

**County:** Porter and Lake

**Acres:** 47,330

**Waterway Miles:** 89.43

**Impaired Waterway  
Miles:** 44.41, 50%

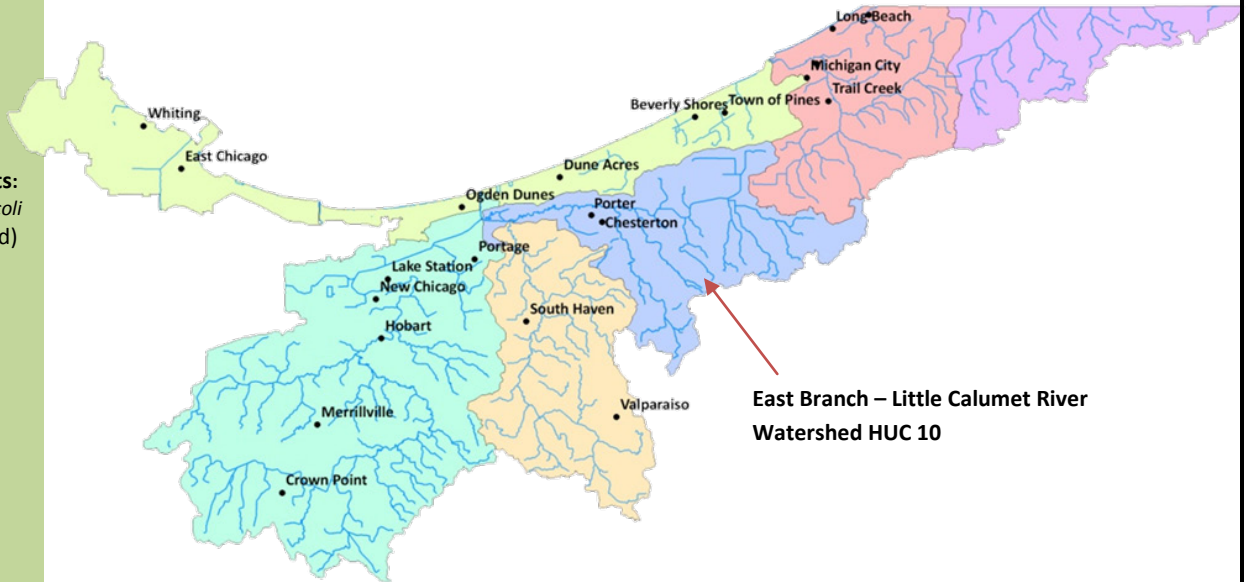
**State Listed Impairments:**  
mercury, cyanide, PCBs, *E. coli*  
Source: IDEM 2008 303(d)

**Major Streams:** Coffee  
Creek, Little Calumet River,  
Sand Creek

**Hydrologic Unit Codes**

**HUC 10** (shown in map)  
0404000104 –LCRW-East  
Branch

The Lake Michigan Coastal Program supports coordination and partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies and local organizations for the protection and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the Lake Michigan region. The Little Calumet-Galien Watershed, encompassing the entire area below, is the focus of the coastal program's Nonpoint Source Pollution control efforts.



**East Branch – Little Calumet River  
Watershed HUC 10**

## Management Efforts in the Watershed

### Coffee Creek Watershed Management Plan

**Year:** 2003

**Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC):** Plan completed at the 14-digit level.

**Plan Coordinator:** Coffee Creek Watershed Conservancy

**Contact Information:** 219 B South Calumet Chesterton, IN 46304

**Phone:** 219-926-1842

**Available at:**

[http://www.coffeecreekwkc.org/media/mgmt\\_plan\\_docs/mgmt\\_plan\\_web.pdf](http://www.coffeecreekwkc.org/media/mgmt_plan_docs/mgmt_plan_web.pdf)

**Goal 1:** Reduce *E. coli* levels in the Little Calumet River by reducing loads to the River to meet beneficial uses.

**Goal 2:** Reduce sediment loads by source reduction strategies and, in priority subwatersheds, through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

**Goal 3:** Reduce nutrient loads by source reduction strategies and, in priority subwatersheds, through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

**Goal 4:** Restore, improve, and/or protect floodplains, wetlands, natural areas, and riparian corridors.

**Goal 5:** Improve public awareness/knowledge of pollutant loads, sources, and solutions, especially with regard to *E. coli*, and the impacts and risks associated with them.

