

# Your Watershed is Recruiting YOU!

## We All Live in A Watershed

Whether you live in the city, the suburbs or on a farm, your home is located in a watershed. What is a watershed? A watershed is the area that drains to a common waterway, whether it be a stream, pond, lake, wetland or river. The individual habits we undertake on a daily basis, such as carelessly throwing garbage into storm drains and streams and the improper disposal of pet waste and toxic chemicals like oil and paint can dramatically impact the health of the watershed. These activities impact water quality, the health of aquatic organisms, recreational opportunities and ultimately the public health of your community.

## Adopt Your Watershed

The EPA's *Adopt Your Watershed Program* allows you the opportunity to volunteer in programs to directly protect and restore your watershed.

Step 1— Find your watershed here:

<http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/index.cfm>.

Click 'Surf Your Watershed' in the Quick Finder Box. All you will need to enter is your zip code. It's that simple!

Step 2—Select your watershed and a profile will be displayed of its characteristics. (Your community may encompass more than one watershed). You can then click the link of:

[Select Citizen Based Groups at Work in This Watershed.](#)

Step 3—Connect with these groups to get involved in activities such as volunteer water monitoring, stream cleanups, and storm drain marking.

## How to Make a Difference Now

1. Become a volunteer and monitor water quality conditions, increase community awareness and help identify and restore problem sites.
2. Organize your own trash cleanup or join an existing cleanup program in your community.
3. Build a rain garden. Rain gardens planted with native vegetation help reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff by soaking up excess rainwater.
4. Organize a storm drain marking project, by producing flyers or door hangers or find out if your community needs volunteers to place decals on storm drains.
5. Greenscape your yard by implementing practices that help improve your lawn while conserving our resources.

6. Help spread the word! The EPA website (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/index.html>) contains numerous flyers on practices to reduce stormwater pollution. Do your research and talk to your neighbors, friends, and co-workers about what you have learned to help spread the message.

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