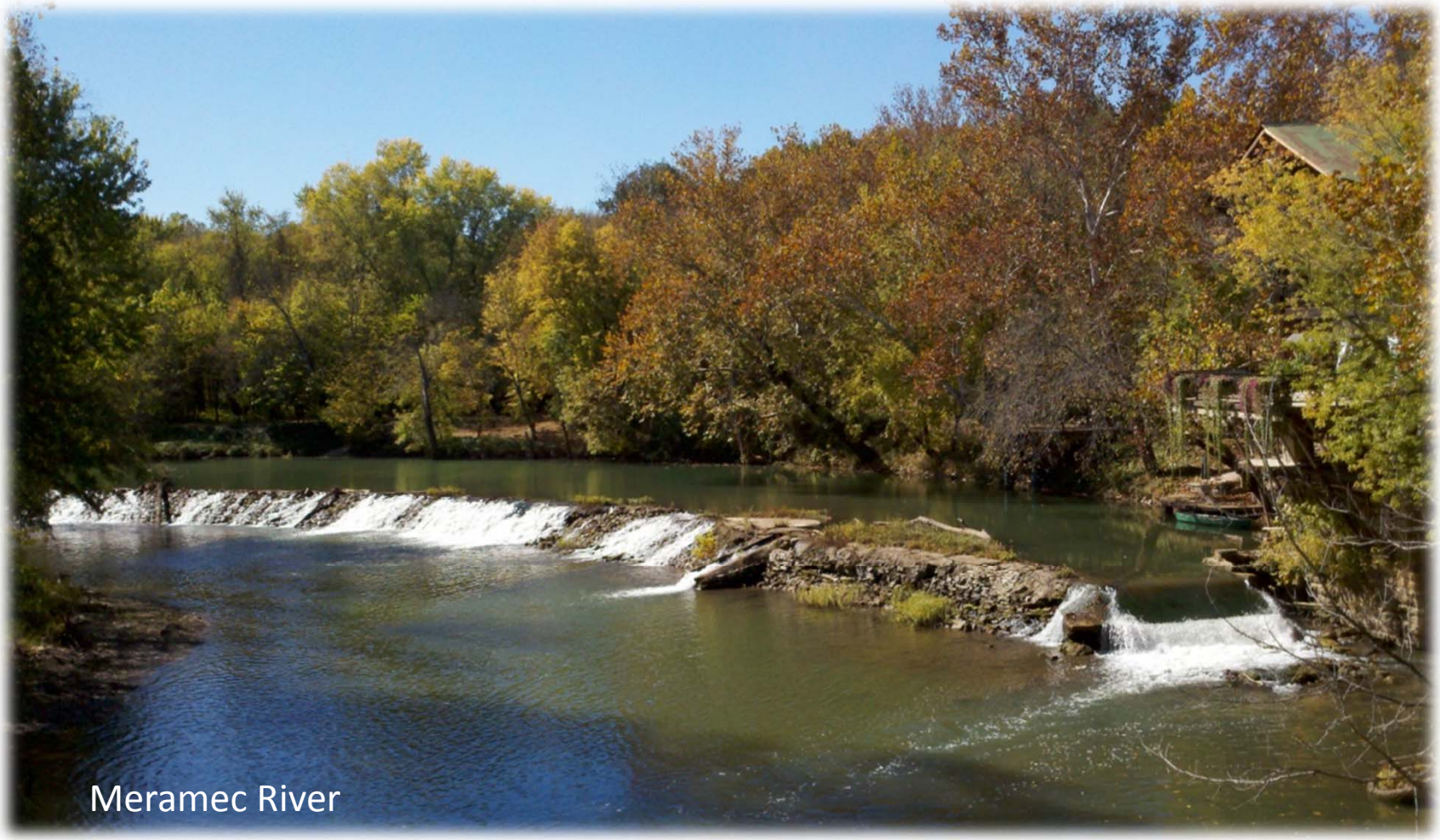
URBANWATERS
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
*Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities*

# *Meramec Watershed - Meramec & Tributaries*

## *Designated Community Location*



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# Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)

*Led by federal agencies and coordinated by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Domestic Policy Council,*

*The Urban Waters Federal Partnership closely aligns with and advances the work of the White House's place-based efforts, including the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and the Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Initiative,*

*To revitalize communities, create jobs and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the nation.*

*Urban Waters Federal Partnership, Nov 2014*

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# Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)

**VISION**

Revitalize and transform overlooked watersheds into community assets.

