WATERSHEDS

A watershed is a basin-like landform defined by high-points and ridgelines that descend into lower elevations and stream valleys. A watershed carries water "shed" from the land after rain falls and snow melts. Drop by drop, water is channeled into soils, ground waters, creeks, and streams, making its way to larger rivers and eventually to the sea.

Precipitation

Wetland

Infiltration

Dam

River

Overland flow

Groundwater

OUR WHATERSHEDS ARE VERY IMPORATANT

Water is affected by all that it comes in contact with: the land and soils which it travels. The most important thing about watersheds is that what we do on and to the land affects water quality for all communities living downstream.

Clean and safe water is the most valuable and needed resource for life not only for humans but also for wildlife, aquatic life, and our environment.

BE THE SOLUTION TO WATER POLLUTION

HOW CAN 1 HELP OUR WATERSHEDS?

- Don't put anything except stormwater runoff down storm drains. These drains carry stormwater straight to our local waterways.

 - Fix leaks that drip from your car immediately and put down a liner in your driveway to collect oil and other materials while at work.

 - Avoid using pesticides or chemical fertilizers. If you do use them make sure you follow the directions.

 - Choose non-toxic household cleaning products whenever possible.

 - Pick up after your pets. Like other contaminants, pet waste can run down the storm drains, spreading bacteria along the way to local waterways.

- Do not litter. Disposing of trash and hazardous waste correctly is crucial to preventing water pollution. Call the WV DEP with any hazardous waste disposal questions at 304-558-5938.

 - Planting native plants allows more water to soak into the ground can help prevent flooding, recharge groundwater supplies, and dilute contaminants.

 - Plant more trees to help soak up more stormwater runoff.

 - Spread the word and be a water advocate. Talk to your neighbors about how they can help too, and work with your community to help make changes to better your watershed.