

Meeting the Watershed Exploring our connection

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Watershed Introduction

Greetings,

I am the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Watershed, and I extend a warm welcome to you. Nestled in the heart of Turtle Island, I encompass a vast and awe-inspiring expanse of land and water. As you embark on this journey through my diverse landscapes, allow me to introduce myself and share my story.

Long before any political boundaries were formed, my lands and waters were cared for by the Original Peoples, each with their own rich heritage and deep-rooted connections to the lands and waters. The Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Potawatomi, Innu and many others have shaped my history, carrying forward their traditions and stewardship practices for countless generations. Their presence within me is a testament to the enduring spirit and resilience of Indigenous cultures.

I am a majestic and interconnected network of lands and waters that spans across the traditional territories of over 200 Indigenous Nations and communities — and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec in Canada, as well as the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota in the United States. With my expansive reach, I am home to more than 40 million people, who rely on my abundant resources and cherish the natural beauty I provide.

Throughout my vast territory, you will encounter breathtaking wonders that have captivated the imaginations of people for centuries. From the Great Lakes — Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario — to the St. Lawrence River that flows to the Atlantic ocean, I boast fresh waters that sustain a remarkable array of flora and fauna. My forests, wetlands, and coastal regions provide sanctuary to countless species, showcasing the intricate web of life that relies on my nurturing embrace.

Join me and explore the wonders of my watershed, where land and water unite, shaping a vibrant ecosystem that inspires and sustains. Together, we will delve into the stories of those who call me home, understand the challenges I face, and appreciate the urgent need to protect and preserve the treasures I hold.