

Lake Superior

holds 10% of the world's fresh liquid

surface water, three quadrillion gallons (which

reads like 3,000,000,000,000,000). The lake is the

largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area,

350 miles long and 160 miles wide. It encompasses

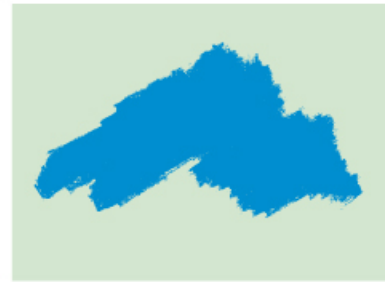
31,700 square miles, or the same area as the state of

Maine. The Lake Superior Basin is one of the most pris-

tine and unique ecosystems in North America. That is

why it is so important to help regulate the runoff that

enters the lake.



Regional Stormwater Protection Team Members

City of Duluth
City of Hermantown
City of Proctor
City of Superior
Duluth Township
Fond du Lac Reservation
Lake County, Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Natural Resources Research Institute
Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)
St. Louis County
St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee
Sea Grant, Minnesota
South St. Louis Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
University of Minnesota Duluth
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

For more information:

218-529-3281

www.wisconsinrivers.org

www.duluthstreams.org

*This Watershed Moment brought to
you by the*



STORMWATER

is not just rain!



Everyone lives in a watershed.

Have you ever noticed...

...how fresh and clean everything looks after a good rain? That is because all the dirt, grease and trash from roads and parking lots are washed away into the storm drain system, which often flows directly into our rivers and lakes.

It is a problem, and its name is **Stormwater Pollution**. It all comes down to **Your Water**.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a particular wetland, creek, stream, river or lake. Each watershed has numerous smaller watersheds. Everything you do on the land affects those watersheds and quality of your water.

In the Lake Superior Basin, much of the stormwater from the municipal and other developed areas drains directly into the lake without being treated. Polluted runoff affects 90% of our inland lakes, 40% of our streams, many coastal waters, and much of our groundwater.



You can make a BIG difference in preventing stormwater pollution:

- Never dump anything onto the street or into a gutter or storm sewer drain
- Compost yard clippings
- Sweep leaves and soil from sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn or compost
- Wash your vehicles in a car wash or on your lawn
- Fix oil, radiator and transmission leaks on your vehicles
- Eliminate or reduce your use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer
- If you live along a shoreline, plant a vegetated buffer of native plants
- Landscape and install walkways, driveways, and drainage to let water seep into the ground instead of running off your property
- Plant a rain garden
- Set up a rain barrel
- Pick up after your pets; bury or dispose of waste in the trash
- Bring leftover toxic material to a waste collection facility: 218-722-0761 or 715-395-1293
- Report illegal dumping
Superior Hotline: 715-394-0392
Duluth 24-hour: 218-730-4000

Common Stormwater Pollutants:

Sediment: Soil, clay, sand and gravel washed from ditches, lawns and driveways. Sediment reduces water clarity, mucks up our streams and lakes, smothers habitat and carries attached pollutants to waterways.

Nutrients and Organic Matter: Animal, yard and garden waste, soil, and products such as fertilizer contain nitrogen and phosphorus, which contribute to nuisance algae growth in rivers and lakes. Decomposing organic matter consumes oxygen, which can harm aquatic organisms.

Pathogens: Disease causing organisms found in human, pet and other waste.

Chemicals: Herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns and gardens, detergents from washing our cars, heavy metals and petroleum by-products. These toxic substances are harmful to aquatic, terrestrial and human life. Some stay in the environment and cause damage for many years.

Chlorides: Road salt. Concentrations from winter months can be very high in stormwater runoff, which can be toxic to aquatic life.

Thermal Impacts: Roads, roofs, and sidewalks can increase the temperature of stormwater as it runs off surfaces. Removing shoreline vegetation also warms streams, lakes and wetlands, stressing fish and invertebrates that are adapted to colder temperatures.

Litter: Trash and debris often end up in streams and lakes, diminishing their natural beauty, degrading habitat and harming fish and wildlife.