The Illinois River watershed (shaded in light blue) is of vital importance to the State of Illinois. This large watershed covers 44 percent of the state and 90 percent of Illinois’ population resides within 55 counties wholly or partially included in the watershed. The Illinois River watershed recently has become a focus of state and federal agencies and other organizations interested in integrated watershed management. As a result, issues being discussed at the watershed scale are related to habitat restoration, floodplain management, erosion and sedimentation, and water quality. In support of this effort, the Illinois State Water Survey has developed the Illinois River Watershed Boundaries Map to use data and information related to the Illinois River watershed, to document project activities within the watershed, and to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of restoration projects and management practices. This map is one of the products of this effort.

The technical content of the map is the responsibility of the authors. The user assumes all liability for the interpretation and use of the map. The Lambert Conformal Conic projection based on standard parallels 36° and 45°.

Major Watersheds

- Drainage area
  - Des Plaines River: 2,111
  - Fox River: 2,673
  - Vermilion River: 1,134
  - Sangamon River: 5,418
  - La Moine River: 2,111

Rivers and Streams

- Major Tributaries of the Illinois River Watershed

Map compiled by Misganaw Demissie and Kathleen J. Brown.

Digital copy available at http://ilrdss.sws.uiuc.edu

Mississippi Geographic Information System Thematic Layers

Watered Basins


Major Rivers and Tributaries


Lakes