**MISSION**

Help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are under-served or economically distressed, connect with their waterways and work to improve them.

- **Break down federal program silos** to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources through better coordination and targeting of federal investments.

- Recognize and build on local efforts and leadership, by **engaging and serving community partners**.

- **Work with local officials and effective community-based organizations** to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.

- Learn from early and visible victories to **fuel long-term action**.

**WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?**

14 Federal Program Partners + 28 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) & Association Partners signed statement of support Dec 2014.

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# Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)

## 14 Federal Program Partners

**Co-leads**: **EPA, U.S. Department of Interior & U.S. Dept. of Agriculture**

- US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army (USACE-DA)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Health and Human Services (CDC-HHS)
- Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- US Department of Education (ED)
- US Department of Energy: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (US DOE)
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD)
- US Department of the Interior (US DOI)
- US Department of Transportation (US DOT)
- US Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce (EDA-DOC)
- US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Department of Homeland Security (FEMA-DHS)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, US Department of Health and Human Services (NIEHS-HHS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce (NOAA-DOC)

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# Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)

## 28 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) & Association Partners

## Signed statement of support Dec 2014

- Alliance for Community Trees
- American Forests
- American Planning Association
- American Rivers
- American Society of Landscape Architects
- Amigos de los Rios
- Arbor Day Foundation
- City Parks Alliance
- Earth Force
- Groundwork USA
- Izaak Walton League
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- National Recreation and Park Association
- National Wildlife Federation
- Restore America's Estuaries
- River Network
- SavATree
- Sierra Club
- Society of Municipal Arborists
- The Chesapeake Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund
- The Intertwine Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- Tree Care Industry Association
- US Water Alliance
- Wilderness Inquiry
- Wildlife Conservation Society

SIGNATURES

Allen Dearry, Ph. D., Director
Office of Environmental Public Health
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Christopher Porter, Director
National Center for Environmental Health and
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Harris Sherman, Under Secretary for
Natural Resources and Environment,
U.S. Department of Agriculture

John R. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

David J. Hayes, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

Robert Velasco II, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service

Beth Osborne, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation
Policy
U.S. Department of Transportation

Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil
Works
Department of the Army

Monica Medina, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Oceans
and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

John McGrath, Deputy Assistant Secretary
and Chief of Staff
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education

David T. Danielson, Ph. D., Assistant Secretary
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

Roy Wright, Deputy Associate Administrator for
Mitigation
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

*As required by the Antideficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341 and 1342, all commitments made by all agencies party to this Partnership agreement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and budget priorities. Nothing in this agreement, in and of itself, obligates any agency to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur other financial obligations. Any transaction involving transfers of funds between the agencies will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures under separate written agreements. Furthermore, this agreement does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity, by persons who are not party to this agreement, against any party to this agreement, its officers or employees, or any other person. Finally, this agreement does not impose legally binding requirements on any Federal agency, States or the regulated community, nor does it change or substitute for any existing legally binding requirements.*

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# Locations

## *19 Designated Community Locations Across the Country*

The Meramec River Watershed and the Big River Watershed is located southwest of St. Louis City, MO. These watersheds have large and/or high profile tributaries that feed into the Meramec River main-stem such as the Big River, the Bourbeuse River, Huzzah River, and Courtois River.

This Partnership Community was chosen because it has elements consistent with the vision, mission and principals for the National Urban Waters Federal Partnership – Federal and state stakeholder involvement/participation in the EPA Superfund /Water Quality projects, economically distressed communities in some of the smaller towns within the watersheds and connectivity to urban waters namely the Mississippi River (the Meramec and Big Rivers are tributaries to the Mississippi River).

