

# How Can I Make A Difference?

## Top Ten Watershed Tips

1. Conserve water every day—take shorter showers, fix leaks, and turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
2. Don't pour toxic household chemicals down the drain—take them to a local hazardous waste collection center instead.
3. Use hardy plants in your yard that require little or no watering, fertilizers, or pesticides.
4. Test your soil before applying fertilizer—it might not need it!
5. Recycle yard waste in a compost pile and leave grass clippings on the lawn.
6. Use surfaces like wood, brick, and gravel for decks, patios, and walkways. They allow rain to soak in, not run off.
7. Never pour used oil or antifreeze into the storm drain or the street. Recycle them at your local service station.
8. Pick up after your dog and dispose of the waste in the toilet or the trash.
9. Drive less—walk or bike instead.
10. Adopt Your Watershed! Learn more at [www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt).

## Tools to Help You Adopt Your Watershed

### Youth & Student Watershed Programs

**Adopt-A-Watershed** [www.adopt-a-watershed.org](http://www.adopt-a-watershed.org)

**Awesome Aquifer Club** [www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org)

**Educating Young People About Water**  
[www.uwex.edu/erc/eypaw](http://www.uwex.edu/erc/eypaw)

**Make Your Own Watershed Kit**  
Contact JT&A at 703-631-8810

**Making Ripples: How to Organize a School Water Festival** [www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org)

**Protecting Our Watersheds** [www.green.org](http://www.green.org)

**Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)** [www.montana.edu/wwwwet](http://www.montana.edu/wwwwet)

**River of Words Poetry and Art Contest**  
[www.riverofwords.org](http://www.riverofwords.org)

**Schoolyard Habitat Program of the National Wildlife Federation**  
[www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats](http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats)

**Wetland Education**  
[www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/education](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/education)

**Girl Scouts' Water Drop Patch Project**  
[www.epa.gov/adopt/patch](http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch)

**USGS Water Science for Schools**  
<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu>

### Tools for Watershed Partnerships

**Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection** [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/fund.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/fund.html)

**Know Your Watershed Tool Kit**  
[www.ctic.purdue.edu/catalog/watershedmanagement.html](http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/catalog/watershedmanagement.html)

**Starting Up: A Handbook for New River and Watershed Organizations**  
Contact the River Network at 1-800-423-6747

**The Clean Water Act: An Owner's Manual**  
Contact the River Network at 1-800-423-6747

**EPA's Watershed Academy**  
[www.epa.gov/watertrain](http://www.epa.gov/watertrain)

**EPA's River Corridor and Wetland Restoration Web Site**  
[www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore)

**EPA's Watershed Information Network**  
[www.epa.gov/win](http://www.epa.gov/win)

**Center for Watershed Protection**  
[www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org)

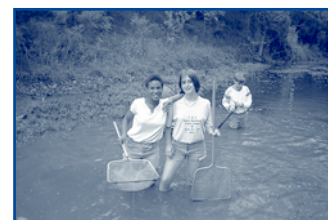
**Izaak Walton League of America's Save Our Stream Program** [www.iwla.org/sos](http://www.iwla.org/sos)

## A Message from the Administrator

Christine Todd Whitman



I believe water is the biggest environmental issue we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in terms of both quality and quantity. In the 30 years since its passage, the Clean Water Act has dramatically increased the number of waterways that are once again safe for fishing and swimming. Despite this great progress in reducing water pollution, many of the nation's waters still do not meet water quality goals. I challenge you to join with me to finish the business of restoring and protecting our nation's waters for present and future generations.



## National Monitoring Day

On October 18, 2002, volunteer monitoring programs, water quality agencies, students, and the public are invited to test waters across the nation in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Everyone will test for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity and enter their results into a national database. Data will be publicly available at [www.yearofcleanwater.org](http://www.yearofcleanwater.org). National Water Monitoring Day will also feature educational events, water festivals, and widespread press coverage.

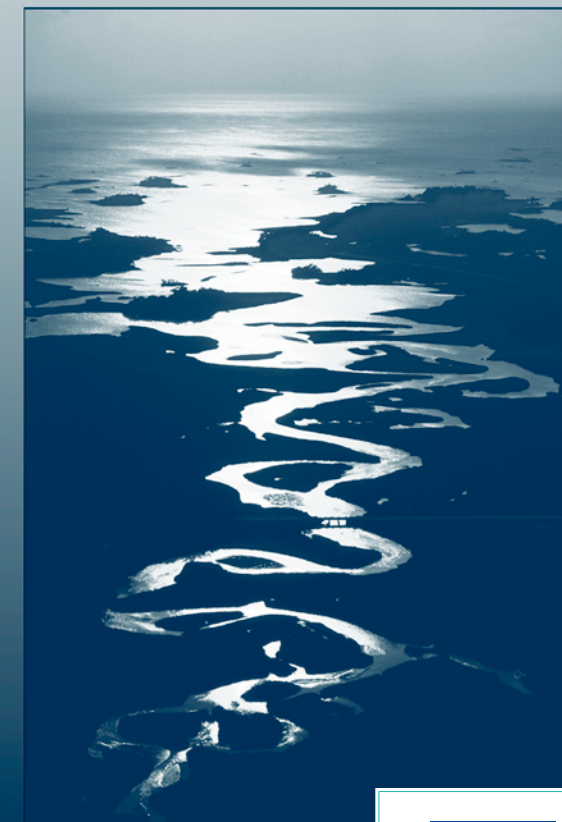
This is not a complete mention of available resources, and mention of these products does not constitute endorsement by EPA. For a more extensive list of resources, visit the Watershed Information Network at [www.epa.gov/win](http://www.epa.gov/win); view the Office of Water publications list at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/owrcatalog.nsf>; or call the Water Resource Center at 1-800-832-7828.

