Ecoregion

Definition

Ecoregions are large landscape areas defined by climate, physical characteristics, and the plants and animals living there.
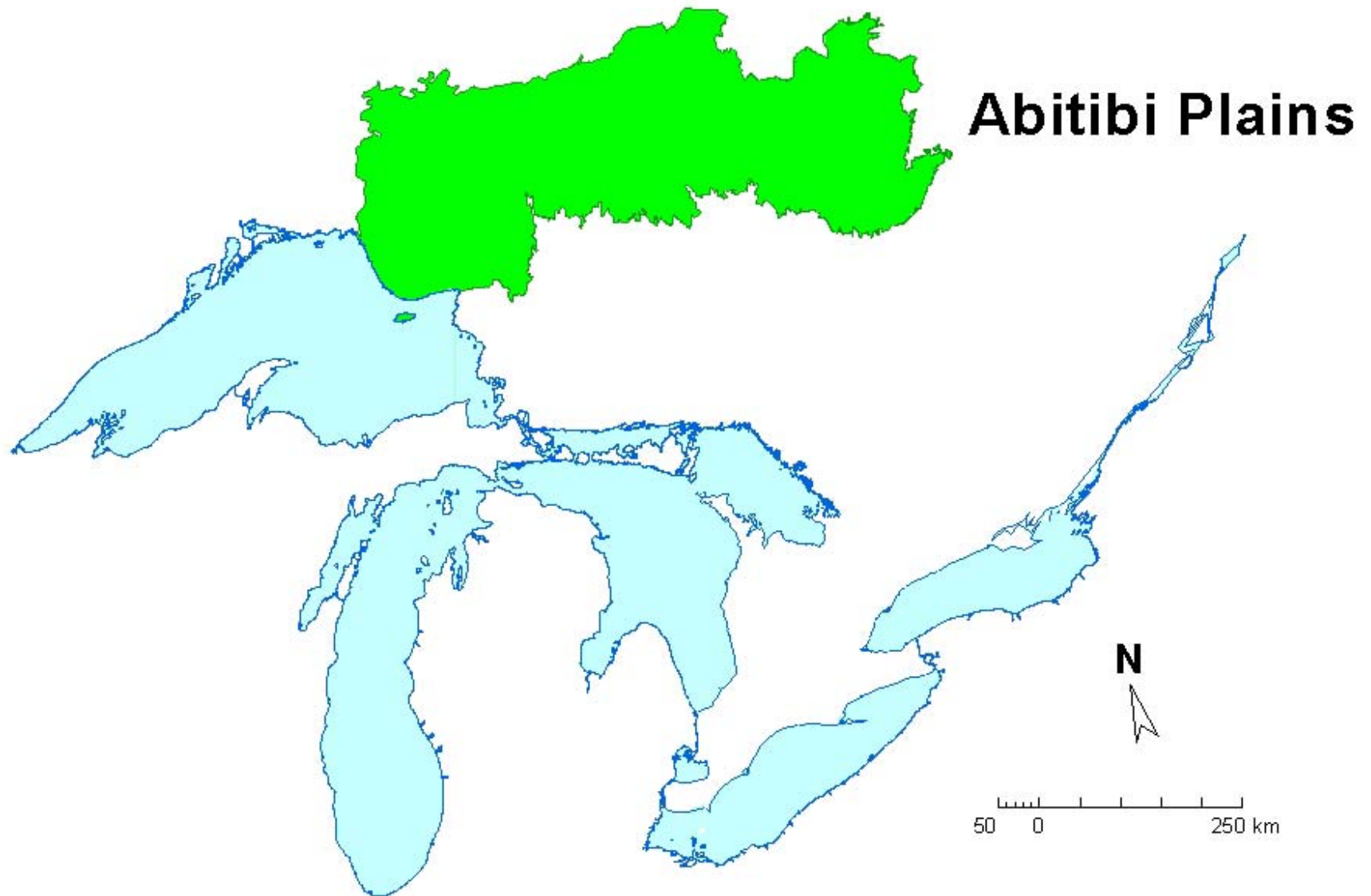
Factors used in determining Great Lakes coastal ecoregion quality:

- **Characteristic shoreline types**
- **Significant natural communities**
- **Existing representation in parks/protected areas**
- **Priority unprotected features**
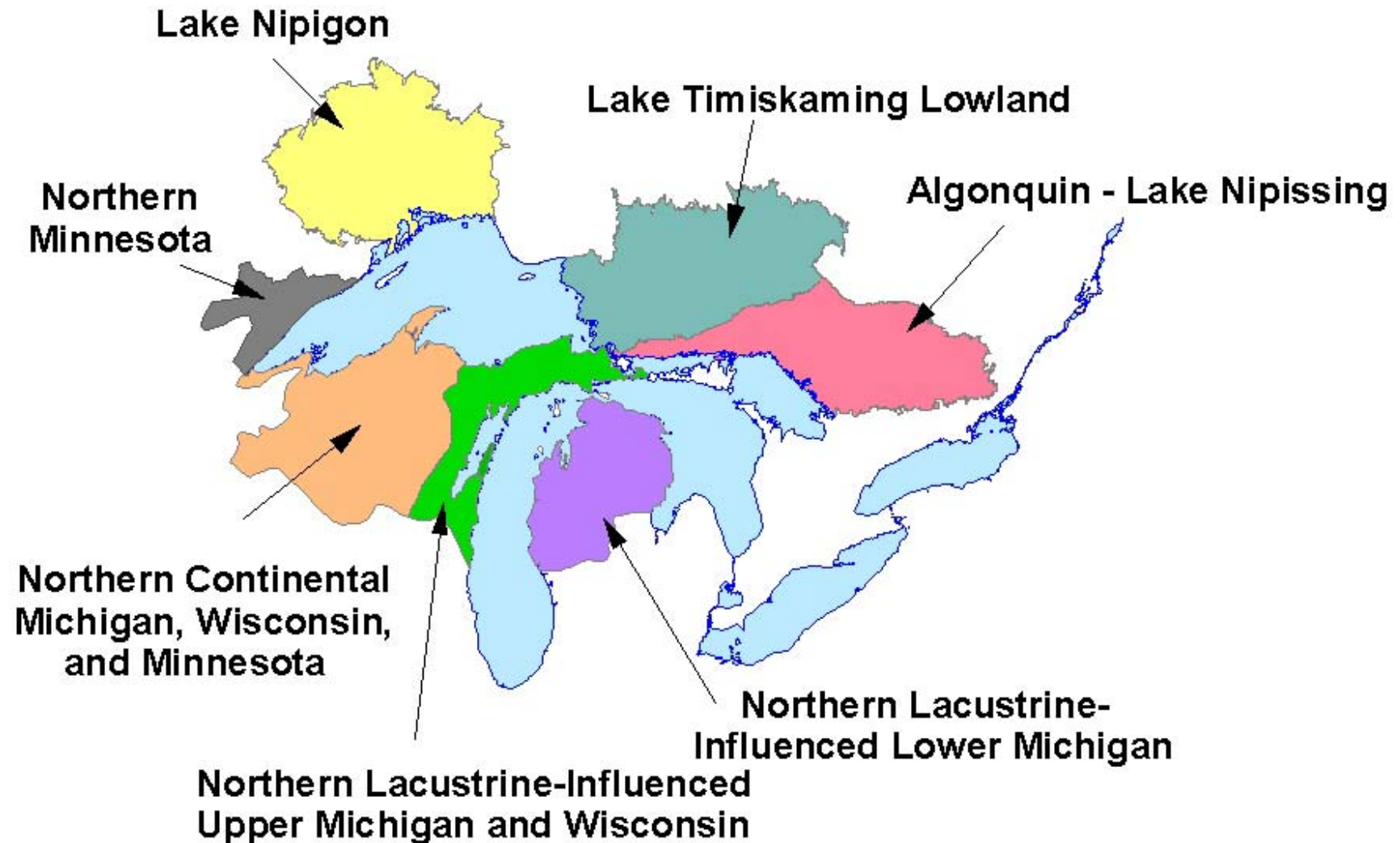- **Urban area within shoreline watersheds**

(More) **Factors used in determining Great Lakes coastal ecoregion quality:**

- **Agriculture within shoreline watersheds**
- **Residential/cottage/marina shoreline use**
- **Lake edge armoured against erosion**
- **Rate of land-use change**
- **Planning/restoration activities under way**
- **Trend in shoreline health**

