



# 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

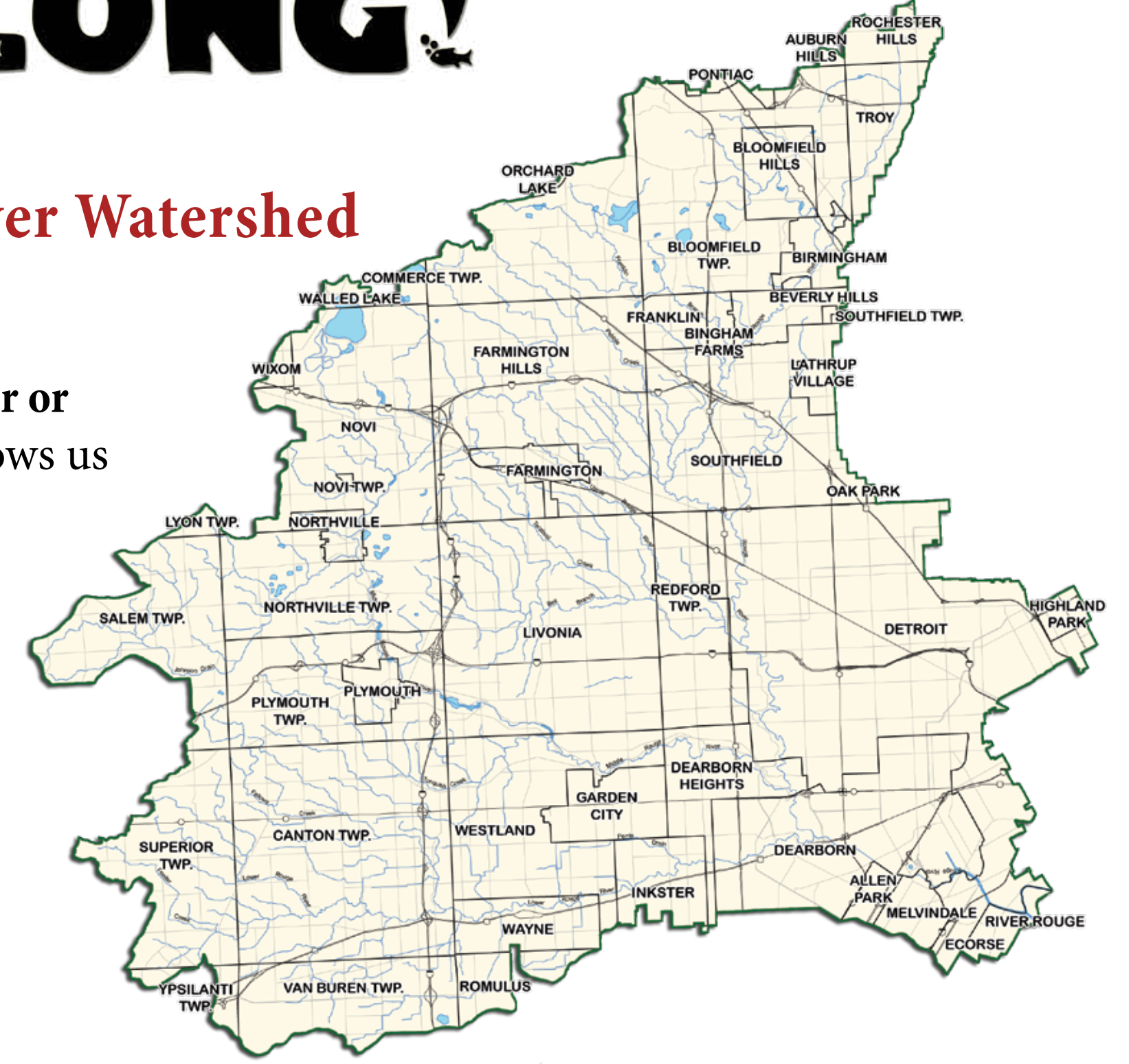
### What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water that originates during rain events and snow/ice melt and travels over land or through storm drains or catch basins, pipes and 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



**Plant a tree to provide a natural filter to the Rouge River and to reduce stormwater runoff, flooding and erosion.**



**Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar before putting in the trash to prevent blockages in sewer pipes which can send sewage backward into homes or out of manholes into streets and the Rouge River.**



**Do not put "disposable wipes" down a drain or toilet, they do not dissolve and will cause blockages in sewer pipes.**



**Report illegal dumping to the Rouge River to your local municipality to prevent contamination to our groundwater supply.**



**When winterizing your pool, spa, or fountain allow the chlorine to dissipate for several days before draining it to a landscaped area not a storm drain which leads to the Rouge River.**



**Use non-toxic cleaning alternatives such as white vinegar, baking soda and hydrogen peroxide to reduce the amount of harmful chemicals entering the Rouge River.**



**Mulch your grass and leaves to use as a natural fertilizer which limits the excess nutrients from yard waste entering the Rouge River.**



**Attend a workshop on native landscaping or septic system maintenance to learn how you can protect the Rouge River or volunteer at a bug hunt or Rouge Rescue with Friends of the Rouge in your community.**

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](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com)**