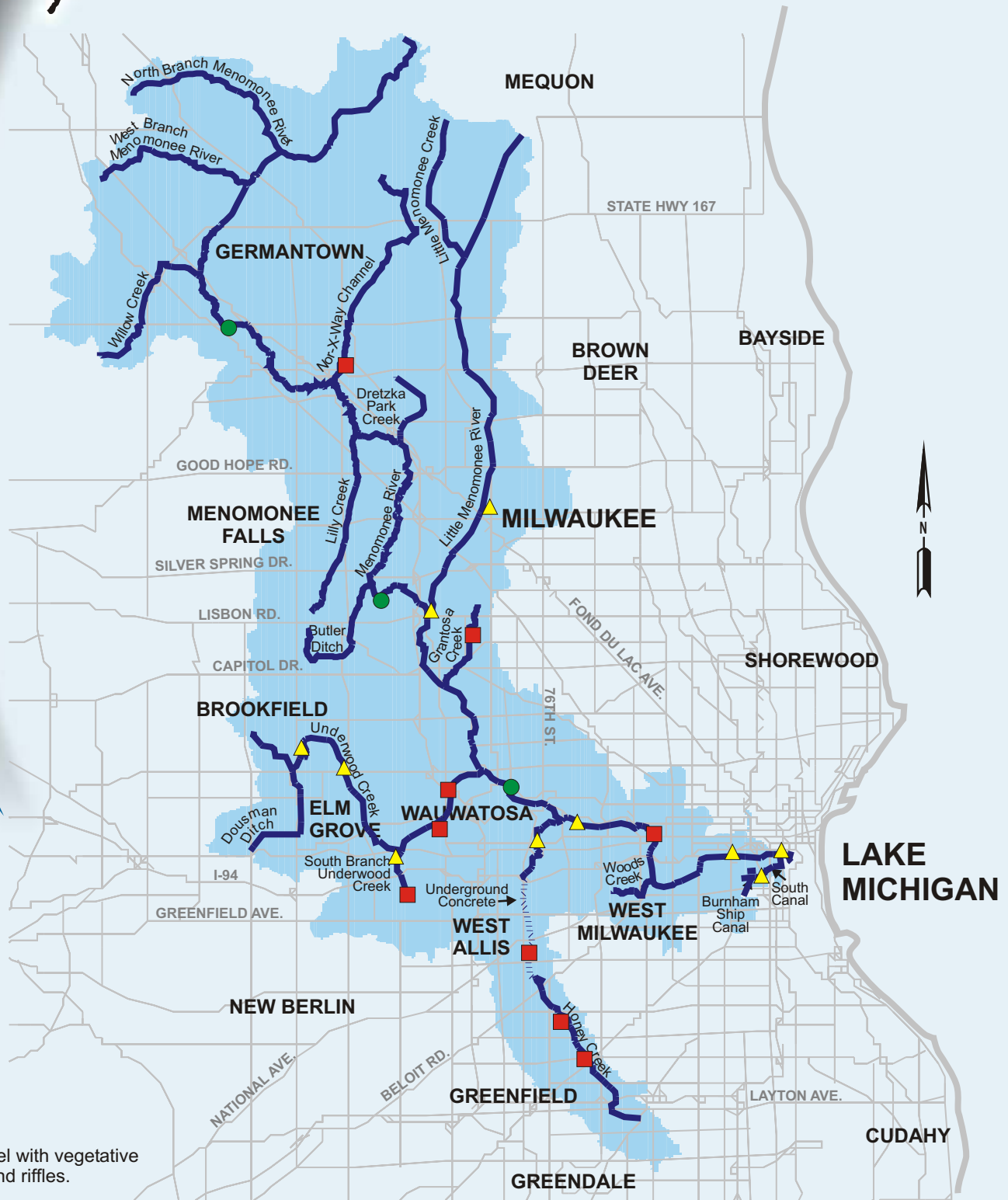
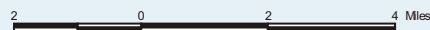


Habitat Map

Menomonee River Watershed



- Natural channel with vegetative cover, pools and riffles.
- ▲ Natural channel but lacking vegetative cover, pools and riffles having silt/sediment deposits.
- Concrete lined or artificially straightened channel, lacking vegetative cover and/or having excessive silt/sediment deposits.



Habitat

A typical city block generates seven times more runoff than a woodland area of the same size, for the same rainfall. "Hard surfaces" (impervious) such as roadways, parking lots, roof tops, etc... prevent water from naturally penetrating (infiltrating) into the ground.

An important element of a waterway is the condition of the **habitat**. Good quality habitats are necessary to achieve balance and diversity in the aquatic ecosystem. Your fishing days will be numbered if the habitat quality of the small plants and animals that fish eat begin to disappear.

Unfortunately, the breakdown or loss of many habitats is caused by human activities. Determining any single factor that influences the populations and habitats of animals within our waterways is difficult. However, multiple activities that affect our waterways include: urbanization (the construction of residential, commercial and industrial developments, roadways and supporting infrastructure), the loss or filling of wetlands, removal of forested land cover, poor agricultural practices and water diversions such as damming and channelizing. Of these, urbanization (the physical growth of cities, towns and villages) within the watershed appears to be one of the greatest contributing factors that affects water quality and quantity and aquatic habitat.

Characteristics of Good Habitat

- **Stable natural banks.**
- **Natural vegetative cover and tree canopy that provides stream shading.**
- **Streambed not heavily covered over with silt and muck.**
- **Diverse stream structure that has riffle areas and pools for fish refuge.**
- **Wide vegetated buffer area along waterway that filters out polluted stormwater runoff.**



Natural channels



Concrete lined channels

With human activity comes an increase in hard (impervious) surfaces (i.e., rooftops and roadways). Hard surfaces increase runoff, pollutants, and the risk of flooding. Flooding can damage streambeds and banks, causing the river's natural channel to become unstable. Past attempts to manage flooding in the Menomonee River watershed led to streambeds and banks being channelized (straightened and deepened) and lined with concrete. This process eliminated habitats within and along waterways. As a rapidly urbanizing watershed, the Menomonee River Watershed contains many streams that have been ditched, straightened, or routed into concrete channels. However recent efforts have been initiated to remove concrete from the Menomonee River and many flood management projects are under way that include stormwater runoff rules and conservation of open land.

Habitat Stats

Habitats are in better condition along the northern-most half of the Menomonee River Watershed, but begin to deteriorate as the river winds into more urban areas. Portions of the Little Menomonee River are heavily silted in and large sections of Underwood and Honey Creeks are concrete-lined.