



Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District

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“We All Live in a Watershed”

What is a watershed? It’s the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. It’s the land which “sheds water” or drains into a particular water body. No matter where you are, you’re in a watershed!

How does a watershed work? Within each watershed, all water runs to the lowest point – a stream, river or lake. Water travels over the surface and across farm fields, forest land, lawns, streets or it seeps into the soil and travels as groundwater.

Why a watershed is important: We all live in a watershed. Everyone needs water and other natural resources in order to live. What we do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources.

Features that make each watershed unique: Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes and have many different features. They cross county, state and national boundaries.

- Size – some are very large and include many smaller river basins or watersheds
- Boundary – formed by a ridge or high area from which water drains either toward or away from your watershed.
- Terrain – topography (how flat or steep) of the land impacts how fast water drains
- Soil type – sandy soils allow the ground to soak up water faster which reduces surface runoff. Clay soils do not allow as much water infiltration which can lead to more runoff and soil erosion.
- Other Features – the area nearest water affects water quality. Example: buffers help utilize nutrients and trap sediment.

Pollutants and water quality:

- Point source pollution: This means the problem can be traced to a specific location such as a pipe or disposal site.
- Non-point source pollution: Type of pollution occurs when the source of a contaminant is unidentifiable (can come from many places). These pollutants are in the water that runs off crop or forest land. Other pollutants include failing septic systems, parking lots, construction sites, etc.

Major Watersheds in Lincoln County:

- Broad
- Catawba

Things you can do to make a difference in the watershed:

- Learn about the watershed you live in
- Identify ways you can help prevent pollution

- Organize or participate in the cleanup of a stream (ex: Big Sweep)
- Create a wildlife habitat in your backyard, workplace or school yard
- Organize a storm drain marking project in your neighborhood

Important Facts about Watersheds:

- There are 2,100 watersheds in the continental US.
- NC has 17 major river basins (a river basin is a large watershed that is comprised of many smaller watersheds that drain to the same location). Of the 17 basins, 11 originate in NC but only 4 are contained entirely with the state's borders: Cape Fear, Neuse, White Oak and Tar Pamlico.
- There are 11 counties in the NC Catawba River watershed covering 3,300 miles of streams/ivers
- The largest watershed in the US is the Mississippi River Basin

Websites:

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/residents/education/kids>

http://www.ehow.com/about_7230896_catawba-river-basin-north-carolina.html

<http://www.wncvitalityindex.org/water/river-basins>

<https://www.azstorm.org/resources/educational-materials>

<https://www.watershedcouncil.org/stormwater-for-kids.html>

<https://www.onlyraindownthedrain.com/kids/>

<https://www.natickma.gov/346/Stormwater-Management-for-Kids>

<https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=fa21039c496a4f598833e6251edd0db>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1quzN4THekYEgfU3xN89f8WxLd_zKhk-e/view

<https://www.eenorthcarolina.org/resources/river-basin-program>