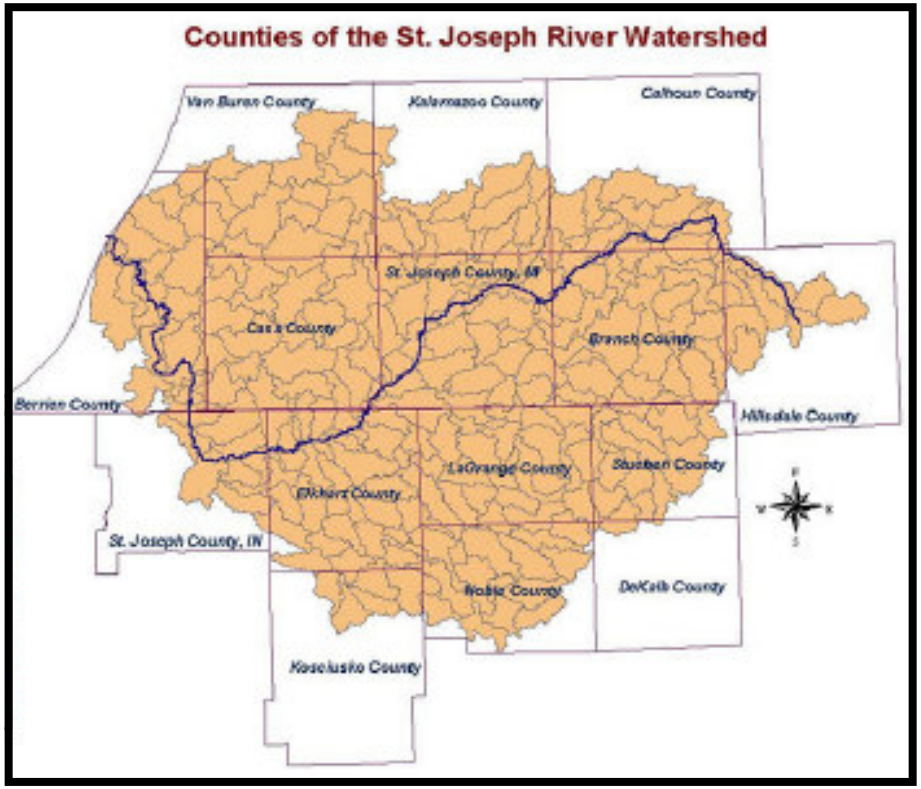


We all live in a watershed. The largest watershed in southwest Michigan is the St. Joseph River Watershed. All of the water within the watershed drains into Lake Michigan. What we do upstream will effect our rivers, lakes and streams and thus will end up in Lake Michigan. Making sure that we protect our waterways where we live will ensure that Lake Michigan will continue to be a valuable resource for generations to come.

keep it BLUE

only rain in the drain

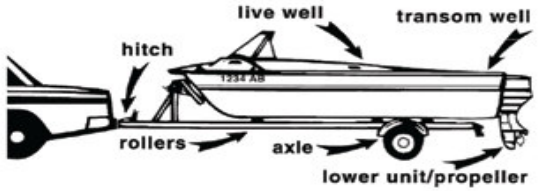
This publication was brought to you by the **Southwest Michigan Water Quality Coalition**. The Southwest Michigan Water Quality Coalition is a partnership among municipalities that are working together to educate southwest Michigan residents about protecting water quality and reducing water pollution.

Waterfront Wisdom

Properly Maintain your Boats and Other Recreational Vehicles

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



- ☐ Anchor
- ☐ Axle
- ☐ Bait bucket
- ☐ Bunks
- ☐ Bow line
- ☐ Fishing line
- ☐ Floor
- ☐ Hull
- ☐ Intake pipe
- ☐ Ladder
- ☐ Landing net
- ☐ License plate
- ☐ Motor
- ☐ Wheels
- ☐ Live well
- ☐ Lights/wiring
- ☐ Rollers
- ☐ Prop
- ☐ Spare tire
- ☐ Tackle
- ☐ Tow rope
- ☐ Trailer
- ☐ Transducer
- ☐ Transom well
- ☐ Trolling motor

WORKING TOGETHER WITH BOATERS TO PROTECT OUR WATERS

Use this checklist to make sure that plants or animals are not hitching a ride to another water body.

Southwest Michigan Water Quality Coalition
www.swmpc.org/water.asp

WHAT CAN YOU DO

1. WASH BOATS AND VEHICLES: Wash boats and vehicles on the grass or at a manual car washing facility to avoid runoff of chemicals and detergents into lakes and streams.

2. USE NON-TOXIC CLEANERS: Wash boats and recreational vehicles with phosphate-free soaps and avoid solvent-based cleaners. The best and most natural cleaner is plain old water. Wash boats with water, elbow grease and a coarse cloth. Other natural cleaners include: baking soda, borax and lemon juice.

3. DUMP NO WASTE!: Do not put waste, such as used motor oil, down a storm drain. Storm drains lead directly to our lakes and streams. Properly dispose of used fluids at your local service stations or household hazardous waste drop-off site.

4. CHECK FOR LEAKS: Use appropriate containers for gas, oil or other fluids and ensure proper maintenance. Clean up leaks onto pavement promptly with an appropriate absorbent material, such as kitty litter. Dispose of properly.

5. CLEAN AND DRY: Anything that comes into contact with the water such as equipment, clothing, dogs, etc. should be thoroughly cleaned and dried.

6. RETURN TO SENDER: Do not release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that drains into a common body of water. **You are sitting in a watershed now.** Homes, farms, forests, small towns, and big cities make up watersheds. Most watersheds are composed of a mixture of uplands, wetlands, streams and lakes. The major component of most watersheds is the upland area, often covering over 99% of the total watershed area. Watersheds can cross county, state, and even international borders such as the Great Lakes Basin. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes from millions of square miles to just a few acres. Just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are nearly always part of a larger watershed or basin. Every stream, river and lake has a watershed.

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain, snow, and ice melt that flows across the ground and pavement. As it flows over land, stormwater picks up pollutants, such as eroded soil, trash, oil, grease, heavy metals, animal wastes, bacteria, fertilizer, and pesticide residues.

Why is Stormwater a Problem?

Every time it rains, stormwater washes pollutants into lakes and streams. Scientific studies show that up to 70% of all water pollution is caused by stormwater runoff. Polluted stormwater runoff contaminates drinking water supplies, degrades aquatic habitat, and contributes to the contamination of the food chain. For these reasons, it is vitally important that every citizen help to reduce the impact of stormwater pollution.

www.swmpc.org/water.asp