



# 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

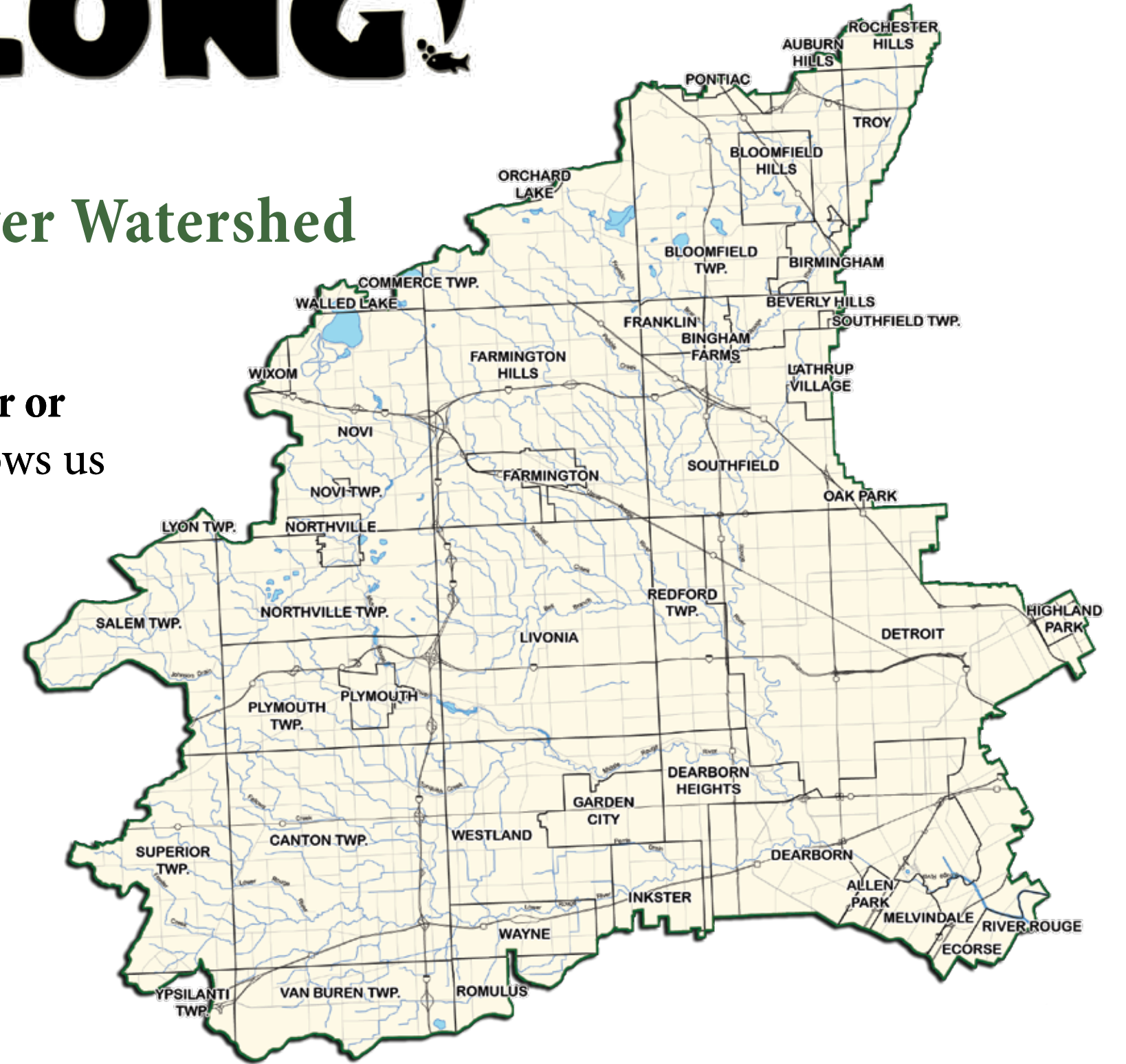
### What is Stormwater?

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



Use your local car wash because washing your car at home sends the road salt, oil and other pollutants to the storm drain which end up in the Rouge River.



Install a rain garden which traps and filters sediment and pollution and naturally cleans the water before it reaches the Rouge River.



