

Watersheds

What is a Watershed?

All living things need water. People need clean water for drinking, cooking and cleaning. The health of plants and animals also depends on clean water. Watersheds take care of all these needs, but what exactly is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains to one major body of water such as a river, lake or ocean. Dubuque's largest watersheds include the Bee Branch Watershed and the Catfish Creek Watershed which both flow to the Mississippi River.

CLEAN WATER



The Bee Branch Watershed

is approximately 6.5 square miles of land all within the city limits. It stretches from the Mississippi River west past John F. Kennedy Rd., north to the Northwest Arterial, and south to W. 5th St. Over half of Dubuque residents either live or work in the Bee Branch Watershed. All water in the Bee Branch Watershed drains to the Bee Branch Creek which then enters into the Mississippi River at the 16th Street Detention Basin.



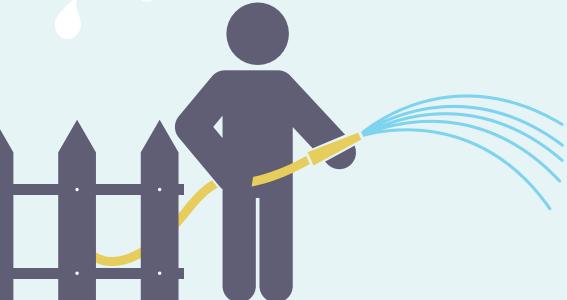
The Catfish Creek Watershed

is a 57 square-mile watershed that includes industrial centers, residential neighborhoods, rolling cropland, steep bluffs and rock outcrops, and dense forests. About half of the city of Dubuque lies in the watershed as well as parts of Asbury, Peosta, and Centralia. Much of the watershed remains rural. All water in the Catfish Creek Watershed drains to the Catfish Creek which enters into the Mississippi river on the south side of Dubuque.

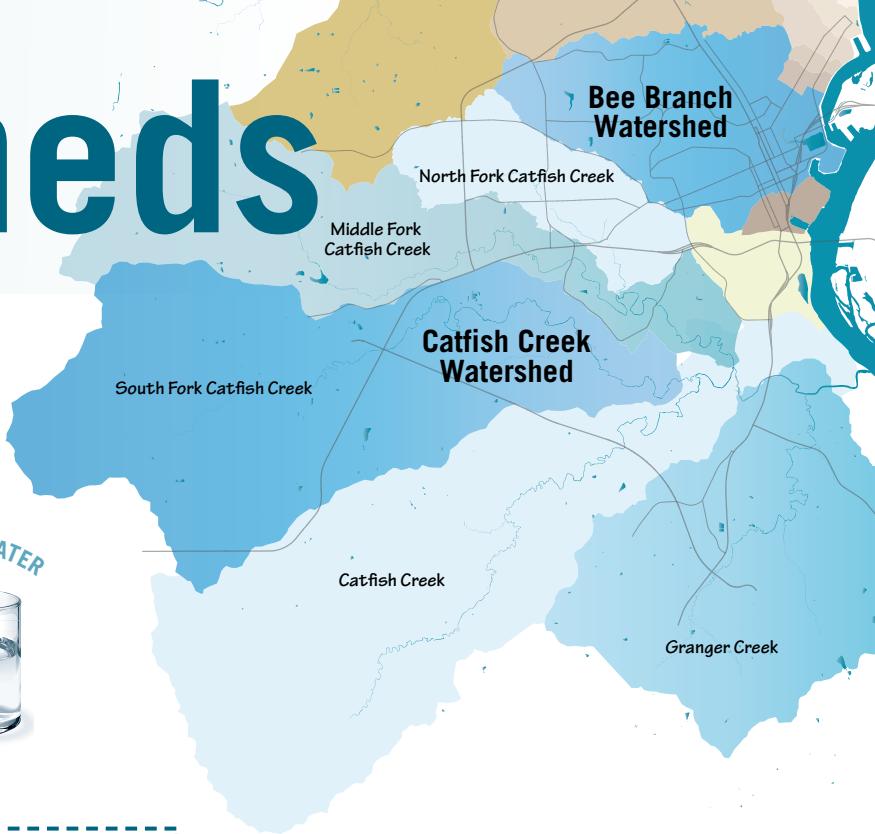
The water in a watershed includes creeks and streams; rainwater and melting snow that soaks into the ground, flows as runoff, and pours down the storm drains in our streets; water used to water lawns and gardens; and water used to irrigate crops. All of that water eventually flows to the Mississippi River.

