

WHERE DOES THE WATER GO?

Have you ever wondered what happens to rain after it falls?



WATER MOVES IN A WATERSHED

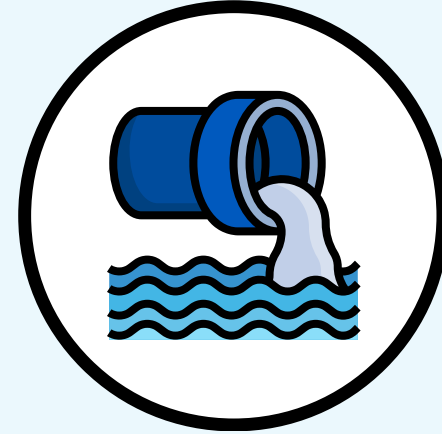
A watershed is an area of land that drains to a nearby stream, lake, or other body of water. Watersheds act like a funnel, collecting rainwater and emptying it into a specific spot like a river, stream, or lake.

Smaller watersheds, like the one you're standing in right now, flow into larger rivers and become part of their watershed. This process continues, flowing from small stream watersheds to larger river watersheds, until the water eventually reaches the ocean. How these individual watersheds are classified or described depends on the scale at which they are viewed.

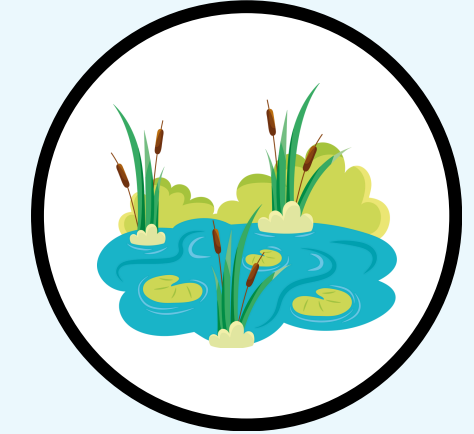


Watersheds **move** water through natural and manmade conveyance channels, such as streams, roadside ditches, and storm sewers.

Watersheds **release** water into streams, lakes, or groundwater reservoirs.



Watersheds **store** water in floodplains, wetlands, lakes, and manmade reservoirs.



WATER CONNECTS US ALL

We're all part of a watershed, and that means our actions on the land directly impact the quality of our rivers, streams, and lakes. When we remove areas of natural vegetation and replace them with large impervious areas, we prevent rainwater from seeping into the ground. The rainwater instead flows over hard, impervious surfaces such as roofs, lawns, driveways, parking lots, and roadways and drains to our waterways. On its way, the rainwater runoff picks up sediment, pollutants, and even heat.

THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

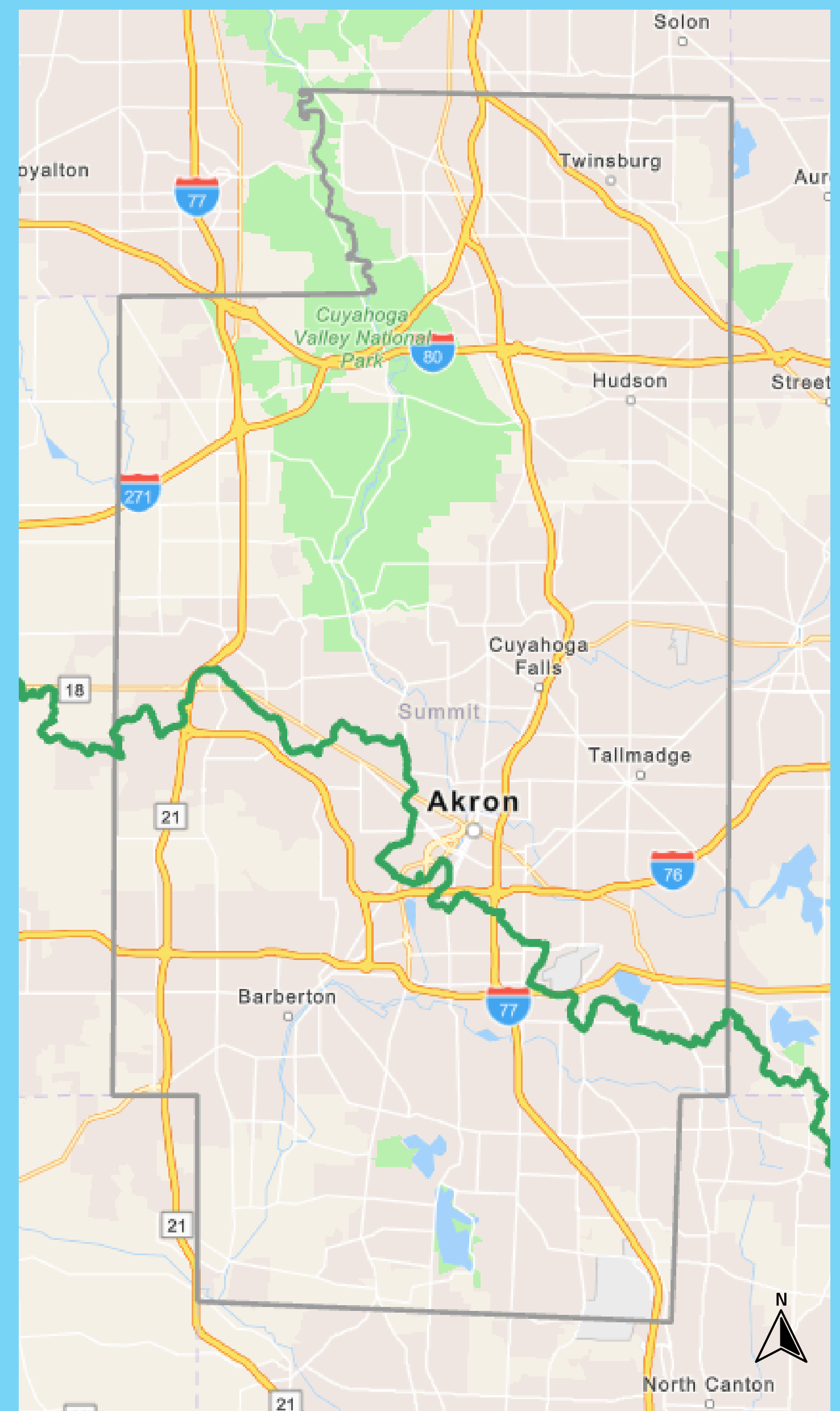
a boundary that separates a continent's river systems



North of the divide, streams and rivers run into Lake Erie, over the Niagara Falls, through Lake Ontario, and eventually into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean.



South of the divide, streams and rivers run into the Ohio River, which flows into the Mississippi River and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

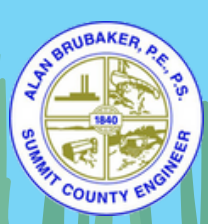


KEEP THE WATER CLEAN, WE'RE ALL DOWNSTREAM!

We can work together to protect the quality of our watersheds and enhance the quality of life for Summit County residents and those living downstream. Choose healthy watershed habits!!

HEALTHY WATERSHED HABITS

- 💧 Keep natural vegetation alongside your backyard stream or pond to prevent erosion and keep water cool.
- 💧 Redirect downspouts onto your lawn to reduce rainwater runoff entering our streams.
- 💧 Store rainwater in a rainbarrel to use around your yard instead of reaching for your hose.
- 💧 Reduce chloride pollution by using salt sparingly in the winter.
- 💧 Prevent excess nutrients from entering our waterways by limiting fertilizer use and picking up after your dog.
- 💧 Replace portions of your yard with native plants to reduce mowing and increase wildlife habitat.



Scan the QR code for more information

