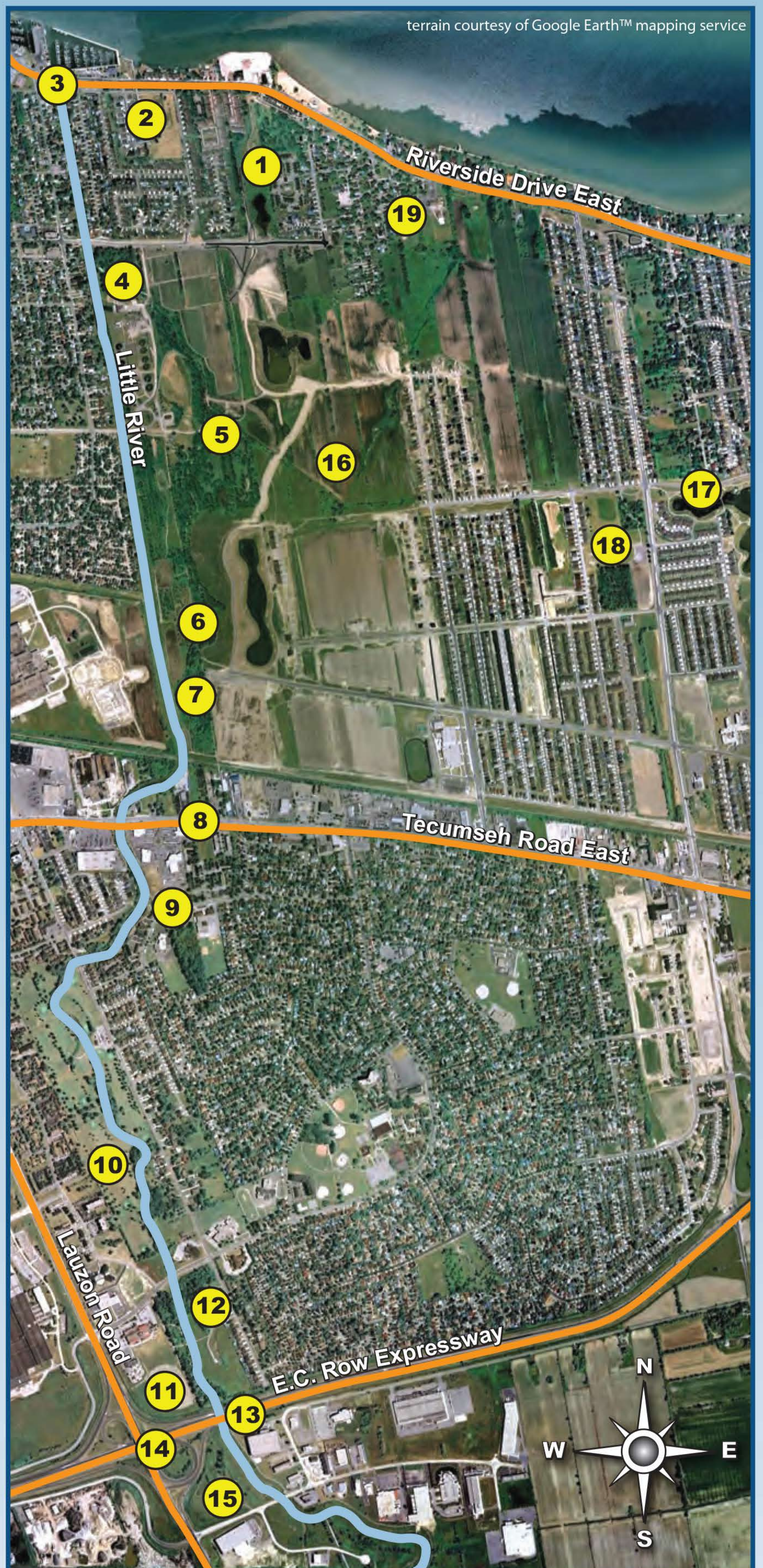
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TOUR OF LITTLE RIVER WATERSHED



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- 1 Centennial Forest** - Dedicated by Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn in 1992 for Windsor's centennial. Trees planted here are all Carolinian species, native to this region of Canada.
- 2 Mountbatten Street Development** - Species found in former woodlot include provincially rare prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*).
- 3 Ganatchio Trail Wooden Bridge** - View of mouth of river. Channel has been straightened and banks "hardened" with steel. From here one can see Peche Island, a City of Windsor park. The DRCC helps organize annual Peche Island day tours for the public.
- 4 Bertha St. woodlot** provides linkage to the Little River corridor.
- 5 Little River Corridor** - The "old channel" of Little River provides wildlife habitat for wetland species. This area is the focus of many cleanup and habitat restoration projects.
- 6 John's Pond** - Created by and named for retired Parks Dept. employee John Rosenberger, who was instrumental in the naturalization and preservation of the corridor.
- 7 Top of Levee** - Site of McHugh Street crossing. Views of arena water quality mitigation include the large swale bordering the parking lot.
- 8 Bike Path beside Canadian Tire** - Site of annual cleanup. A record 23 shopping carts removed by L'il Reg volunteers in April 2002.
- 9 Teedie Park** - Bike path connects to on-road route. Cross river on Lauzon Rd.
- 10 Little River Golf Course** - City-owned. Past proposals for housing developments but opportunities exist for future naturalization projects.
- 11 Derwent Park** - Recent trees planted include pumpkin ash, red oak, shagbark hickory, blue ash and sugar maple. Green herons have been spotted in the small wetland area.
- 12 Shaughnessy Cohen Woods** - Dedicated Nov. 2000. Site of reforestation project.
- 13 Culvert under EC Row Expressway** - Potential opportunity for enhancing wildlife movement and greenway linkage.
- 14 Cloverleaf naturalization project** includes native species planting and reduction in mowing. Windsor Airport woodlots can be seen from the overpass. These large woodlots filter the headwaters of Little River and provide scarce forest interior habitat and have been designated provincially significant.
- 15 Twin Oaks Industrial Park** - Projects undertaken here include enhancement of the water-course and creation of bike trails.
- 16 East Marsh Tap Drain** - Low-lying lands, historically wetlands, were subjected to extensive drainage prior to development. Riparian growth and old hedgerows provide corridor for movement of wildlife.
- 17 East Riverside Park & Blue Heron Pond** - Stormwater management facility. The hill is a former landfill site.
- 18 Lakeshore Woods** - Two small woodlots are Eastern cottonwood forests consisting largely of pioneer species colonizing a previously cleared site. Hiking/biking trails.
- 19 Riverside Sportsmens' Club** - Woodlot behind club exhibits unanticipated diversity containing a shallow marsh, willow/cottonwood swamp and a dogwood thicket.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Little River and its tributaries drain 60 km² of land in Windsor and Tecumseh.
- Concord Public School students held their first "Cleanup Crusade" at Little River in June, 1989. Since that time various groups have removed hundreds of car tires, appliances, plastic swimming pools, cans, automobile parts and numerous shopping carts.
- The 1989 cleanup led to the formation of the Little River Enhancement Group (L'il Reg) in 1991. Since then, by their own count, the group has planted 12,065 trees within the watershed.
- Bald eagles, American toads, leopard frogs, muskrats, and painted, snapping and Blanding's turtles are among the wildlife that have been observed in the "old channel" of Little River.