

Everyone lives in a watershed.

Have you ever noticed...

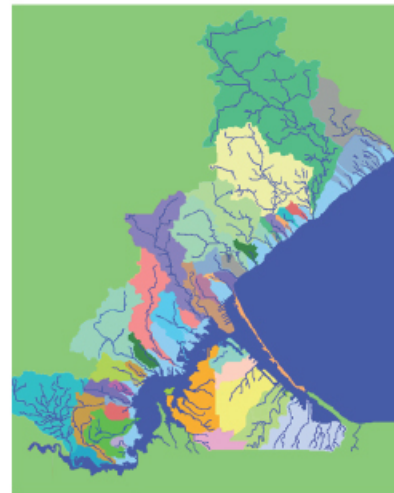
...how fresh and clean everything looks after a good rain? That is because all the dirt, grease and trash from roads and parking lots are washed away into the storm drain system, which often flows directly into our rivers and lakes.

It is a problem, and its name is **Stormwater Pollution**. It all comes down to **Your Water**.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a particular wetland, creek, stream, river or lake. Each watershed has numerous smaller watersheds. Everything you do on the land affects those watersheds and quality of your water.

In the Lake Superior Basin, much of the stormwater from the municipal and other developed areas drains directly into the lake without being treated. Polluted runoff affects 90% of our inland lakes, 40% of our streams, many coastal waters, and much of our groundwater.



You can make a BIG difference in preventing stormwater pollution:

- Never dump anything onto the street or into a gutter or storm sewer drain
- Compost yard clippings
- Sweep leaves and soil from sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn or compost
- Wash your vehicles in a car wash or on your lawn
- Fix oil, radiator and transmission leaks on your vehicles
- Eliminate or reduce your use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer
- If you live along a shoreline, plant a vegetated buffer of native plants
- Landscape and install walkways, driveways, and drainage to let water seep into the ground instead of running off your property
- Plant a rain garden
- Set up a rain barrel
- Pick up after your pets; bury or dispose of waste in the trash
- Bring leftover toxic material to a waste collection facility: 218-722-0761 or 715-395-1293
- Report illegal dumping
Superior Hotline: 715-394-0392
Duluth 24-hour: 218-730-4000

Common Stormwater Pollutants:

Sediment: Soil, clay, sand and gravel washed from ditches, lawns and driveways. Sediment reduces water clarity, mucks up our streams and lakes, smothers habitat and carries attached pollutants to waterways.

Nutrients and Organic Matter: Animal, yard and garden waste, soil, and products such as fertilizer contain nitrogen and phosphorus, which contribute to nuisance algae growth in rivers and lakes. Decomposing organic matter consumes oxygen, which can harm aquatic organisms.

Pathogens: Disease causing organisms found in human, pet and other waste.

Chemicals: Herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns and gardens, detergents from washing our cars, heavy metals and petroleum by-products. These toxic substances are harmful to aquatic, terrestrial and human life. Some stay in the environment and cause damage for many years.

Chlorides: Road salt. Concentrations from winter months can be very high in stormwater runoff, which can be toxic to aquatic life.

Thermal Impacts: Roads, roofs, and sidewalks can increase the temperature of stormwater as it runs off surfaces. Removing shoreline vegetation also warms streams, lakes and wetlands, stressing fish and invertebrates that are adapted to colder temperatures.

Litter: Trash and debris often end up in streams and lakes, diminishing their natural beauty, degrading habitat and harming fish and wildlife.

Everyone Lives in a Watershed

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a particular wetland, creek, stream, river or lake.

Each watershed has numerous smaller subwatersheds.



Everything you do on the land affects the quality of your water.

In the Lake Superior Basin, much of the stormwater from municipal and other developed areas drains directly into the Lake without being treated.

Polluted runoff affects 90% of our inland lakes, 40% of our streams, many coastal waters, and much of our groundwater.
www.wisconsinrivers.org

You can make a BIG difference in preventing stormwater pollution:

- Never dump anything onto the street or into a gutter or storm sewer drain
- Compost yard clippings
- Sweep leaves and soil from sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn or compost
- Wash your vehicles in a car wash or on your lawn
- Fix oil, radiator, and transmission leaks on your vehicles
- Eliminate or reduce your use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer
- If you live along a shoreline, plant a vegetated buffer of native plants
- Landscape and install walkways, driveways, and drainage to let water seep into the ground instead of running off your property
- Plant a rain garden
- Set up a rain barrel
- Pick up after your pets; bury or dispose of waste in the trash
- Bring leftover toxic materials such as paint, household cleaners, used oil, and pesticides to a waste collection facility, in Minnesota, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District 218-722-0761 www.wlssd.duluth.mn.us or to a cleansweep collection Douglas County 715-395-1293
- Report illegal dumping Superior Hotline: 715-394-0392 Duluth 24-hour: 218-730-4000



Lake Superior holds 10% of the world's fresh liquid surface water, three quadrillion (3,000,000,000,000,000) gallons.

Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area, 350 miles long and 160 miles wide, 31,700 square miles, about the same size as Maine.



The Lake Superior Basin is one of the most pristine and unique ecosystems in North America.

Impacts are not easily remedied, because it takes 191 years for water to cycle through Lake Superior.

