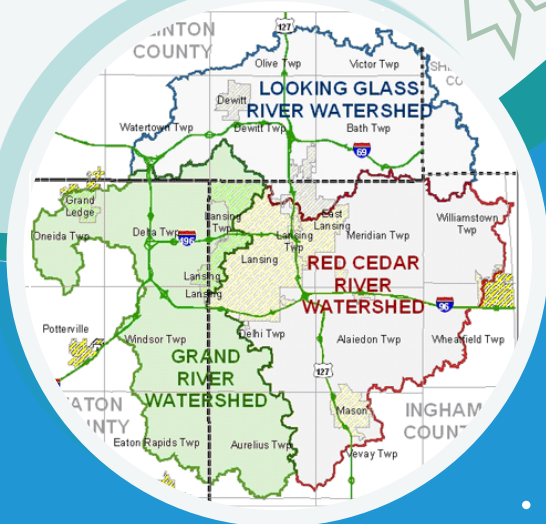


# Urban Watershed

In an urban watershed, rainwater cannot penetrate impervious surfaces like roads, parking lots, and buildings, so we use storm drains or catch basins to carry away stormwater runoff and prevent flooding. Unfortunately, pollutants on the ground, like motor oil, pet waste, and trash, can be picked up by stormwater runoff and drain into our waterways. This type of nonpoint source pollution is the number one water quality problem in the nation.

If you live in the Greater Lansing region, you live in the Red Cedar River, Looking Glass River, or Grand River urban watershed. You can help protect our water quality by visiting [mywatersheds.org](http://mywatersheds.org). Use the events page to participate in local events and view videos and educational tools to enact change!



# Do Your Part



We all live in a watershed. Your actions and choices can help keep our water clean!



# POLLUTION ISN'T PRETTY.



## Do You Know Your Watershed?



For more information or to learn more about protecting our water, visit the link below or contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

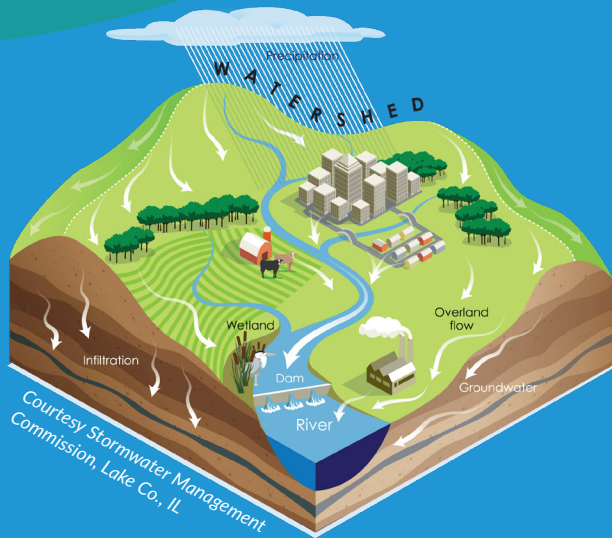
[mywatersheds.org](http://mywatersheds.org)  
[mywatersheds@mitcrpc.org](mailto:mywatersheds@mitcrpc.org)



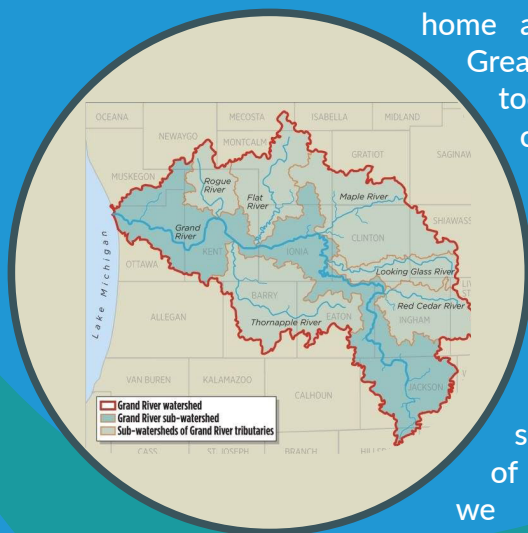
**TRI-COUNTY**  
regional planning commission

[mywatersheds.org](http://mywatersheds.org)

# What Is A Watershed?



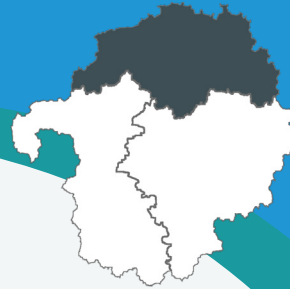
A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point like a lake or river. In the Grand River watershed, all land drains to Lake Michigan and eventually the Atlantic Ocean! This means that our actions here at home affect the Great Lakes too. Grass clippings, leaves, litter, motor oil, pet waste, and other sources of pollution we leave on the ground can impact water quality much further "downstream."



## Our Watersheds *Urbanized areas only*

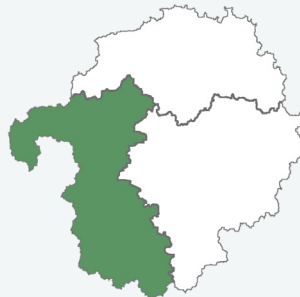
### Looking Glass River Watershed

Population: 46,097  
Political Jurisdictions: 14  
Land Area: 80,290 acres  
Wetlands: 16,070 acres  
Miles of rivers and streams: 183



### Grand River Watershed

Population: 83,212  
Political Jurisdictions: 13  
Land Area: 93,622 acres  
Wetlands: 8,586 acres  
Miles of rivers and streams: 325



### Red Cedar River Watershed

Population: 174,837  
Political Jurisdictions: 15  
Land Area: 105,629 acres  
Wetlands: 13,967 acres  
Miles of rivers and streams: 225



2022 U.S. Census American Community Survey Figures

## Top Ten Ways to Protect Our Waters

01

Dispose of pet waste properly in the trash or toilet (not in on-site septic systems).

02

Soil test before applying lawn fertilizers — you may not need them!

03

Plant native trees and flowers near downspouts or in a rain garden. They will help filter stormwater pollutants and do not require fertilizers or much water.

04

Install a rain barrel to capture, reuse, and control stormwater runoff.

05

Maintain all vehicles to eliminate leaks that flow down storm drains into waterways.

06

Recycle and dispose of household hazardous waste (motor oil, household cleaners, paint, etc.) at a collection site.

07

Inspect your septic system every three years and pump every three to five years.

08

Wash your car on the lawn versus pavement as local ordinance allows. The soil will help filter soaps and grease that can flow from driveways into storm drains and waterways.

09

Support and join a watershed organization or participate in area river cleanups.

10

Fix leaks, run full loads in the dishwasher and washer, and water your lawn in the early morning or at night to conserve water.