

Get Involved!

Join the Watershed Education Network's citizen science programs:

Stream Team

Volunteer water monitoring

Groundwater Programs

Missoula Aquifer education

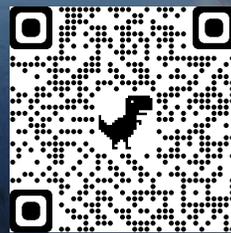
School Stream Monitoring Program

River ecology lessons + field activities

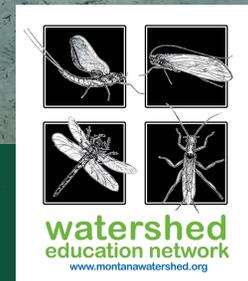
Learn more at
MontanaWatershed.org under
"Programs"



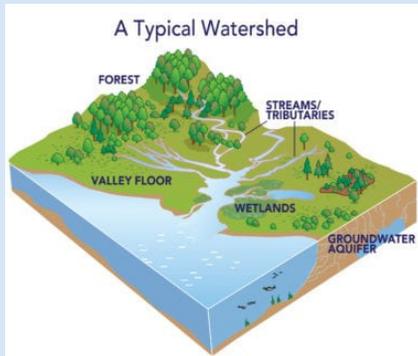
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Welcome to Your Watershed!



A watershed is where water collects and drains to creeks and rivers. Missoula is in the Clark Fork watershed, which begins where the snow melts and feeds into places like Rattlesnake Creek, which flow into the Clark Fork River. All the water that we encounter is part of our local watershed – affected by all the activities that take place. The hills and mountains create the boundaries between watersheds.

A healthy watershed in our region is defined by the 5 C's: **Cold, Clean, Clear** water in a **Complex** and **Connected** ecosystem.

Missoula is in a special position at the intersection of urban, agricultural, and wilderness areas. This means we benefit from community events and development, local agricultural producers, and easy access to nearby recreation and public lands! It also presents challenges like interactions with wildlife, runoff from farms, lawns, and roads reaching our waterways, and recreational stress on open spaces and river access points.

To keep the outdoors safe and sustainable for all to use, follow these responsible practices:

- **Stay on the trail!** Creating your own trails or walking on the side of existing trails causes erosion. This may add sediment to the stream and damage streamside vegetation and habitat.
- **Leash your dog and scoop the poop!** Off-leash dogs contribute to erosion, damage redds, poop where you don't see, and intimidate other recreationists and animals. Dog poop can introduce bacteria or parasites to other animals and pollute storm water runoff that ends up in streams and rivers.
- **Clean, drain, dry!** Check your boats and watercraft at all road stations and in between bodies of water to prevent spreading invasive species.
- **Do not obstruct water flow.** Pools of water warm up quickly, stressing aquatic animals. Disturbing the creek bed also disrupts redds (fish egg nests) in spawning season.

Missoula Conservation District

www.missoulacd.org
(406) 303-3427

Missoula Water Quality District

www.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/missoula-valley-water-quality-district
(406) 258-4890

Missoula Stormwater Utility

www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2138/Storm-Water-Division
406-552-6357

Missoula Water

www.ci.missoula.mt.us/water
(406) 552-6700

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

www.fwp.mt.gov
(406) 542-5500

Missoula Parks & Recreation

www.ci.missoula.mt.us/157/Parks-Recreation
(406) 552-6277