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Water (4501T)  
EPA 840-F-02-001 • April 2002



In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, EPA presents

# Adopt Your Watershed!



[www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt)

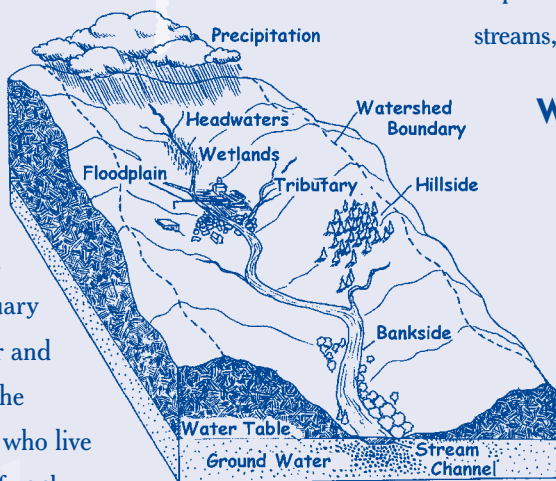
★ 2002 ★  
THE YEAR OF  
CLEAN WATER



## What is a watershed?

No matter where you live, you live in a watershed. A watershed is the land area that drains to a single body of water such as a stream, lake, wetland, or underground aquifer. Watersheds come in many different sizes:

a few acres might drain into a small stream or wetland; a few large rivers might drain into an estuary where fresh water and salt water mix. The actions of people who live in a watershed affect the health of the waters that drain through it. Whenever rain falls or snow melts, chemicals, fertilizers, sediment, and other pollutants from the land are washed into lakes, streams, wetlands, and rivers. To achieve healthy watersheds, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) needs the help of citizens like you!



## What is the Adopt Your Watershed Campaign?

To encourage stewardship of the nation's water resources, EPA challenges citizens and organizations to join the Agency and those who are working to protect and restore our nation's valuable rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, ground water, and estuaries.

### What do we mean by adoption?

"Adoption" means any citizen-based effort—large or small—to restore or protect a watershed, river, lake, wetland, or estuary. Examples of adoption activities include:

- Volunteering to monitor water quality
- Stending to mdrains
- Organizing stream cleanups
- Planting trees along eroding streambanks
- Hosting a water festival
- Working with local government agencies and others that make water quality decisions

### How can I find out what groups are active in my community?

Go to [www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt) to view EPA's on-line national catalog of organizations involved in protecting their local water bodies. This on-line resource showcases opportunities to get involved in activities in your community, such as monitoring, cleanups, and restoration projects. With more



All groups currently registered for the Adopt Your Watershed database can now update their information online at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/adopt.nsf/update>. It's important that the information in the database is accurate, so we strongly encourage all groups to update their records! You can also e-mail changes to: [group\\_adopt@epa.gov](mailto:group_adopt@epa.gov).

The Adopt Your Watershed web site also has a form for groups interested in receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts.

than 700 active volunteer monitoring groups, 12,000 classrooms, and more than 3,000 watershed alliances working nationwide, there are many opportunities to join an organized effort in your community.

If you don't have Internet access, call EPA's Water Resource Center at 1-800-832-7828 and ask for information on watershed groups in your county.



## Join Our National Catalog of Watershed Partnerships!

Do you represent an organization that should be listed? Here's how you can be included in our catalog of watershed partnerships to network with others and receive periodic updates. Go to [www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt) and click on "Join Now." Or send the following application to:

### Adopt Your Watershed

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (4501T)  
Washington, DC 20460  
e-mail: [group\\_adopt@epa.gov](mailto:group_adopt@epa.gov)  
fax: 202-566-1326

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group/School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Nation \_\_\_\_\_

Internet Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Volunteers (approximate) \_\_\_\_\_

If your group is a local chapter of a regional or national organization, what is its name? \_\_\_\_\_

Organization type: Select the one that most closely describes the group.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed Alliance/Watershed Council
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Monitoring
- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Education Project/Program
- \_\_\_\_\_ Restoration/Conservation Project
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: (Please specify)

Watershed or water body name: \_\_\_\_\_

We call the earth the water planet because water covers 70 percent of its surface. Americans depend on clean water to drink, to irrigate crops, and to run industries. Water resources provide opportunities such as fishing and swimming, and wetlands provide protection from floods. Rivers, lakes, estuaries, and wetlands also provide critical habitat for wildlife. Estuaries serve as birthplace and nursery for most saltwater fish and shellfish!