A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common location (e.g. a lake or river). As rainwater and melting snow run downhill, they gather sediment and other materials and may carry them into our streams, lakes and groundwater.

From an aerial view, watersheds have the appearance of a large tree with branches extending across the landscape. The largest or principle stream of the watershed is the tree’s trunk, while the larger branches are primary streams, the smaller branches are secondary streams all feeding into each other as they make their journey through the watershed.

**Did you know you’re in a watershed right now?**

We all live in a watershed. Homes, farms, forests, small towns, big cities and more make up watersheds. Watersheds cross municipal, county, state and even international borders. In some areas, watersheds are called drainage basins.

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some encompass millions of square miles; others just a few acres. Just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are nearly always part of a larger watershed in extent. For example, Ohio contains 44 “principle” watersheds, but all of them drain to either Lake Erie or the Ohio River.

**Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist.**

Healthy watersheds are vital for a healthy environment and economy. We use water for drinking, agriculture and industry.

Many people also enjoy lakes and streams for their beauty and for recreation. Wildlife also needs healthy watersheds for food and shelter.

**Government agencies, natural resources departments and environmentalists now recognize that the best way to protect our vital natural resources is to understand and manage them on a watershed basis. Everything that is done in a watershed affects the entire watershed’s system.**

So please take care of your watershed, and your watershed will take care of you. Because as the saying goes…

*“We all live downstream.”*

**How are you as an individual affecting the health of our waters?**

The first step in protecting your watershed is understanding how you might contribute to the problem.

Below is a list of the number of people in the United States who contribute to non-point source pollution by engaging in the following excessive behaviors.

**Do you fall into any of these categories?**

- Hosers (over watering) 15 million
- Pesticide Sprayers 43 million
- Over Fertilizers 38 million
- Bad Mechanics (oil disposal) 3 million
- Septic Slackers 15 million
- Chronic Car Washers 27 million
- Bad Dog Walkers 16 million

**10 things individuals can do to protect the watershed:**

1) water only where and when needed
2) redirect rooftop runoff onto your lawn or collect it in rain barrels
3) limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers
4) plant native vegetation
5) properly maintain vehicles and properly dispose of used motor oil
6) recycle and dispose of household chemicals properly
7) properly maintain septic systems
8) wash your car on the lawn using phosphate free soap
9) dispose of pet waste properly, flushing down the toilet works best
10) join a watershed organization

**Medina County’s Watersheds**

Medina county straddles the Ohio divide which separates the waters that flow north into Lake Erie (the East & West Branches of the Rocky River, the East Branch of the Black River and Yellow Creek) from those that work their way south to the Ohio River (Muddy Fork, Killbuck Creek, Chippewa Creek, River Styx, Wolf Creek and Hudson Run).

Check the map to see which watershed you live in.
Major Watersheds of Ohio

1. St. Joseph
2. Sandusky
3. Ottawa-Stony
4. Blanchard
5. St. Marys
6. Lake Erie
7. Tiffin
8. Auglaize
9. Chautauqua-Conneaut
10. Raisin
11. Black-Rocky
12. Huron-Vermilion
13. Upper Maumee
14. Cuyahoga
15. Cedar-Portage
16. Ashtabula-Chagrin
17. Lower Maumee
18. Grand
19. Licking
20. Mohican
21. Wills
22. Mississinewa
23. Upper Great Miami, Indiana, Ohio
24. Upper Ohio-Shade
25. Walhonding
26. Lower Scioto
27. Raccoon-Symmes
28. Hocking
29. Whitewater
30. Upper Scioto
31. Upper Ohio
32. Paint
33. Tuscarawas
34. Little Scioto-Tygarts
35. Ohio Brush-Whiteoak
36. Upper Ohio-Wheeling
37. Little Miami
38. Lower Great Miami, Indiana, Ohio
39. Little Muskingum-Middle Island
40. Muskingum
41. Shenango
42. Midl Ohio-Laughery
43. Upper Wabash
44. Mahoning

Watersheds
And
Medina County

MEDINA COUNTY
Soil & Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
6090 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256
330 722-9322
www.medinaswcd.org