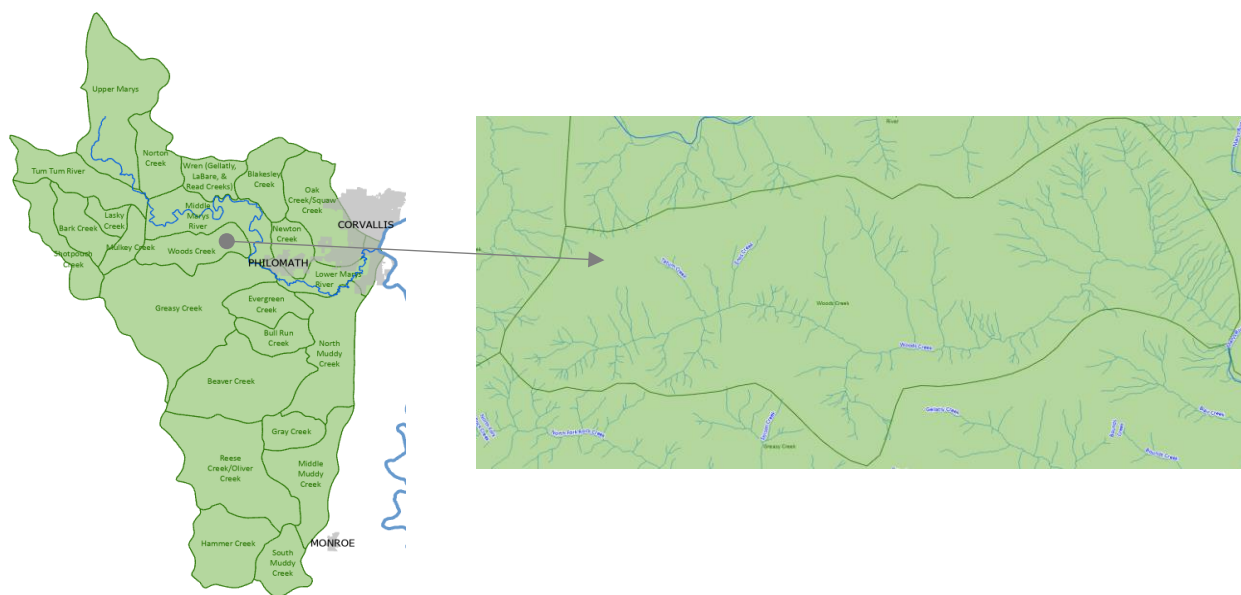


STORMWATER SERIES

What is a Watershed? Why are Watersheds Important?

Watersheds define interconnected areas of drainage that channel rainfall and snowmelt (runoff) to streams. Watersheds *ideally* function as diverse habitat areas with healthy streams delivering nutrients throughout the environment ensuring healthy, natural functions. *Watersheds are also a conduit for pollutants and pathogens that affect the entire food web.*

Runoff flows over and through manmade structures like roads, rooftops, parking lots, and ditches collecting pollutants along the way to streams. Because all things in watersheds are connected by water, the greatest concern in a watershed is *water quality*. Therefore, it is very important to recognize that *simple everyday activities like washing our cars and fertilizing our lawns affect downstream waters and all living things. We all live downstream!*



Marys River Watershed (left) and sub-drainage basin Woods Creek (right). These graphics show how watersheds are inter-connected by natural waterways.

Learn More:

Marys River Watershed Council <https://www.mrwc.org/>

Luckiamute Watershed Council <https://www.luckiamutelwc.org/>

Mid-coast Watershed Council <http://www.midcoastwatersheds.org/>

Long Tom Watershed Council <https://www.longtom.org/>

Benton County Stormwater Program:

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/cd/page/stormwater-program>

Program Contacts:

Gordon Kurtz gordon.p.kurtz@co.benton.or.us

Daniel Redick daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us