

Your Local Watershed and You:

What can you do to help protect your watershed?

Do you know what a watershed is? Did you know you are in a watershed right now?

Think of a giant glass bowl. Now picture a drop of water hitting the rim of the bowl, sliding down the side, and finally resting on the bottom of the bowl. Each drop of water that hits the rim will follow the same routine – down the side to the bottom. The bottom of the bowl eventually fills with those water drops. This is a small scale demonstration of a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that

drains into the same body of water, whether it's a stream, river, lake, or ocean. All of the land that drains into the Grand

River, also referred to as the Grand River Basin, represents a subwatershed of the Lake Michigan Basin. To find out which subwatershed you live in, enter your address in the **Lower Grand River Watershed Map** at **LGROW.org**.



Why Should You Care?

When it rains, the water that isn't soaked back into the ground is called stormwater. Stormwater runs off of impervious surfaces, like concrete driveways and asphalt-paved streets, then eventually into the Grand River. Unfortunately, stormwater can carry a lot of harmful waste on its way to our lakes and streams – gas and oil from parking lots, excess fertilizer from your lawn, pet waste, and various other pollutants. These pollutants can end up in the lakes, rivers, and streams in which we fish, play, and swim.



What Can You Do?

You can help reduce the pollutants entering our waterways and their negative impact on our environment in many ways, from picking up after your pet to installing a rain barrel on your property. For a full list of activities to prevent stormwater pollution in the Lower Grand River Watershed, visit the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds' **Information and Education Page** at **LGROW.org**.

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