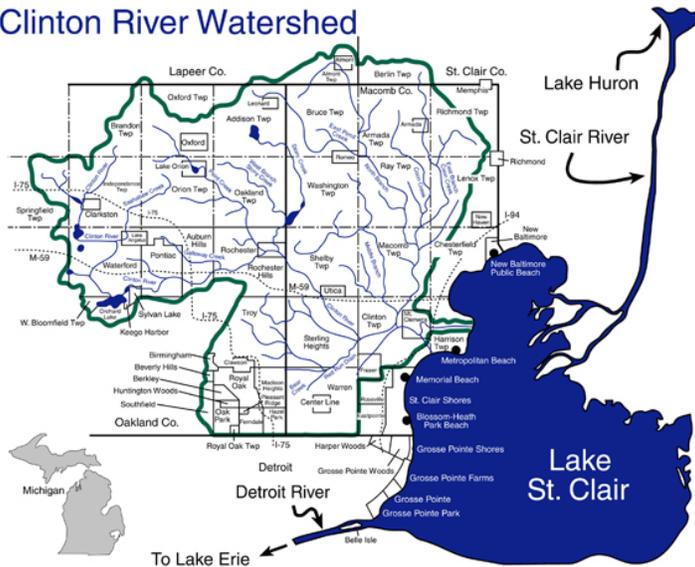


Clinton River Watershed



What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water.

Ever wonder where all that rain and melting snow goes when it washes down the drain in the parking lot? In the Village of Lake Orion, this water makes its way into the Clinton River and eventually out to Lake St. Clair. The land that drains into the Clinton River covers 760 square

miles and includes over 1,000 miles of streams in addition to the 80-mile-long main branch. The Clinton River Basin is home to a variety of wetland and other ecosystem types, from open marshes rich with waterfowl to hardwood forests sheltering rare wildflowers.

Challenges Facing the Clinton River Watershed

Water quality in the Clinton River has improved dramatically over the past thirty years. Industrial discharges are now regulated under the Clean Water Act. While live fish couldn't be found from Pontiac to the mouth of the Clinton in the 1960s, a large, varied fishery exists today. Many people enjoy canoeing, fishing, boating and riverfront parks throughout the watershed.

The Clinton is typical of an urban river. When it rains, urban and suburban development in the watershed result in higher river flows than we see in natural watersheds. Water running off of our yards and paved surfaces (including roads, sidewalks, rooftops and parking lots) discharges into our waterways, carrying with it dirt, fertilizers, pesticides, oils, metals and other pollutants. The sheer volume of water entering the river during storm events results in significant erosion and sedimentation.

Why Should I Be Concerned and What Can I Do?

Regardless if we live along the lake or stream, we ALL live in the Clinton River Watershed. We all have a responsibility to protect our watershed and nearby lakes and streams – for us and for future generations.

There are many simple actions we can take to help keep our water clean:

- 1) **No Dumping** – Storm Drains are not garbage cans. Never dump oil, grease, yard debris, and other wastes down storm drains. Remember – only rain in the drain!
- 2) **Scoop the Poop** – Clean up after your pet.
- 3) **Fertilize Caringly and Sparingly** – Apply low-phosphorus fertilizers to your lawn and make sure to sweep excess fertilizers from driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
- 4) **Practice Good Car Care** – Keep your car tuned and fix leaks promptly. Consider taking your car to the car wash or washing your car on the grass, as opposed to your driveway.
- 5) **Carefully Store Household Hazardous Wastes** – Take your antifreeze, pesticides, solvents, etc. to your local household hazardous waste collection day.

- 6) **Save Water** – Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? Consider using a broom instead of a hoe to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway. Water only when necessary.
- 7) **Choose Earth-Friendly Landscaping** – Use pesticides sparingly. Choose plants that are native to Michigan. Once established, these plants tolerate dry weather and resist disease.