

What is a Watershed? River Basin?

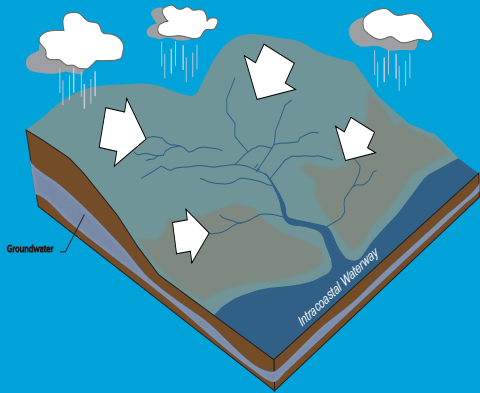
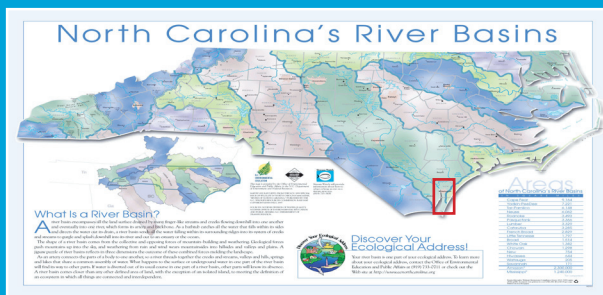


Diagram of a watershed

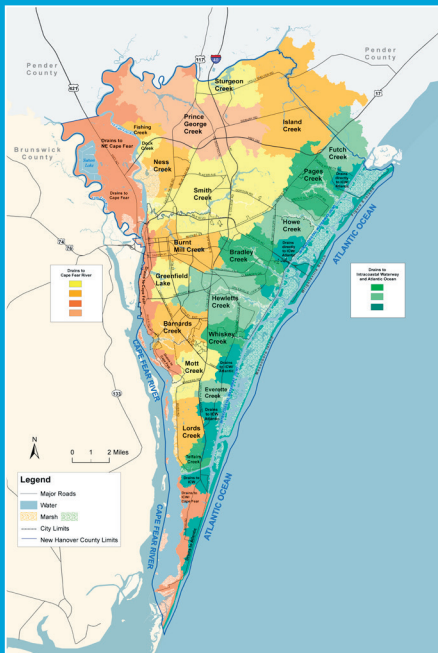
A watershed is an area of land that drains to a specific waterbody such as a creek, river, or ocean.

Everyone lives in a watershed, even if you don't live near water!



Cape Fear River Basin (Watershed)

Wilmington area watersheds are part of the larger **Cape Fear River Basin** AND the **White Oak River Basin**. Wilmington's watersheds are smaller watersheds that lie *within* these larger river basins.



Wilmington Area Watersheds

Wilmington area watersheds drain polluted runoff into creeks, such as Hewletts Creek and Burnt Mill Creek, which eventually flow into the **Cape Fear River** or **Intracoastal Waterway**. Unfortunately, runoff picks up pollution like pet waste, litter, fertilizer, motor oil, and yard waste and carries it straight to our waterways - **untreated**.

Please do your part to protect our waterways...prevent stormwater pollution!

Watershed signs along area roadways help identify which watershed you are currently in.





Top 10 Ways To Protect Our Waterways

from Polluted Stormwater Runoff

1. **Never dump, blow or put anything** into a storm drain, ditch, or waterway.
2. **Always clean up** after your pet.
3. **Put litter** in the trash. Reduce, reuse, recycle.
4. **Use fertilizers/pesticides sparingly**, if at all.
5. **Install native plants**, they are drought, disease and pest-resistant naturally.
6. **Keep yard waste**, like leaves and grass clippings, out of storm drains, ditches, and streets.
7. **Prevent dirt and soil** from washing away.
8. **Wash your vehicle/boat** on the grass or take it to a commercial carwash.
9. **Repair vehicle leaks** immediately and properly dispose of vehicle fluids.
10. **Properly dispose of** hazardous household chemicals, cleaners, paint, and medicines.