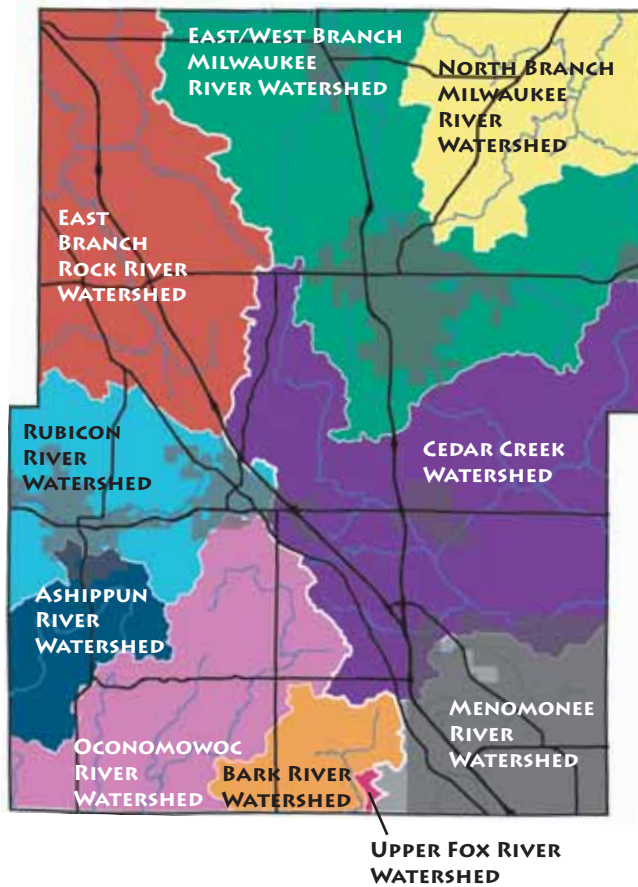


CLEAN WAYS FOR WATERWAYS

WHERE DOES MY WATER GO?



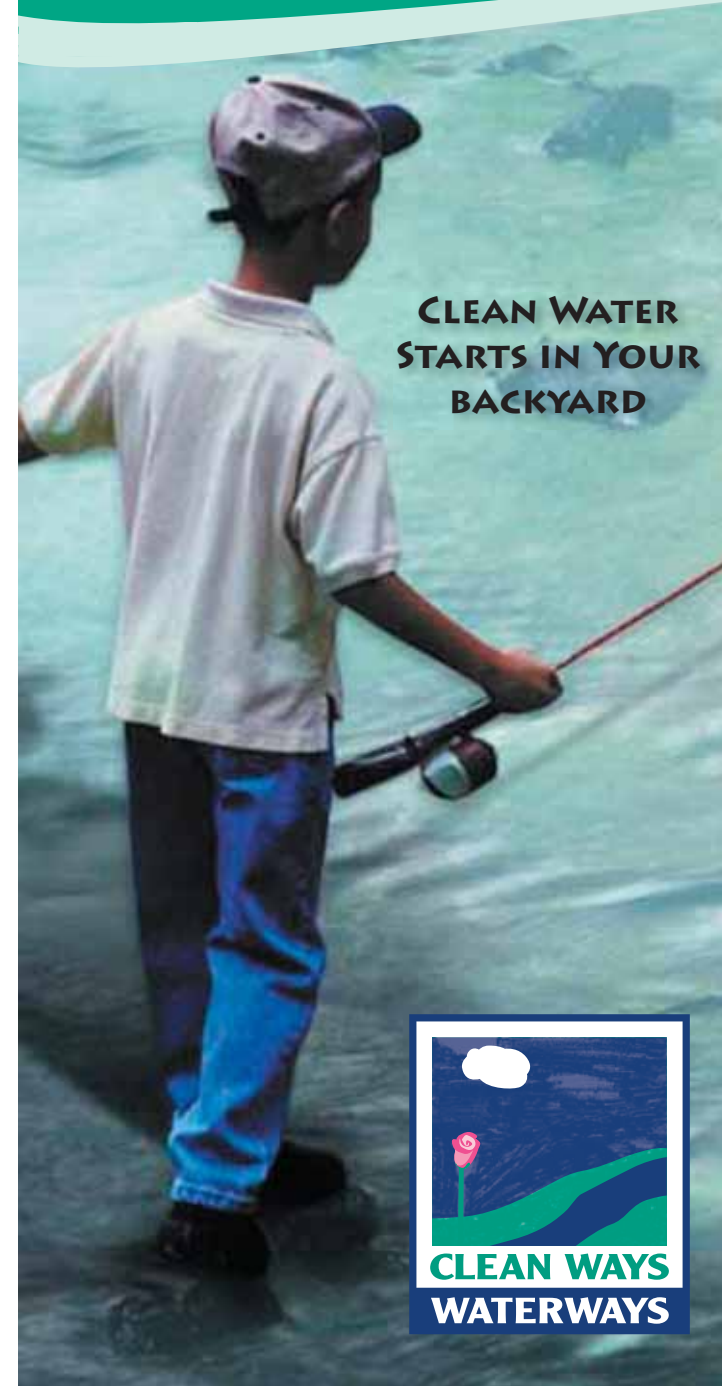
WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular waterway, be it a lake, stream or river. Your neighborhood, school and workplace are all part of watershed; the roads we drive on and the parks we play in are also part of a watershed. Look at the map to learn where your water goes. Most of the stormwater runoff in Washington County eventually drains into the Rock River or the Milwaukee River.

