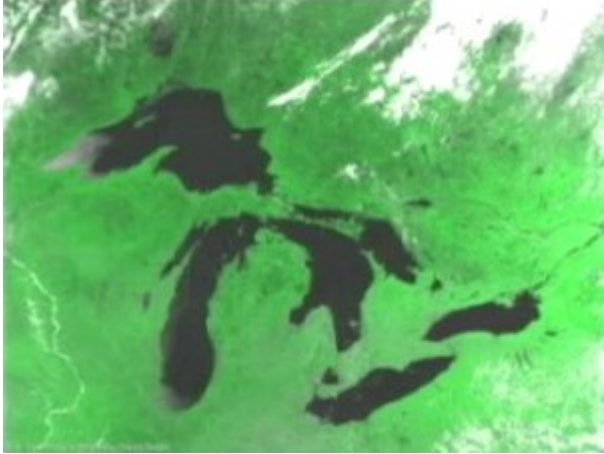


# WHAT IS A WATERSHED?



A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.

John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is:

"That area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state, and national boundaries. In the continental US, there are 2,110 watersheds.

—Excerpts from USEPA

# MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.saswa.org>

<http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/>

<http://ei.cornell.edu/watersheds/index.html>

## Everyone in Michigan—

- Lives in a watershed
- Works in a watershed
- Plays in a watershed
- Impacts a watershed
- **IS RESPONSIBLE** for protecting these unique and **PRECIOUS** sources of freshwater!

SAGINAW AREA  
STORM WATER  
AUTHORITY(SASWA)

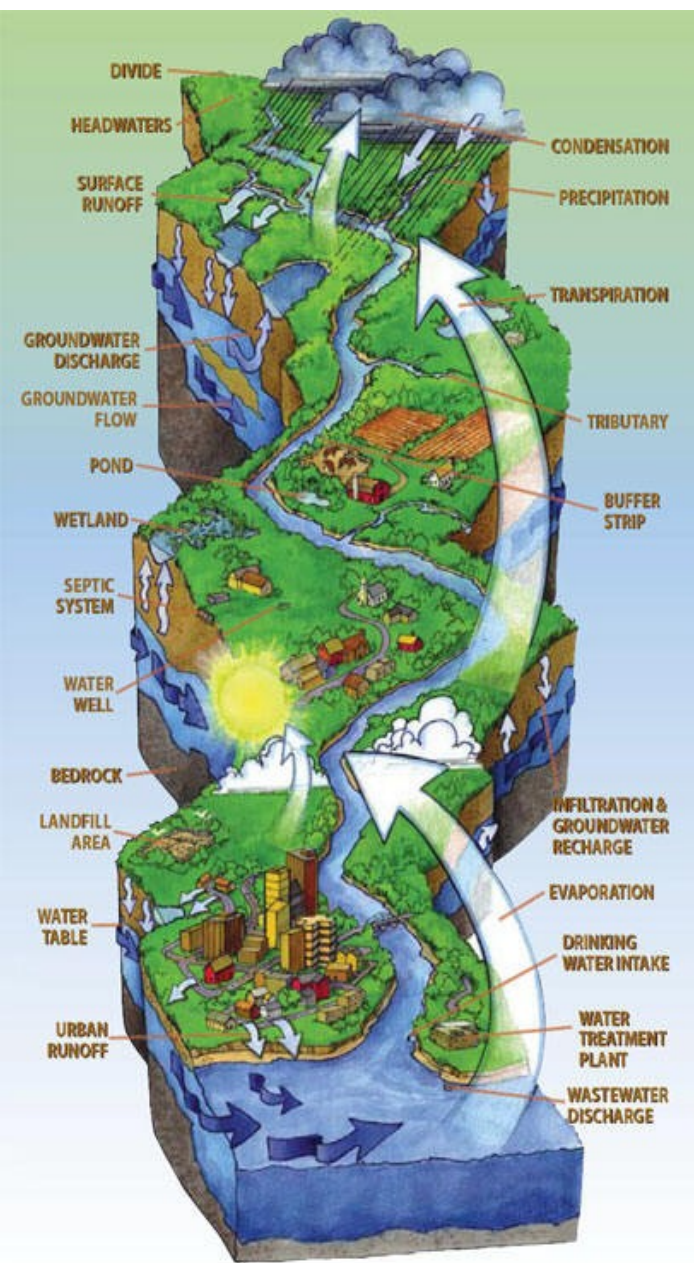
# WATERSHEDS: EVERYONE LIVES IN ONE!

Saginaw Bay  
Watershed



[WWW.SASWA.ORG](http://WWW.SASWA.ORG)

# WATERSHED DIAGRAM



# 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PRESERVE YOUR WATERSHED

## 1. Recycle and Dispose of Household Chemicals Properly (Including Medications)

Many household chemicals are toxic. Buy wisely. Use non-toxic substitutes wherever possible. Take unwanted household chemicals to hazardous waste collection centers; do not pour down the drain or on the ground.



## 2. Dispose of Pet Waste Properly

Scoop waste up and flush it down the toilet, seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage, bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly, or use a pet waste compost bin.

## 3. Use Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer

This isn't only a suggestion—it's also the law. As of January 2012, fertilizers containing phosphorus are illegal because they can leach into ground water or contaminate rivers or lakes.

## 4. Maintain All Vehicles; Eliminate All Leaks and Spills

Recycle used oil and antifreeze by taking them to service stations and other recycling centers. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches.



## 5. Join a Watershed Organization

Participate in clean-up activities in your neighborhood. Write or call your elected representatives to inform them about your concerns and encourage legislation to protect water resources.

For more information, or to find your watershed(s), visit:

<http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds>