

RAINWATER MOVES IN A WATERSHED

A watershed is an area of land that drains rainwater 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.

About us

Established in 1946, the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 88 Conservation Districts in the State of Ohio established to address conservation needs by providing local leadership for natural resource conservation and water quality enhancement.



Find us on social media!



The Summit County Surface Water Management District (SWMD) is a stormwater improvement program that functions as a utility. The district contains all Summit County townships, Lakemore, and Reminderville. The program is available to any other village or city in Summit County on an opt-in basis



Where does the water go?



Discover what happens to rainwater after it falls.



KEEP THE WATER CLEAN, WE'RE ALL DOWNSTREAM!



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. This creates an increase in rainwater runoff, which can lead to flooding.

Rainwater runoff also picks up sediment, pollutants, trash, and even heat as it moves across the landscape. Since this runoff isn't filtered before it dumps into our rivers, these pollutants decrease water quality, making it harder for fish and other aquatic organisms to survive.



It is essential to address the issues of pollution in rainwater runoff to protect the health and biodiversity of our waterways. You can do your part by choosing healthy watershed habits.



HEALTHY WATERSHED HABITS

- **Keep natural vegetation alongside your backyard stream or pond to prevent erosion & 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 & picking up after your dog.**
- **Replace portions of your yard with native plants to reduce mowing & increase wildlife habitat.**