CLEAN WAYS FOR WATERWAYS IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON COUNTY, THE VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN, AND THE CITIES OF WEST BEND AND HARTFORD TO CLEAN UP LOCAL WATERWAYS.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CLEANWAYS.ORG



CLEAN WATER STARTS IN YOUR BACKYARD



WHAT CAN I DO?



CLEAN WATER STARTS IN YOUR BACKYARD...

Water pollution has many sources. Up to half of all pollutants come not from factories or wastewater treatment plants, but from many diffuse sources resulting from our own everyday activities. For example, dog waste left on the ground or chemicals sprayed on your lawn can get washed into the nearest waterways by the next rain. Pet waste and pesticides in your yard may not seem like they could have a large effect on local streams and lakes, but our waterways receive stormwater from thousands of backyards. What we do in our own backyards and our own communities can make all the difference to the quality of our lakes and streams.



WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Water that does not soak into the ground or evaporate is called stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff flows over the ground surface and then into storm drains and ditches that empty directly into our local waterways. Stormwater runoff volumes are greater in cities, villages, and other developed areas because water can't soak through the pavement, rooftops, and concrete.



WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Stormwater runoff conveys more than just water to streams, rivers, and lakes. Rain and snowmelt carry dirt, grease, trash and more from roads, parking lots and other hard surfaces into storm drains and ditches, and these empty directly into our waterways. Storm water also carries excess nutrients, like phosphorus, which turns our lakes and streams green and smelly and harms fish. The way to protect and clean our waterways is to make sure only rain—and nothing else—goes into the storm drains and ditches.

BE A POOPER SCOOPER: PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS

You can flush pet waste down the toilet, bury it 4-6 inches deep in the yard or dispose in a specially designed composter. Do not put it in your vegetable garden or compost that will be used for your garden.



BE A WATERSHED WATCHDOG

If you see a potential stormwater problem, such as clogged storm drains, trash in the gutter, pollutants washing into or discharging from storm sewers, or uncontrolled erosion from construction sites, contact your local municipal or county public works department.



KEEP LEAVES AND GRASS CLIPPINGS OUT OF THE GUTTER AND STORM DRAINS

Use leaves and/or grass clippings as mulch, or add it to a compost pile.

Clippings and leaves can also be tilled directly into gardens or flowerbeds. If you live in a city or village, check your community's website to find out when the next leaf, brush and grass clipping pick up is.

KEEP SOIL IN YOUR YARD AND OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS

Bare soil easily washes into the storm drains. Cover exposed soil with seed and mulch as soon as possible. Cover piles of soil for your yard or garden with a tarp until you're ready to use it. If you're building a home, choose a builder who takes extra care not to track mud onto the streets, and who installs and maintains practices that prevent soil from washing off your lot during construction.



KICK YOUR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

Use non-toxic alternatives to conventional household chemicals whenever possible. When not possible, properly dispose of hazardous household chemicals such as oil-based paints, cleaning chemicals, pesticides, solvents, batteries and disinfectants. Never dispose of hazardous chemicals or wash paintbrushes in the storm drain. Learn more about how to properly dispose of hazardous chemicals through the Washington County Clean Sweep Program.

DON'T OVERFEED YOUR LAWN

Test your soil before buying and applying fertilizer to your lawn. Most lawns don't need phosphorus, so don't pay for something you don't need. If soil tests show that your lawn does need fertilizer, apply according to manufacturer's instructions. Don't "double the dose".



PRACTICE CAREFUL CAR CARE

Regularly maintain your car and fix any oil, radiator or transmission leak as soon as you see them. If you change your own oil, make sure to take the used oil to a recycling collection site. Never pour it behind the garage, on the driveway to kill weeds or down the storm drain. Also, consider using a commercial car wash, or wash your car on your lawn to prevent car-washing detergents from washing down the storm drain.



USE A PROPER CONTAINER FOR TRASH AND RECYCLABLES

Don't put trash into the street or gutter where it can be washed into the storm sewer system and then to local waterways.

CONSERVE WATER: KEEP YOUR RAIN

Maximize infiltration in your yard by directing rainwater away from paved areas. Plant a rain garden filled with deep-rooted grasses and wildflowers to maximize water absorption into the ground. If you don't have a rain garden, aim downspouts to grassy areas or into a rain barrel.



MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR WATERSHED

Join a local watershed or conservation group and help clean up waterways in your area.

- Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers
- Trout Unlimited, Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter
- Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful
- Milwaukee River Basin Partnership
- Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
- Rock River Coalition, Inc.
- Testing the Waters-Riveredge Nature Center