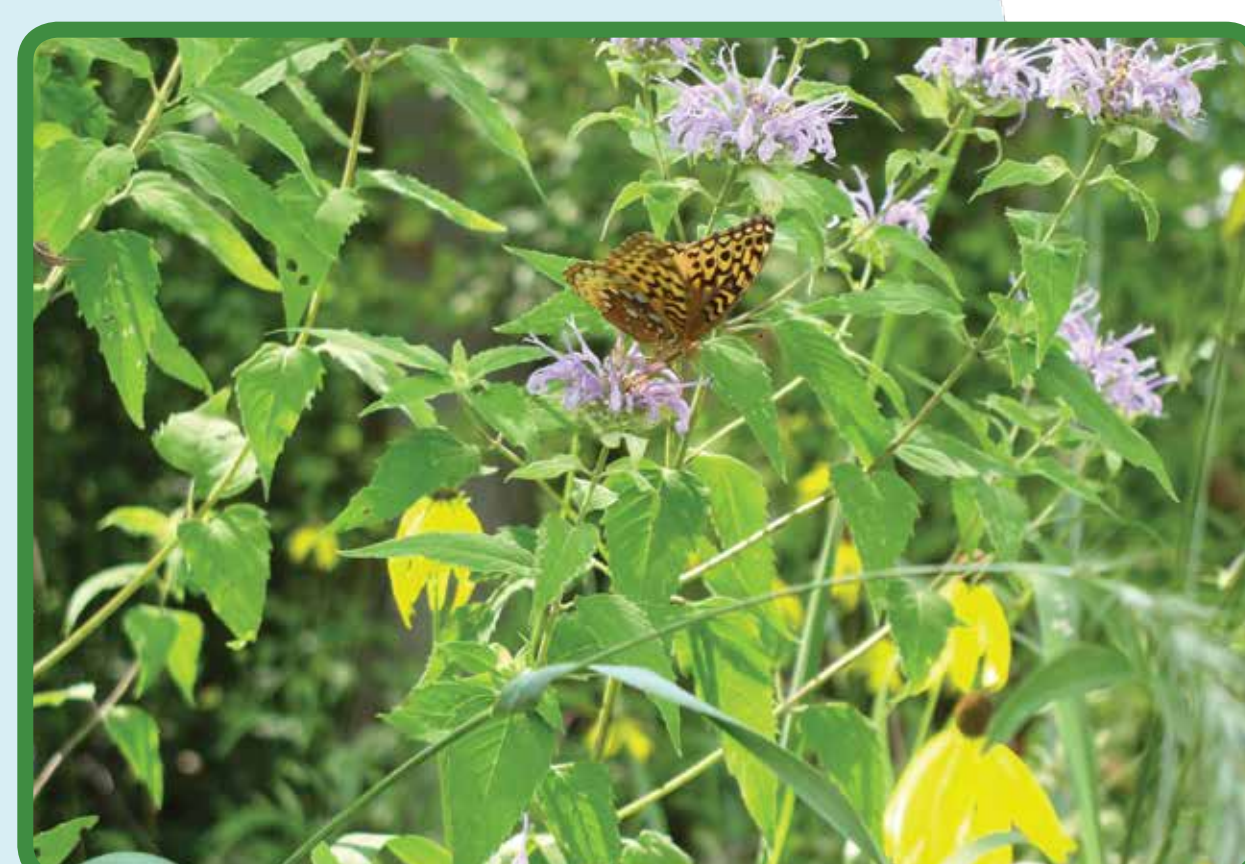
Use a broom to sweep fertilizer and grass clippings back onto your yard so it doesn't wash into the storm drain and the Rouge River.



Pick up after your pet to prevent the bacteria from washing into drainage ditches and storm drains and straight to the Rouge River.



Don't feed the geese because the concentration of droppings adds excess nutrients and harmful bacteria to the Rouge River.



Plant Michigan native plants to slow runoff and provide added filtration before entering the Rouge River.



Install a rain barrel to capture rainwater for your garden or disconnect downspouts and direct them into gardens.



Don't pour chemicals down storm drains which lead to the Rouge River, instead recycle them at a household hazardous waste collection event.

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)