



PROTECT WATER QUALITY ALL SEASON LONG!

What is a Watershed?

We all live in a watershed - an area of land that drains to a common body of water, such as a lake, river or stream (and even groundwater). Understanding the watershed concept is important because it allows us to comprehend that we can have an impact on water quality far beyond our own back door.

Learn the Difference

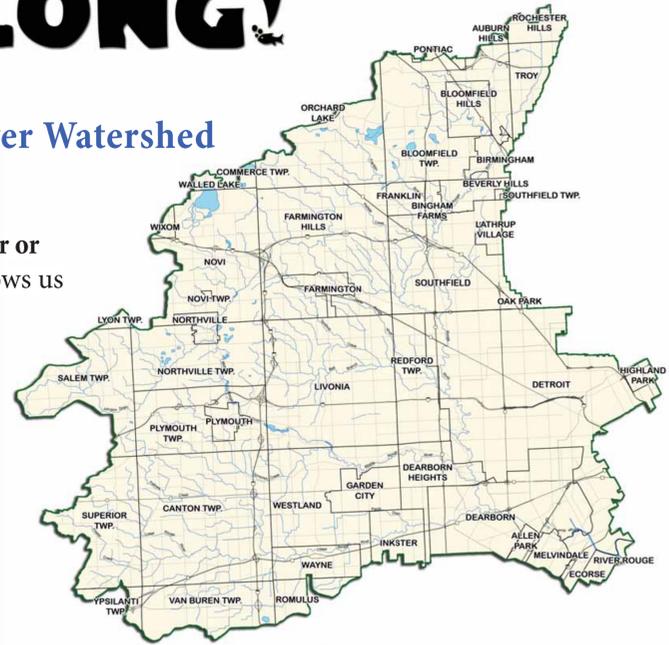
What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water that originates during rain events and snow/ice melt and travels over land or through storm drains, catch basins or pipes (called outfalls) and ends up untreated in our rivers, streams and lakes.

What is Wastewater?

Wastewater is water that has been used in the home, in a business, or as part of an industrial process and is treated before it is released back to the environment.

Rouge River Watershed



Use less salt by shoveling early and often to protect the Rouge River. If you do need salt, choose an environmentally-friendly alternative.



Attend a Friends of the Rouge Winter Stonefly Search close to your community to help gauge the health of the Rouge River.



Use your local car wash to keep your car clean. When the buildup on your car melts, it sends the road salt, oil and other pollutants to the storm drain which end up in the Rouge River.



Pick up after your pet even in the winter to prevent the bacteria from washing into storm drains and straight to the Rouge River when the snow starts to melt.



Winterize your rain barrel to prevent cracking due to cold weather by storing it in your garage, shed or basement and reattach your downspout.



This winter, plan a rain garden to include Michigan native plants which slows runoff and provides added filtration before entering the Rouge River.



Recycle your holiday greenery, such as your tree, instead of throwing it in the trash. It's better for the environment.



Pour greasy or oily food waste into a jar and put it in the trash to prevent blockages in sewer pipes which can send sewage backward into homes or out manholes into streets and the Rouge River.

The Alliance of Rouge Communities, or ARC, is a non-profit organization consisting of local municipalities, counties, educational institutions and stewardship groups working together to improve the Rouge River. The ARC is funded by membership dues from local governments and supported by grants. The ARC and its partners work cooperatively to meet water quality requirements mandated by the state's stormwater permit and to restore beneficial uses, such as canoeing, fishing and other recreational activities, to the Rouge River.



For more information visit: www.allianceofrougecommunities.com