

What You Need to Know About Watersheds

Word Bank: waterbody, American Virginia Water, connected, Chesapeake Bay, everyone, Hunting Creek, watershed, size, large, need, drinking water, Potomac River, recreation, medium, flow of water, Fairfax Water, small, actions, Alex Renew Enterprises, impact

1. A **watershed** is an area of land from which all surface and ground water flows from higher elevations downhill to a common body of water such as a stream, river or ocean.
2. Watersheds are typically named after the **waterbody** (stream, river, ocean, etc.) the water flows into.
3. Watersheds can vary in **size**. They can be **small**, **medium** or **large**.
4. Waterways in smaller watersheds are **connected** to waterways in larger watersheds. For example, in Northern Virginia, **Hunting Creek** connects to the **Potomac River** and the river connects to **Chesapeake Bay**.
5. **Everyone** lives in a watershed.
6. My school is in the _____ watershed.
7. I live in the _____ watershed.
8. We **need** watersheds. Watersheds provide **drinking water**, help with agriculture and provide a space for **recreation**.
9. Community organizations manage the **flow of water** to and from watersheds. **Fairfax Water** pulls water from watersheds and cleans it for community use. **Virginia American Water** distributes the drinking water from Fairfax Water to homes, schools and businesses by managing the pipes that carry the water to the community. **Alex Renew Enterprises** cleans water once it has been used in homes, schools and businesses and returns it to the main body of water in a watershed.
10. Human **actions** have a great **impact** on watersheds. What we do on the land that water flows over, impacts the quality of the water in watersheds.