You might be wondering...

What does this have to do with me?



All communities—from small towns to major cities—depend on lakes, reservoirs, rivers and ground water for clean drinking water. Every community, including Dubuque, has a responsibility to protect it. If you understand watersheds you understand the ways in which water pollution occurs. Any pollutant you put on the land will end up in our creeks and ultimately in the Mississippi River. You have a direct impact on Dubuque's water quality and the health of the Bee Branch and Catfish Creek Watersheds. Please help protect our waters.



You Can Make a Difference

Keep Polluted Water Out of Streams

The five forks of Catfish Creek are currently on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of impaired and threatened waters for E. coli. This means that pollution controls in the Catfish Creek Watershed are not sufficient to maintain water quality standards. The Bee Branch Creek is not on the list of impaired waters but, at times, monitoring has indicated high concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorous, and E. coli. That is why we need your help to improve and protect the health of our waterways. **There are several simple things you can do!**

Do Protect

- ✓ Use fertilizers and lawn chemicals sparingly. Sweep up extra fertilizer that falls on your driveway or sidewalk.
- ✓ Pick up after pets. Pet waste contains bacteria that pollutes water.
- ✓ Take your car to the car wash or wash it on the lawn to prevent soapy water from leaving your property.
- ✓ Fix oil and antifreeze leaks from your car. Promptly clean up spills to prevent them from washing into the street and storm drain.
- ✓ Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors, and properly dispose of excess paints through a hazardous waste collection program.

Don't Pollute

- ✗ DON'T wash off your driveway into the street.
- ✗ DON'T dump oil or household waste in a storm drain.
- ✗ DON'T mow grass clippings into the street.
- ✗ DON'T dump grass clippings or yard waste in a storm drain or on a stream bank. Compost or recycle when possible.

Stormwater Hotline

Help to prosecute violators by taking a picture of the violation taking place. Call 563.690.6200 to report any illicit activity.



www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch
www.facebook.com/beebranchdbq
www.twitter.com/beebranchdbq
Kristin Hill
563.690.6068



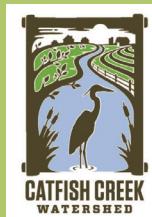
Infiltration practices such as rain gardens, bio swales, and native landscaping are all very effective at capturing and treating stormwater at the source.

A rain garden is a specially designed garden, with a man-made depression, that collects and infiltrates stormwater runoff. Rain gardens are usually planted with native flowers, plants, or grasses. The deep root structures of the native plants allow the rain water and runoff to infiltrate back down into the ground rather than to run off of the property thus managing the stormwater on site. Each rain garden design is unique and dependant on the site condition and the owner's personal tastes.

Material Assistance Program

The City of Dubuque has a material assistance program in place to help private land owners, schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations defray the costs of building a rain garden. Material assistance is provided on a case-by-case basis and is always dependant on available funds.

Assistance is for materials only, which doesn't include labor costs and other expenses such as hauling materials to the site. The assistance is also not to exceed half of the total cost of the project. Material assistance is also available for stream bank stabilization for property owners who have a deteriorating stream or drainage way passing through their property. For more information, please contact Dean Mattoon with the City of Dubuque at 563.589.4202 or by e-mail at dmattoon@cityofdubuque.org.



www.catfishcreekwatershed.org
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