How’s My Waterway

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Overview

Water connects communities. Your local water resources may include rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater. The Clean Water Act enables federal, state, tribal, and local partners to work together to monitor water quality and use this information to protect your water resources.

Your Waters: What We Know

Waters in your community are connected within a watershed. The dashed outline on the map shows your watershed.

Water quality is monitored for physical, chemical and biological factors. The monitoring results are assessed against state water quality standards approved by EPA.

Water can be impaired, meaning it is not fulfilling its designated use. This can be caused by man-made pollutants or alterations, such as changing how water flows.

22 Waterbodies
80 Monitoring Locations
103 Permitted Dischargers
Acknowledgements

• Kiki Schneider, US EPA – Project Lead
• Brad Cooper, ERG – Lead Developer
• Many data providers that provide access to relevant information:
  • ATTAINS, SDWIS, ICIS, WQP, GRTS, River Network, NARS, and Watershed Index Online
How’s My Waterway

• Outline
  • Big Picture: Telling a story about water
  • Open Water Data: Concepts / Design Principles
  • How’s My Waterway
What can you tell me about my water?

Is it safe to drink?
Can I swim in it?
Can I fish?
Is it polluted?
If it is polluted, what are you doing about it?
If it isn’t polluted, what are you doing to protect it?
What can I do to help?
Pulling the Pieces Together: Telling the Water Story

Provide the public with usable, meaningful information

Communicate progress states, tribes, and EPA are making towards restoring or protecting water quality

Engage the public in understanding impacts on water and issues related to water
FOUR PILLARS OF OPEN WATER DATA
How Do We Get There: Building Blocks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sampling Data</th>
<th>Real Time Data</th>
<th>Other Attributes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STANDARDS</td>
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<td>DISCOVERABLE</td>
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- **COMMON HYDROGRAPHY**
Using Standards to Integrate

- Each system supports an API with a defined output
- Where common, generic outputs can be defined, those outputs are used
- Points of integration are also defined between systems
- All data are indexed for quick discovery as well as referenced to a common hydrography to enable advanced searches/discovery
Principles of Integration

• No direct database access. All interaction is through an API (this is true for the system owners as well)
• Identify points of integration between systems to enable easy discovery and entry points across systems
• Data indexes (catalogs) allow quick discovery of data
• Data indexes can also facilitate common search functionality across systems
• Data are all connected to a common Hydrography

Points of Integration:

• Assessed Water ↔ Monitoring Locations
• Assessed Water ↔ Permitted Facility
• Assessed Water ↔ Restoration Actions
• Pollution Budgets ↔ Permitted Facilities
Design Concepts

• All information is based on a service
• Tell the story at multiple levels (National, State, County, Local)
• Integrate data across systems
• Allow for in-depth stories in addition to interactive content
coastal systems. EPA, states and tribes survey a representative sample of our nation’s waters to provide an accurate snapshot of water condition and track changes over time.

Less than Half of Our Waters Support Healthy Ecosystems

Rivers and streams supply drinking water, support fish and other wildlife, and provide opportunities for recreation and energy production.

44% of our rivers and streams are not healthy

58% of our rivers and streams have nutrient pollution

Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus are important, but too much of a good thing can become a bad thing. Nutrient pollution can come from farm fertilizer, wastewater treatment, atmospheric deposition, animal manure, and urban runoff.

Nutrient pollution can lead to algal blooms and fish kills, leading to a loss of fishing and recreational opportunities. Nutrient pollution threatens drinking water.

Phosphorus pollution is getting worse across the country.

24% of our rivers and streams have unhealthy riverside vegetation

Learn what you can do to help protect local waterbodies: visit the Community Tab and click “Protect.”

Take Note: Nutrient Pollution is Widespread and Worsening

Nutrient pollution is one of America’s most widespread, costly and challenging environmental problems. While nutrients are important, too much of a good thing can become a bad thing.
Community Level – Monitoring (Water Quality Portal)

Water Monitoring
In this area, 80 water monitoring locations and 5 organizations help the EPA collect water samples to help monitor pollutants and assess your community's water.

- **Nutrients Monitoring Locations**: 45
- **Pesticides Monitoring Locations**: 6
- **Metals Monitoring Locations**: 14
- **Sediments Monitoring Locations**: 25
- **Microbiological Monitoring Locations**: 42

Show all monitoring locations on map

Water Evaluations
Waters in this watershed were evaluated for (click on an evaluated use to view results)
Community Level - Can I Swim? (ATTAINS)

Recreation

Recreational water activities can include fishing, swimming, boating, and surfing. EPA, states, and tribes monitor and assess water quality to keep you safe and healthy while recreating.

Your water has been assessed for:

Fishing, Swimming and Boating

15 waterbodies have been assessed for fishing, swimming and boating.

Displayed on the map:

- Assessed Good
- Assessed Impaired
- Unassessed or Condition Unknown

- Assessed Good (8%)
- Unassessed or Condition Unknown (26%)
- Assessed Impaired (22%)
Potential Issues (ATTAINS)

Your water has:

- **74%** of assessed waters are impaired
- **5** permitted dischargers with current significant violation

Pollution Categories

Pollutants can impair water in your watershed. Click on the impairments below to view them on the map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollution Category</th>
<th>% of Assessed Watershed Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>73.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrients</td>
<td>35.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathogens</td>
<td>50.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sediments</td>
<td>1.21</td>
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</table>
Protection – Watershed Groups (River Network)

Protect
You can help keep your water clean. Together, we can protect your community’s water for future generations.

Nonprofits active in your watershed
4 Nonprofit Locations:

Nonprofit Information
Chickamauga-Hiwassee Watershed Team
Address: 1101 Market Street, Psc 1E
Zip Code: 37402
Website: N/A
Facebook: N/A
Twitter: N/A

Tennessee River Gorge Trust
Address: 535 Chestnut St., Suite 214
Zip Code: 37402
Website: N/A
Facebook: N/A
QUESTIONS?

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