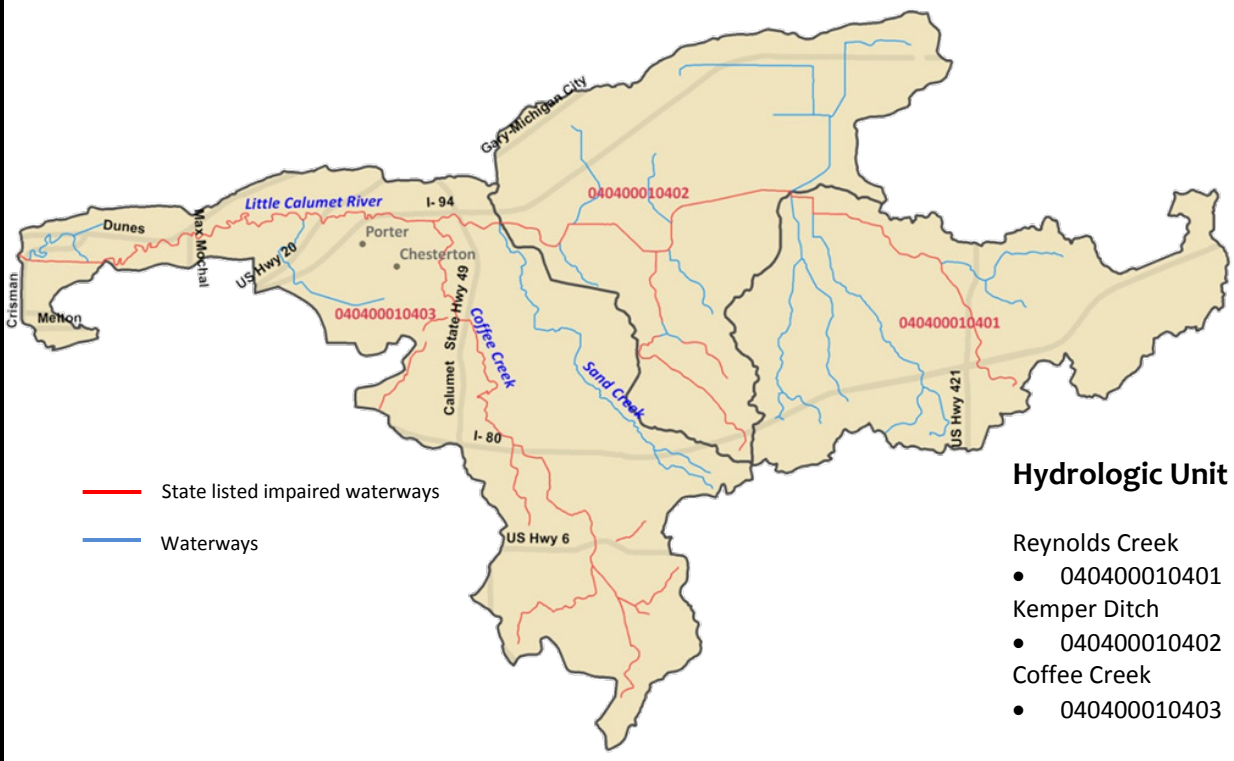
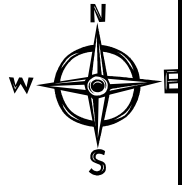
**Goal 6:** Create an active watershed alliance or conservancy district that facilitates and implements information sharing including ordinances, projects/experiences, and educational materials in a central location.

**Goal 7:** Increase river corridor connectivity, river navigability, and public access sites and make the public aware of them.

***E. coli*:** The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) currently lists the west branch of the Little Calumet River as impaired for *E. coli*. *E. coli* is a bacteria associated with the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals. The presence of *E. coli* in water is a strong indication of the presence of sewage or animal waste contamination. Sources of *E. coli* can be, but are not limited to, runoff from animal pastures and livestock pens, poorly functioning septic systems, runoff from areas with high concentrations of pet waste, combined sewer systems (a sewer receiving both intercepted surface runoff and municipal sewage), illicit discharges, and natural wildlife. *E. coli* is widely used as an indicator of the potential presence of waterborne disease causing (pathogenic) bacteria and viruses. One sampling location at the uppermost end of the Little Calumet River (Indianapolis Blvd.) had 100% of its samples exceed the recreational standard for *E. coli*. Since contamination at this upstream site has the potential to negatively affect the entire river, finding and reducing sources of bacteria at this site are of the highest priority.

