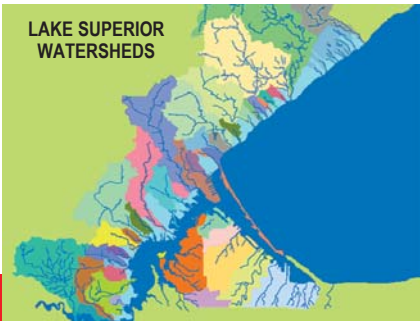


Pollution Prevention begins at home!

Whether you are a resident or visitor, what you do determines the future of our water bodies. Everyone is part of a watershed. A watershed is all the land that drains to a particular wetland, creek, stream, river or lake. In the Lake Superior basin, most stormwater drains directly to the Lake without treatment.

Polluted runoff affects:

- 90% of our inland lakes,
- 40% of our streams,
- Much of our groundwater.



It all comes down to your water!

When it rains in the watershed:

- ✓ Water washes over the surfaces;
- ✓ Water picks up dirt, grease and trash on the surfaces;
- ✓ Water and its dirty load travel directly to our streams, rivers and lakes.

Stormwater runoff is the #1 urban water pollution problem and you can be part of the solution.



Pollutants found in Stormwater

SEDIMENT: soil, clay and sand from ditches, lawns and driveways reduce water clarity, smother habitat and carry other pollutants.

NUTRIENTS AND ORGANIC MATTER: yard waste and fertilizer encourage the growth of nuisance algae and consume oxygen in our waters, harming aquatic organisms.

LITTER: dumped trash degrades habitat, harms fish and wildlife and steals from the beauty of the area.

PATHOGENS: disease-causing organisms from human and animal waste threaten health.

CHEMICALS: herbicides, pesticides, detergents from vehi-

cle washing, oil, grease, road salt and other substances harmful or toxic to aquatic, terrestrial and human life.

WARM WATER: hot summer pavement heats water that flows to our cold water trout streams threatening fish and other inhabitants of our cold water streams.



You can make a big difference!

1. Keep streets, gutters, and storm drains clean - never use them for dumping
2. Compost yard waste or take it to the WLSSD collection site during open hours (218-722-0761)
3. Wash vehicles at the car wash or on your lawn
4. Clean up after your pets
5. If you live on the shoreline, plant a buffer of native vegetation
6. Garden for water quality:
 - a. Use a rain barrel
 - b. Plant a rain garden
 - c. Minimize the use of fertilizer and herbicides
7. Keep your car in good condition - fix leaks

URGENT
Protection Needed



LAKE SUPERIOR

An awesome lake

- 10% of the world's fresh liquid surface water (3,000,000,000,000,000 gallons)
- The largest freshwater lake by surface area in the world (350 miles long by 160 miles wide)
- Some of the cleanest water in the world
- Coastal conditions are affected by our stream and watershed activities

ST. LOUIS RIVER

Lake Superior's largest US tributary

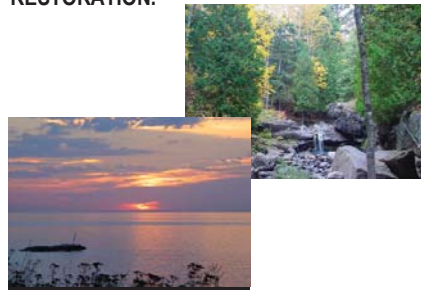
- Head of the Great Lakes
- Wetlands and estuary provide important nursery for native fish
- Area of concern due to industrial pollution

RIVERS, STREAMS, CREEKS

Secrets along the shore

- Trout populations thrive even within city limits
- Clean cold water replenishes Lake Superior

Plan ahead to prevent pollution -
PROTECTION is cheaper than
RESTORATION.



"Your curb gutter ditch is really the shore of Lake Superior."

Regional Stormwater Protection Team Members

- City of Duluth
- City of Hermantown
- City of Proctor
- City of Superior
- Duluth Township
- Rice Lake Township
- Midway Township
- Fond du Lac Reservation
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee
- St. Louis County
- South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
- University of Wisconsin Superior
- University of Minnesota Duluth
 - Minnesota Sea Grant
 - Natural Resources Research Institute
 - Facilities Management
- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

For more information:
218-529-3281
www.lakesuperiorstreams.org

This Watershed Moment brought to you by



Funded in part by Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

STORM WATER

is not just rain!

Easy ways you
can help prevent
water pollution