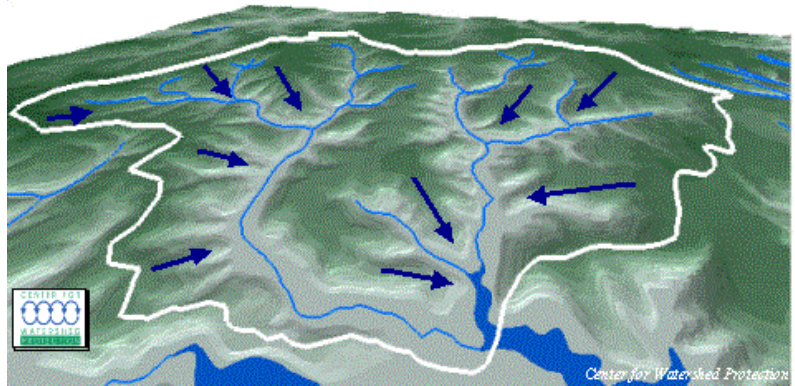
ReSPeCT Your Lake
Regional Stormwater Protection Team



Visit www.duluthstreams.org to learn more

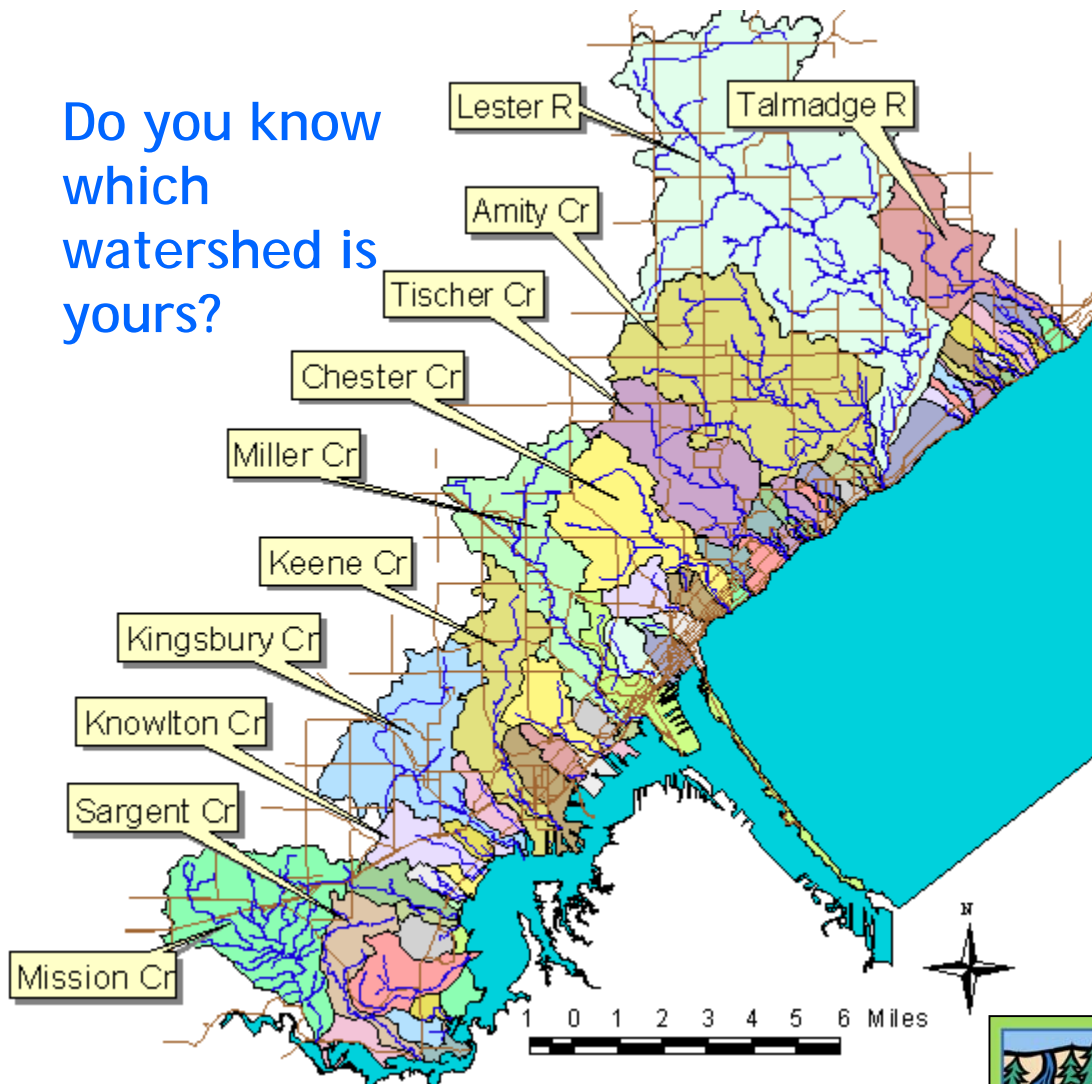
EVERYONE lives in a watershed!

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a particular lake, wetland or stream.



The City of Duluth is made up of many watersheds, all connected together like the pieces of a puzzle.

Do you know which watershed is yours?



Everything that happens on the land in your watershed affects its water quality





The City of Duluth is made up of many watersheds, all connected together like the pieces of a puzzle.

Do you know which watershed is yours?

This map only shows the larger watersheds. There are actually 42 streams within the Duluth city limits, each with its own watershed.