"B" Rated Ecoregions

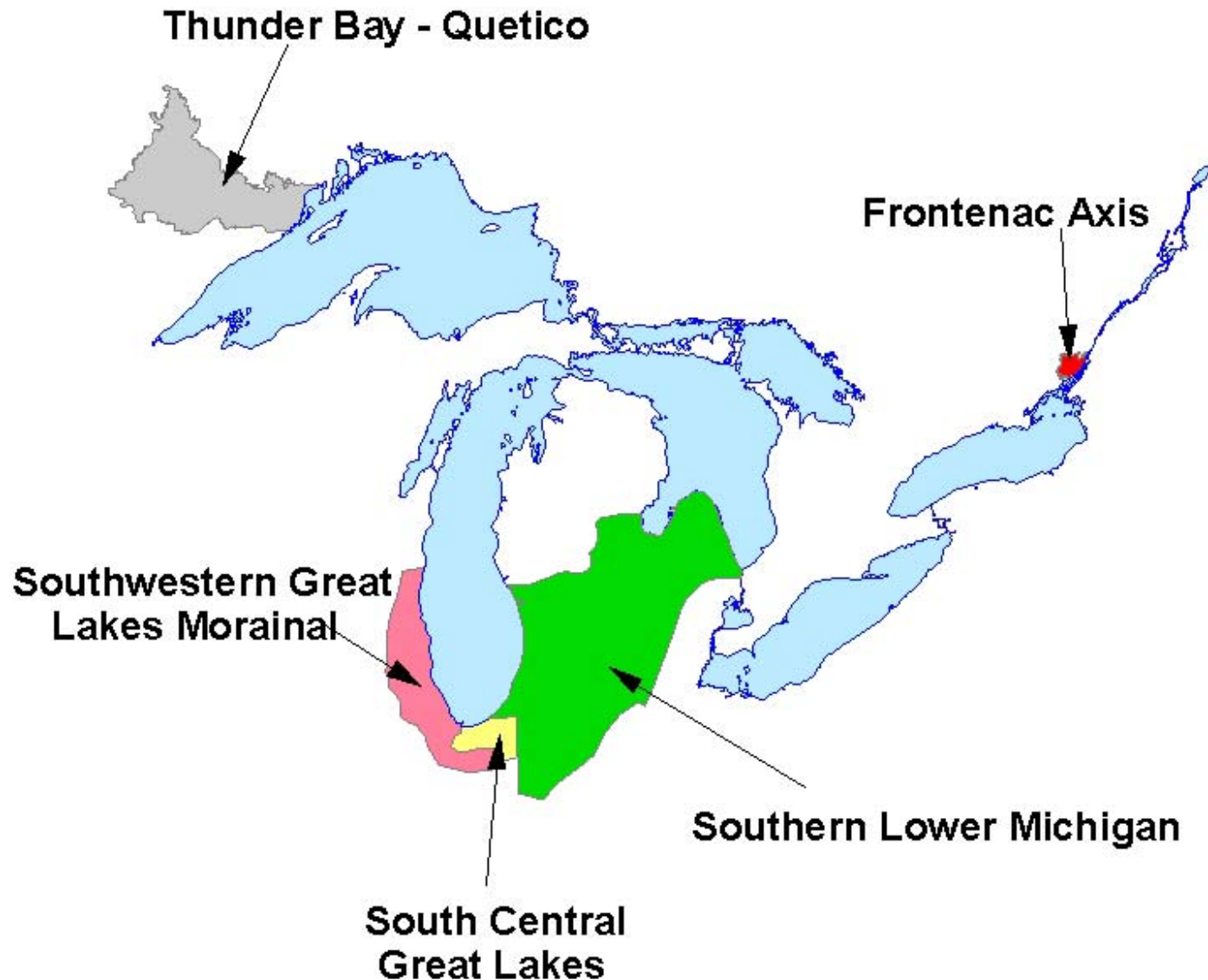Lake Nipigon

Lake Timiskaming Lowland

Algonquin - Lake Nipissing

Northern Minnesota

Northern Continental Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota

Northern Lacustrine-Influenced Lower Michigan

Northern Lacustrine-Influenced Upper Michigan and Wisconsin

"C" Rated Ecoregions

Thunder Bay - Quetico

Frontenac Axis

Southwestern Great
Lakes Morainal

Southern Lower Michigan

South Central
Great Lakes

"D" Rated Ecoregions

Manitoulin - Lake Simcoe

Southeastern Wisconsin Savanna

Lake Erie Lowland

Erie and Ontario Lake Plain