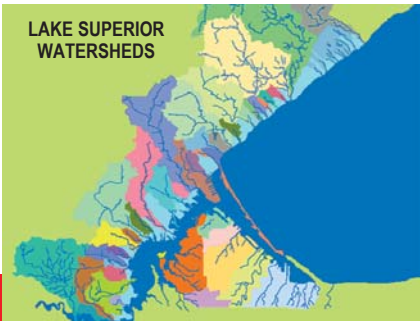


## Pollution Prevention begins at home!

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*

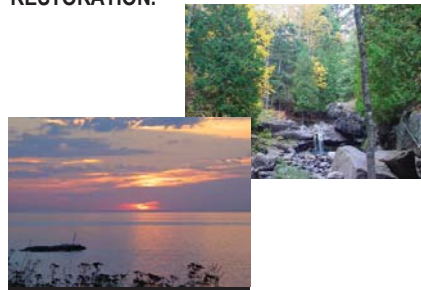
- Head of the Great Lakes
- Wetlands and estuary provide important nursery for native fish
- Area of concern due to industrial pollution

## 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](http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org)

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# STORM WATER

is not just rain!

Easy ways you  
can help prevent  
water pollution