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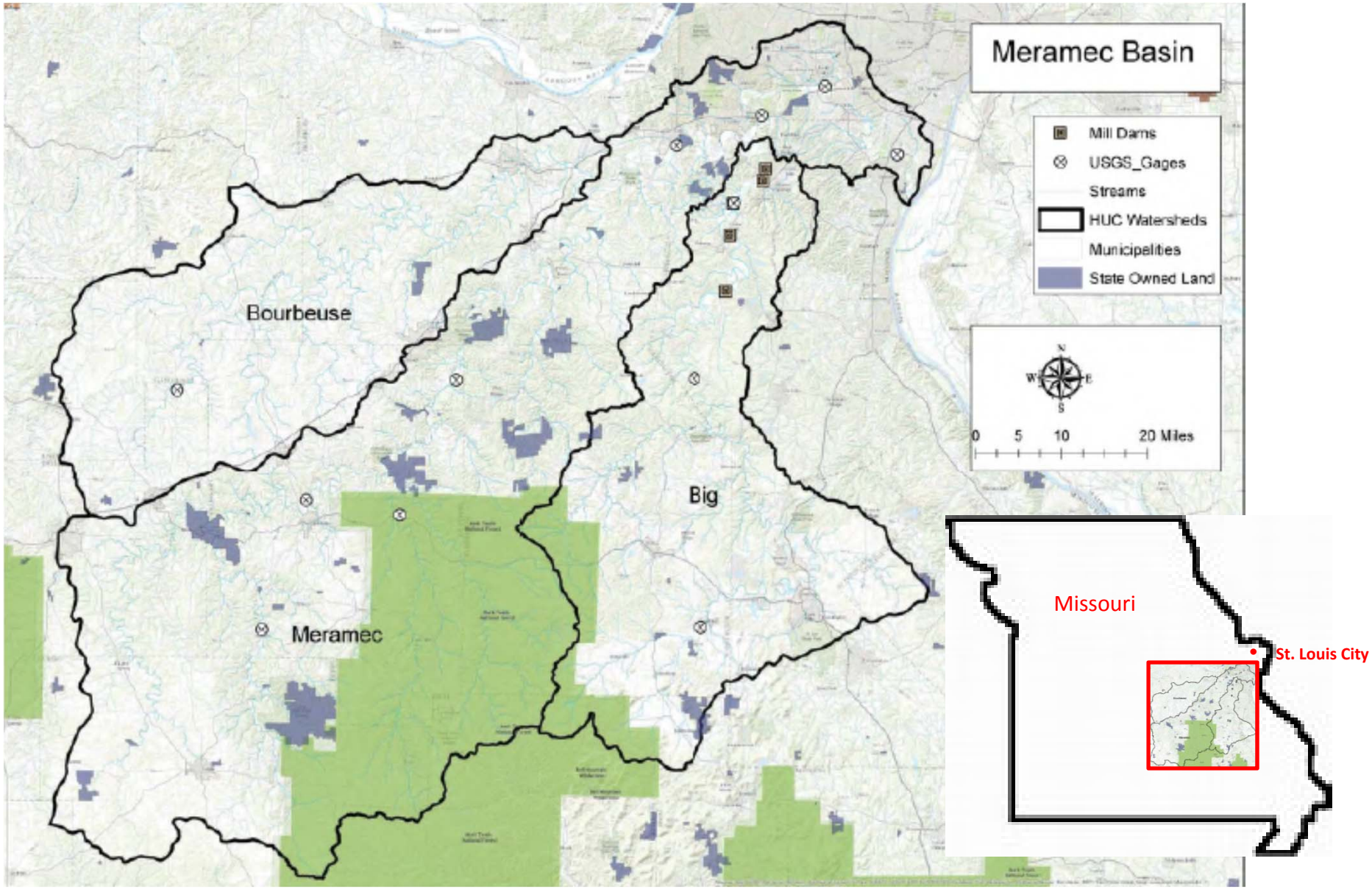
# Locations

