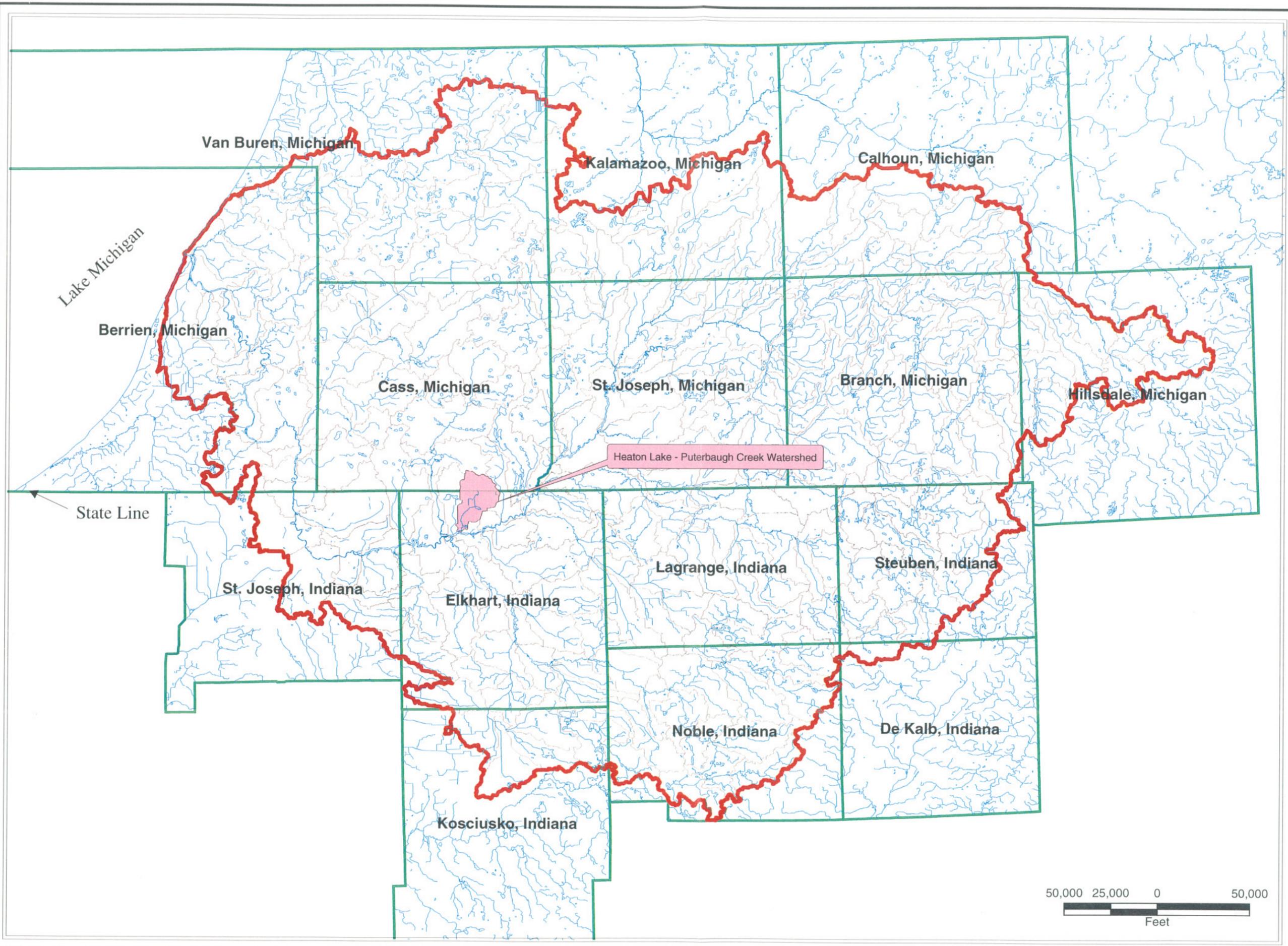


II. Background

A. Elkhart County

Most of Elkhart County is located within the St. Joseph River-Lake Michigan Watershed (H.U.C. 04050001). This basin is shown in Figure 2. Puterbaugh Creek is a tributary to the St. Joseph River. The St. Joseph River is listed on Indiana's 303(d) list for *E. Coli*. In addition, nearly 100% of Elkhart County is included in the priority area delineated on the Unified Watershed Assessment Map for Indiana. The land use in unincorporated Elkhart County is primarily agricultural with a small percentage of single-family residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed has been identified as an area of concern by local government and the residents within the watershed. In particular, those residents around Heaton Lake in the central portion of the watershed have been concerned due to the widespread use of on-site wastewater disposal systems. The residents have seen a decrease in the water quality of the lake through the years and this has become a cause for concern. In addition to the concerns over the use of septic systems, the watershed has seen an increase in development, thus resulting in an increase of stormwater runoff to the ditches and streams within the watershed. Therefore, Elkhart County decided to pursue a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to help identify the potential sources of pollution within the watershed and to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) to enhance the water quality in the watershed.



Elkhart County 205(j) Grant
Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake
Watershed Management Plan

St. Joseph River Basin



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Figure 2

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