



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

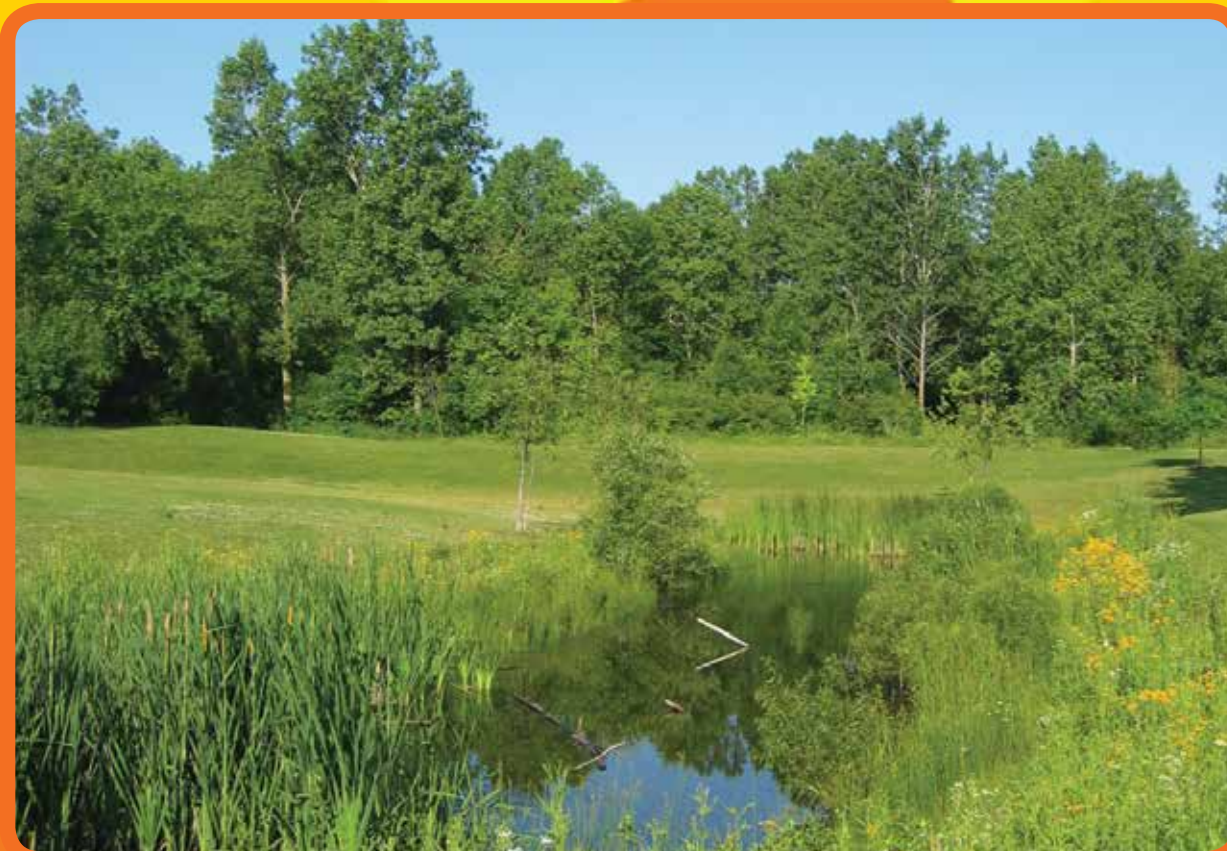
What is Stormwater?

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 variety of native species around detention ponds which will enhance water quality, minimize algae blooms and encourage wildlife habitat.



Use slow release, phosphorus-free fertilizer and don't fertilize right before it rains or along any body of water to help protect 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.



Boaters dispose of your waste properly, keep bilges clean with absorbent sponges or pads, and inspect boats and trailers for plant debris and zebra mussels.



Waterfront property owners plant trees, shrubs, taller grasses and wildflowers between the shoreline and upland areas to minimize the amount of pollutants entering the waterway.



Keep storm drains clear of debris to prevent storm sewer blockages and minimize the amount of pollutants entering the Rouge River.



Maintain your septic system by having it inspected every 3 years by a licensed contractor and having your tank pumped every 3-5 years.



Minimize use of your washing machine, dishwasher or shower during times of heavy rain because it stresses the sewer system.

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