*Meramec and Big Watershed, Missouri*
*Part of the HUC 8 Meramec Watershed*



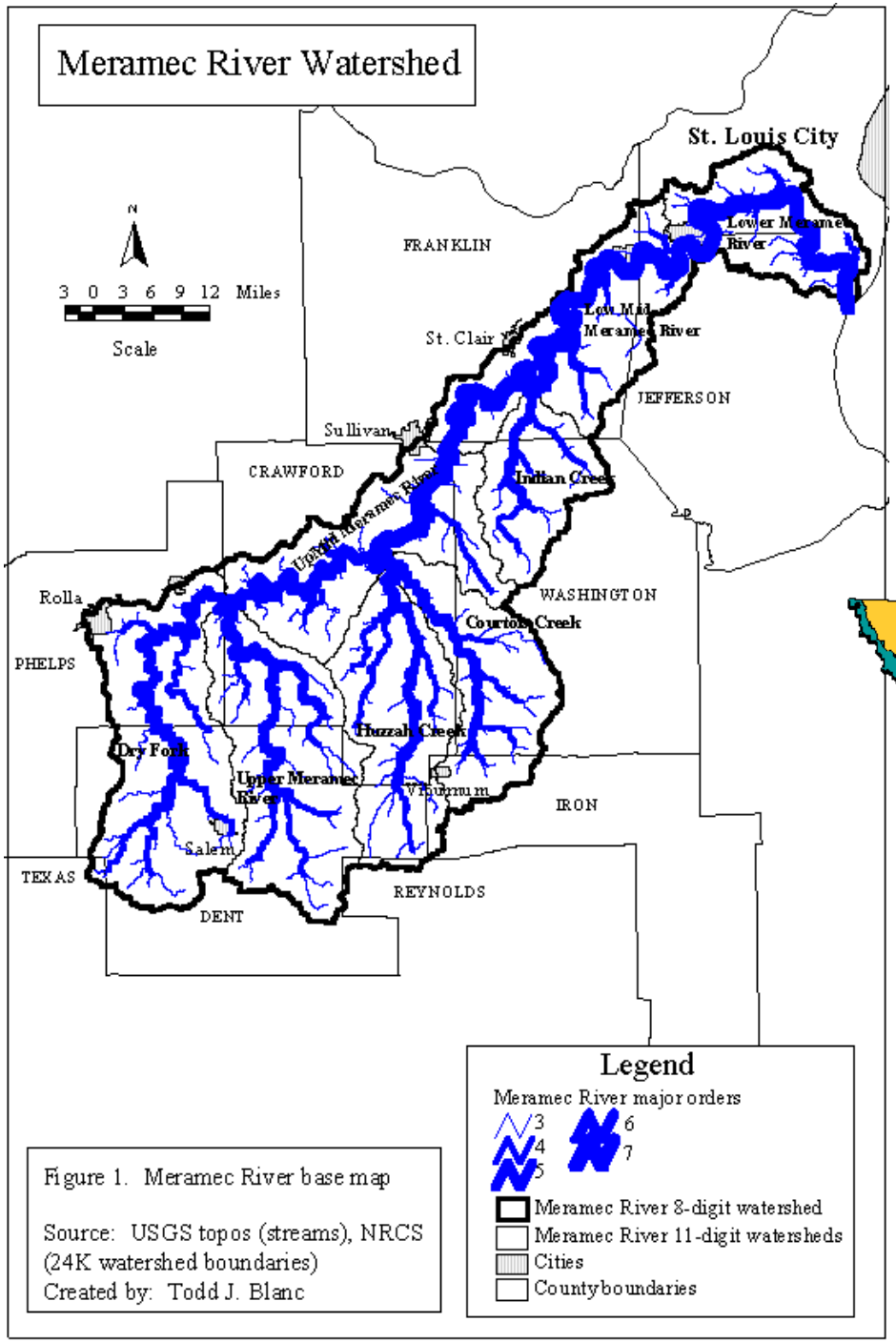
# Locations

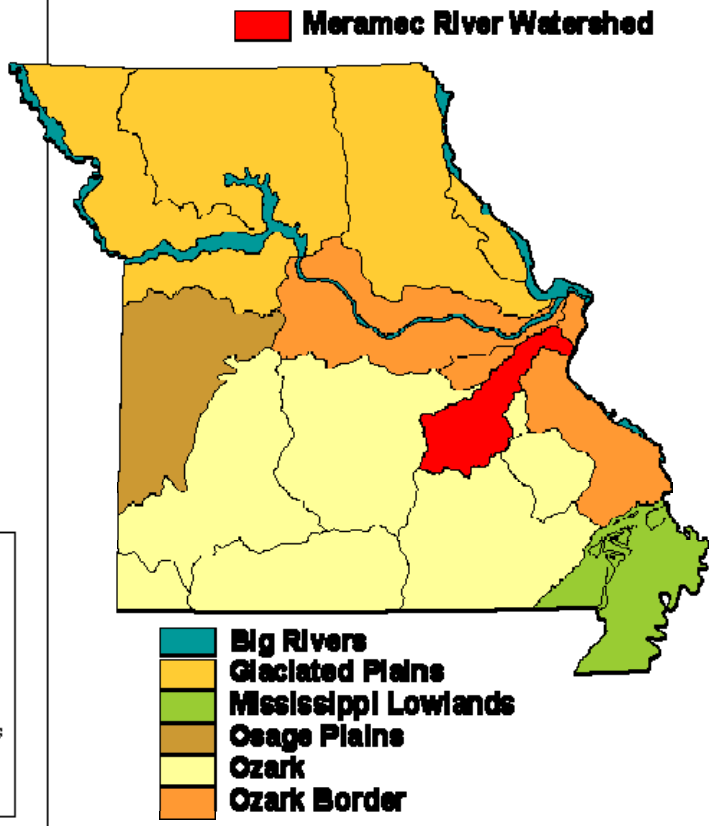
## *Meramec River Watershed*

**Located in east central Missouri, the Meramec River and its tributaries drain 2,149 square miles.** The main stem of the Meramec's 218 linear miles carries water from the lightly populated, forested, and agricultural upper watershed north easterly to the heavily populated and urbanized lower watershed to enter the Mississippi River below St. Louis.

Present Meramec River basin land-cover consists of roughly 1/2 forest, 1/4 pasture, and 1/4 cropland, rural transportation, urban development, water, and other minor land uses combined.

