Phosphorus load contributions to the St. Clair-Detroit River System

Where is phosphorus coming from?
The pie chart shows the relative amounts of phosphorus that come from different parts of the watershed. Colors in the pie chart correspond to the map at right. The Thames and Sydenham river watersheds are primarily agricultural, while the Clinton and Rouge are mostly urban. The Great Lakes Water Authority’s Water Resource Recovery Facility (GLWA WRRF) in Detroit is one of the largest wastewater treatment facilities in North America and serves 77 communities. Some of the phosphorous inputs that flow through Lake St. Clair are retained and removed from the water, which is not accounted for in this figure. Accounting for retention in Lake St. Clair slightly increases the relative contribution of downstream sources, such as the WRRF in Detroit, that do not pass through Lake St. Clair before entering Lake Erie. To learn more about the project that developed this graph, visit: myumi.ch/detroit-river