**IL Drainage** – This view represents the land area that drains through each of the measurement points represented on the map as circles with a monitoring buoy. These stations were chosen as part of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy because collectively, they measure nutrients in the runoff from about 75% of the land area of the state of Illinois, and can be used to extrapolate the total mass of nutrients, or nutrient load, leaving the state of Illinois.

**HUC 8** – HUCs, or Hydrologic Unit Codes are standardized boundaries that basically are the boundaries of watersheds and are often used in water quality tracking. These HUCs are divided into successively smaller watershed units. HUC-8 is a medium-sized watershed, and there are 31 such HUCs in the state of Illinois. The Illinois Nutrient Reduction Strategy has used modeling to estimate the nutrient yield from all of the HUC-8s in the State of Illinois. The HUC 8 watershed boundaries allow for a more localized view of tracking nutrient loads than some of the larger “Illinois Drainage” boundaries.

**Watershed Boundaries** – This view highlights the watershed or the land area that drains through the point represented on the map as a pin. These locations are designated in Great Lakes to Gulf as “Mississippi River Basin Trend Sites” because calculating water quality trends at these locations can be used to track progress in reducing nutrient loads from the watersheds that drain to that point. Many of these particular sites were selected because they are mostly contained within a single state, and thus can be used to track that state’s nutrient reduction progress.

**Load to Gulf** – This site, the Mississippi River at St. Francisville is used to measure the total load of nutrients that are delivered to the Gulf of Mexico in a given water year (12 Months beginning October 1). This site is used because it is just upstream from the Gulf, and yet does not behave like an estuary. Because some Mississippi River water is diverted to the Atchafalaya River, appropriate corrections are made to report total load.