***2016 MO Dept. of Conservation***




**Counties**

Crawford
Dent
Franklin
Iron
Jefferson
Phelps
Reynolds
St. Louis
Texas
Washington

Maries
Gasconade
St. Francois
St. Genevieve

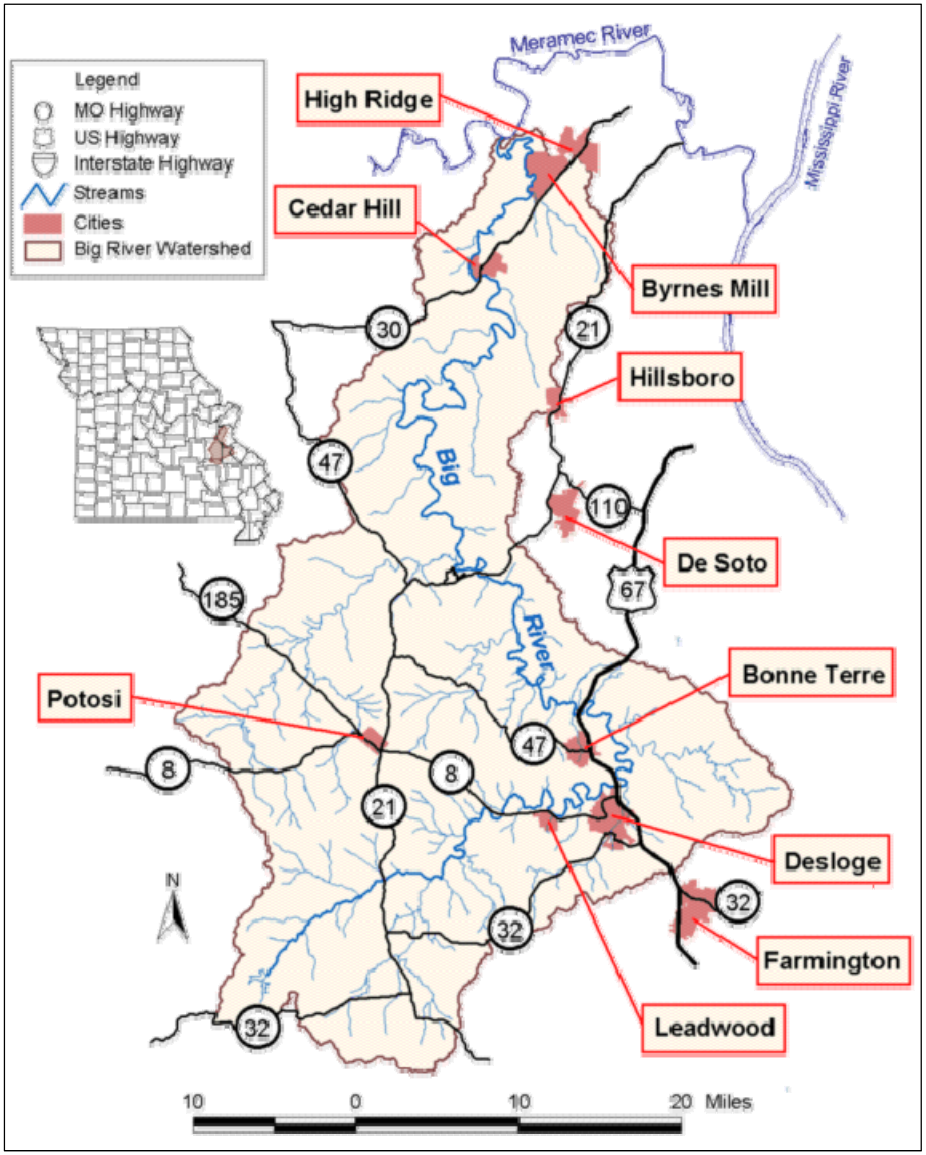
# Locations

## *Big River Watershed*

**Located in east central Missouri, the Big River Watershed drains 955 square miles of the upper Mississippi River basin, and empties into the Meramec River**; originating in northern Iron County, it flows 138 miles northward to its confluence with the Meramec River near the city of Eureka.

The majority of basin land use is forest and pasture with some row cropping along stream bottoms. However, urbanization is rapidly increasing in the lower basin. Surveys have found that local-users spend much time recreating (especially fishing) on and around Big River.

***2016 MO Dept. of Conservation***



**Counties**
Iron
Washington
Jefferson
St. Francois

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## *Activities in & around the Meramec & Big River Watershed*

- **Planning First Federal-2-Federal Partnership Meeting for the Meramec & Big River Watershed designated location:** 17 Aug 2016
- **Meramec River & Big River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study:** Aug 2015 – U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Fed Sponsor) and MO Dept. of Natural Resources (Non-Fed Sponsor) + other stakeholders.
- **Watershed Cairns sponsored by Riverwork Project and Open Space Council at North Riverfront Park (STL City):** April 22, 2015 – Documenting art in nature to heighten awareness about MO water supply. **Riverwork Project** is a textile testimony to the meaning of water.
- **Operation Clean Stream and Open Space Council:** Aug 2014 - Removed over 2,400 tires from the Meramec River.
- **UnStash That Trash (Model for future work in Big & Meramec Watershed):** Oct 31, 2015 – Partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority to remove trash in City of St. Louis.
- **Lower Meramec Watershed Plan Update:** Participating with East West Gateway Council of Governments.
- **Kiefer Creek Watershed Plan:** Collaborating with The Nature Conservancy; identifying other on-the-ground projects in Lower Meramec Watershed.

