

Stormwater News...

JANUARY 2017

It's a new year and with that comes a myriad of changes.

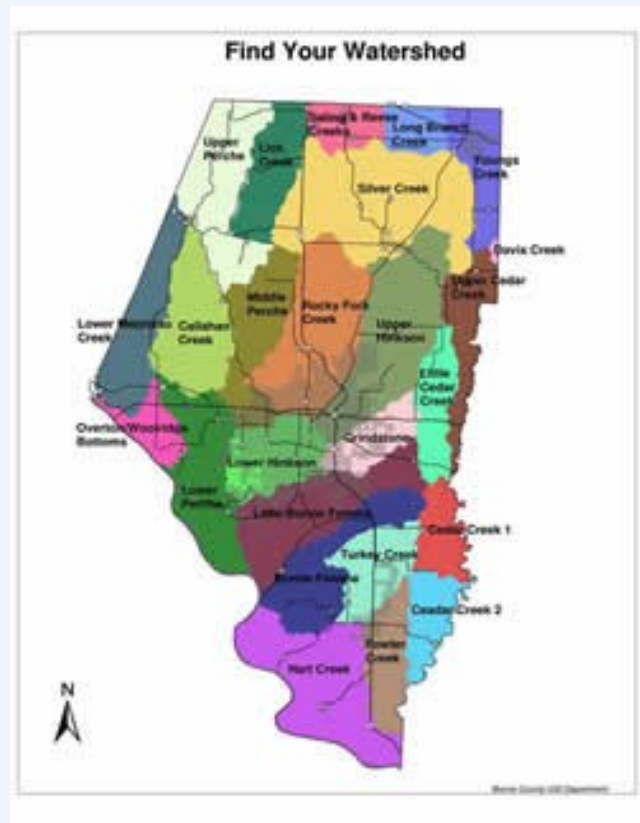
This year you will see new format, new design, monthly editions, each one highlighting a different watershed within Boone County as well as tips to help protect our valuable water resources. This first edition we will review watershed basics. We are looking forward to this new year and working to provide you valuable education opportunities. Enjoy!

Theresa Thomas - Boone County Stormwater Educator

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a river, lake, stream. Water travels over farm fields, forests, suburban lawns and city streets, or it seeps into the soil and travels as groundwater. Watersheds are separated from each other by high points, such as hills or slopes.

To picture a watershed, think of a small brook that flows into a river. The river then flows into a lake. All the land that surrounds the brook, river and lake are in one watershed, because all the water in the area flows into the lake. In addition, the lake and its watershed may be a part of a larger river's watershed. Water in the larger rivers eventually makes its way to the ocean.



What is your Watershed Address?

Everyone lives in a watershed. The water in your backyard drains over or under the ground to a small creek or pond and is a part of its watershed. Where does the rain in your backyard end up? The answer to this question is your watershed address, the drainage basin where you live. To find your watershed address visit:

<http://www.showmeboone.com/stormwater/WatershedInformation.asp>

What is a Drainage Basin?

A drainage basin is a larger watershed containing the watersheds of several other smaller rivers and streams.

Watershed Problems

People can affect the environment's health when they pollute a watershed. Pollutants are materials that can harm plants, animals or humans. These materials may be discharged directly into a waterbody or washed off the land and into waterbodies. Some can also seep into the soil and groundwater.

A watershed may also be harmed when people change how and where water flows, for example, by paving large parking lots or changing the direction of a stream. Problems such as flooding or lower groundwater levels can result.

"A watershed is that area of land, bounded hydrologic system within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community." -John Wesley Powell