In 2019, Ohio EPA’s Division of Surface Water will be conducting a biological and water quality survey in the upper Auglaize River watershed. The survey will include sampling major tributaries to the river in addition to several mainstem sites. The study area will cover approximately 78 miles of the Auglaize River from its origin in Allen County to above the confluence of the Ottawa River and includes 24 principal streams. A total of fourteen watershed assessment units (WAU) are contained within this study area. In Ohio, WAUs are equivalent to USGS’s 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC-12) subwatershed classification. A HUC-12 watershed is the smallest defined hydrologic unit covering a geographic area with an average drainage area of 10-30 square miles.

**Stakeholder Input**

Ohio EPA has compiled a proposed list of sampling sites for the 2019 upper Auglaize River biological and water quality survey based upon the objectives below. A map of the proposed sampling site locations has been included in Figure 1. An interactive map providing additional information can be found on Ohio EPA’s webpage. At this time, Ohio EPA is accepting comments on the proposed sampling sites which can be found in Appendix 2 of the study plan. Any interested party wishing to provide comments on any aspects of the proposed list may do so by following the information provided in the box below. Ohio EPA will be requesting permission from landowners for property access to sampling sites after the comment period has closed. Once the site list has been finalized, the detailed study plan, or Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), will be available on our webpage. The study plan is the first step in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development process. The next step reports the survey results in the Biological and Water Quality Report, which will additionally be available for review and comment.

**Study Objectives**

Survey sites are selected to provide adequate coverage for evaluating whether water quality standards are currently being met for each beneficial use within each of the WAUs in the basin and to establish long-term trends in water quality. Likewise, regulated dischargers or other known potential sources of pollution are target for evaluation to assess their impact on water quality. For the 2019 upper Auglaize River watershed survey, the sampling objectives include:

- Provide information for biennial reporting of state-wide water quality trends and an updated list of water bodies with impaired beneficial uses, such as aquatic life or recreation use (known as Ohio’s Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report).
- Development or reassessment of previous TMDLs to address impaired beneficial uses.
- Initial or continued evaluation of existing beneficial use designations contained in the water quality standards rules (Chapter 3745-1 of the Ohio Administrative Code).
- Evaluation of impacts from regulated wastewater and/or storm water dischargers to inform permit renewals and/or to acquire baseline information for new permits.
- Establishment of long-term trends in water quality within the study area.
- Evaluation of baseline and/or post-construction water quality related to nonpoint source pollution controls or habitat restoration projects.

**Previous Studies**

The Upper Auglaize River watershed has one existing TMDL report approved by U.S. EPA in September 2004. TMDLs were calculated for total phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, habitat (sedimentation and flow), ammonia and bacteria.
Figure 1. Proposed sampling locations for the 2019 Biological and Water Quality Study of the Upper Auglaize River Watershed.