## Locations

### *Meramec River & Big River Watershed*

## *Cost Share Partners*

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis (federal)
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources (non-federal)

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***" Give Water a Voice "***

***- Holly Neill***
***Executive Director***
***Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition***

## Why are Urban Waters Important?

**Research demonstrates that a clean, safe, accessible, urban environment** – including urban forests, gardens, parks, lakes, aquifers, and rivers – **is directly linked to improved public health, stronger local economies, and lower crime rates**.

## How Can You Give Water a Voice? How Can You Make a Difference?

- Get in touch with your local organizations and support them by ***getting involved!***
- ***Participate as a Federal Partner*** by attending the UW Federal Partnership Fed2Fed Meeting.

**NEW IDEAS**
**NEW RELATIONSHIPS**
**NEW INITIATIVES**

**Role of Urban Waters Ambassador** *Outreach, information sharing, listening, coordinating, connecting across federal agencies, local & state governments, community organizations & communities*

- Engage organizations and agencies
- Make presentations on the Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- Coordinate activities
- Recruit new partnerships in the watershed to provide technical and other assistance

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***" Give Water a Voice "***
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***Executive Director***
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## Grant Programs

Each grant program includes *priority areas* that vary from year to year.

### Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant

**COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION**

*Develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by* providing modest *financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for:*

- Wetland, forest, riparian and coastal habitat restoration (on the ground).
- Stormwater management.
- Meaningful education and training activities, either through community outreach, participation and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum.

To obtain Requests for Proposal (RFP) dates, view an information session via webinar, and see profiles on past participants, please visit http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx

### Urban Waters Small Grants

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION**

*Healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance education, recreational, social, and employment opportunities:*

***Projects should meet these 4 program objectives:***

- Address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution.
- Provide additional community benefits.
- Actively engage underserved communities.
- Foster partnership.

To obtain program information and application due dates please visit https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants

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# Examples of other UWFP Projects and Partnerships Across the Country

## Types of Projects

- **Coastal Education and Research Facility**
- **Pier and New Canal Lighthouse**
- **Beach enhancement**
- **Greenways development and/or enhancement**
- **Riverwalk Trail**
- **River GIS-Mapping**
- **Green Infrastructure and Climate Change Resilience Charette**
- **TreePeople's School Greening Initiative** - an award- winning educational program that engages and guides an entire school community to replace asphalt with shade and fruit trees on barren school campuses in Los Angeles.

## Types of Partnerships

- **The Anacostia UWFP location, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), and the DC Housing Authority (DCHA)** partnered to transform an abandoned parcel into the District's largest-scale ***urban farm and aquaponics facility*** – the East Capitol Urban Farm.

- **HUD and EPA** hosted an ***Urban Waters Federal Partnership meeting*** at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. Participants included Congressional representatives, state/tribal/local government officials, NGO staff and community members.

- **USGS** contributed $100K to develop a ***Web-based GIS*** mapping tool for the Anacostia River pilot.

- **The city of Grand Rapids, local business leaders, and foundations** have contributed $300K to ***hire an Ambassador***, develop a restoration plan, and conduct an economic impact analysis to restore the river's namesake rapids for recreation and economic development, with a focus on the underserved west side of the river.

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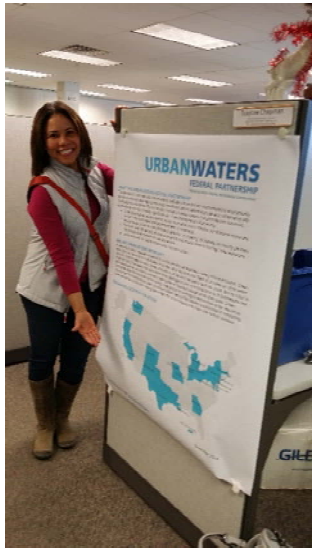


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**Urban Waters Ambassador**
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**314-331-8457 (office)**

**For additional information on the Urban Waters program please visit: http://www.urbanwaters.gov**