

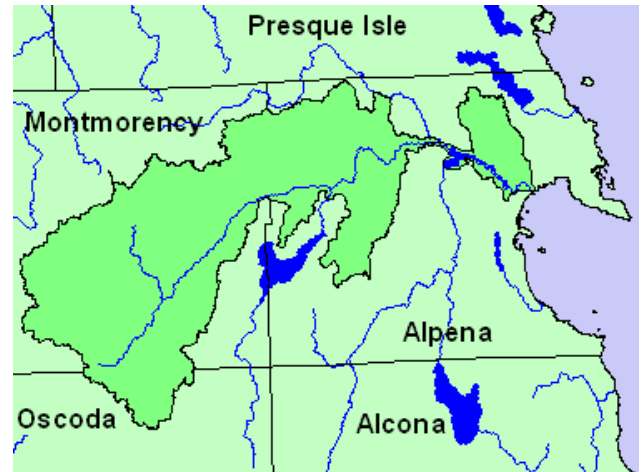


Montmorency Conservation District
13210 M-33 North (Fairgrounds)
P.O. Box 789
Atlanta, MI 49709
989-785-4083
montmorencyd.org

What is a Watershed?

Although we typically identify where we live in terms of cities, zip codes, or school districts, we also live in watersheds. The term watershed gets tossed around quite a bit in environmentalist lingo, but how many people really understand what it is and what it means to us here, where we live?

A watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake. The high points of the land mark the boundaries of a watershed where the flow of water is pulled by gravity to a common destination. For most of the people living in Montmorency County, this “same” destination is the Thunder Bay River; therefore we live in the Thunder Bay River Watershed.



Watersheds are more than water—they also include all of the land over which water travels. On its way to the lowest point, water moves over the surface and across the farm fields, forest land, suburban lawns, and city streets; or it seeps into the soil and travels as ground water. Water is almost constantly on the move as it travels from the clouds to the earth, into the river or lake, and back into the clouds through the hydrologic or water cycle.

Whenever a body of water is in trouble, one of the first things a water-quality specialist investigates is its watershed. Water quality is closely tied to what is happening on the land surrounding the water body.

Everyone lives in a watershed. You and everyone in your watershed are part of the watershed community. The animals, birds, and fish are, too. You influence what happens in your watershed, good or bad, by how you treat the natural resources—the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. What happens in your small watershed also affects the larger watershed downstream. There are many things you and your community can do to keep your watershed healthy and productive.

Let’s work together to keep the Thunder Bay River Watershed healthy.

For additional information:

Video: *What is a Watershed?* - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PazndNOcXPQ>

Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum- The Watershed Concept

<http://techalive.mtu.edu/meec/module01/whatiswatershed.htm>

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality: Thunder Bay Watershed

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714_31581-127702--,00.html