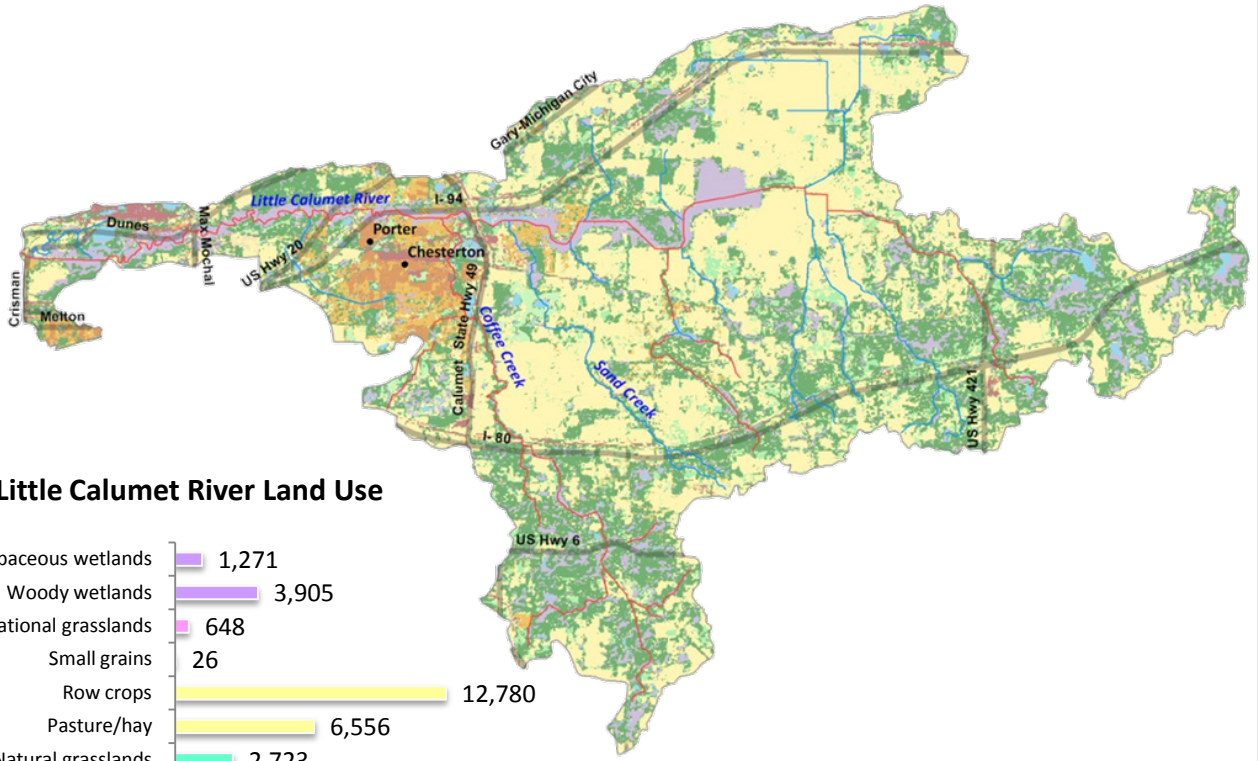
**PCBs, Mercury, Cyanide:** A fish consumption advisory is in effect for the west branch of the Little Calumet River for PCB's and Mercury. Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) belongs to a broad family of man-made organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons. PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications until they were banned in 1979. Products from that period still contain PCB's, which can be released into the environment from poorly maintained hazardous waste sites, illegal or improper dumping of PCB wastes, leaks or releases from electrical transformers containing PCBs, and disposal of PCB-containing consumer products into municipal or other landfills not designed to handle hazardous waste. Mercury is a chemical most often emitted the production of energy from coal fired power plants. Mercury can settle into our waterways and is a common cause of fish consumption advisories in Indiana. Cyanide is a chemical commonly used in industrial manufacturing that can end up in drinking water from effluent emitted from these sites. Nerve damage and thyroid problems are a likely consequence of human contact with this substance. Water quality tests indicated levels exceeding the state standard for Cyanide.

**Biotic Communities:** The Indiana Department of Environmental Management lists sections of the Little Calumet Watershed as Impaired for Biotic Communities. Biotic communities are all the interacting organisms living together in the same habitat.



**Hydrologic Unit Code: 12**

- Reynolds Creek
- 040400010401
- Kemper Ditch
- 040400010402
- Coffee Creek
- 040400010403



**Little Calumet River Land Use**

