

When rain falls faster than the ground is able to absorb it, it travels downhill in the form of runoff. Rooftops, streets, parking lots and various other impervious surfaces prevent the absorption of rain and create a greater volume of runoff that flows through the local watershed areas.

Excess rain is usually channeled out of a city through the use of curbing, storm drains, culverts and various other structures. These are all needed to prevent street flooding, basement flooding and numerous other wet weather complaints.

Moberly sits on a hill, slightly higher than the surrounding area. This allows Moberly to use four distinct watershed areas to drain away excess rainfall, but this also makes Moberly responsible for four different watersheds.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is any area of land that drains to a particular body of water or any larger area of land and its creeks and streams that drain to a larger particular body of water.

An example:

Sweet Springs Creek is one of the City's four storm water receiving streams. It accepts the storm water runoff from the southwest side of town and is approximately 11 miles in length.

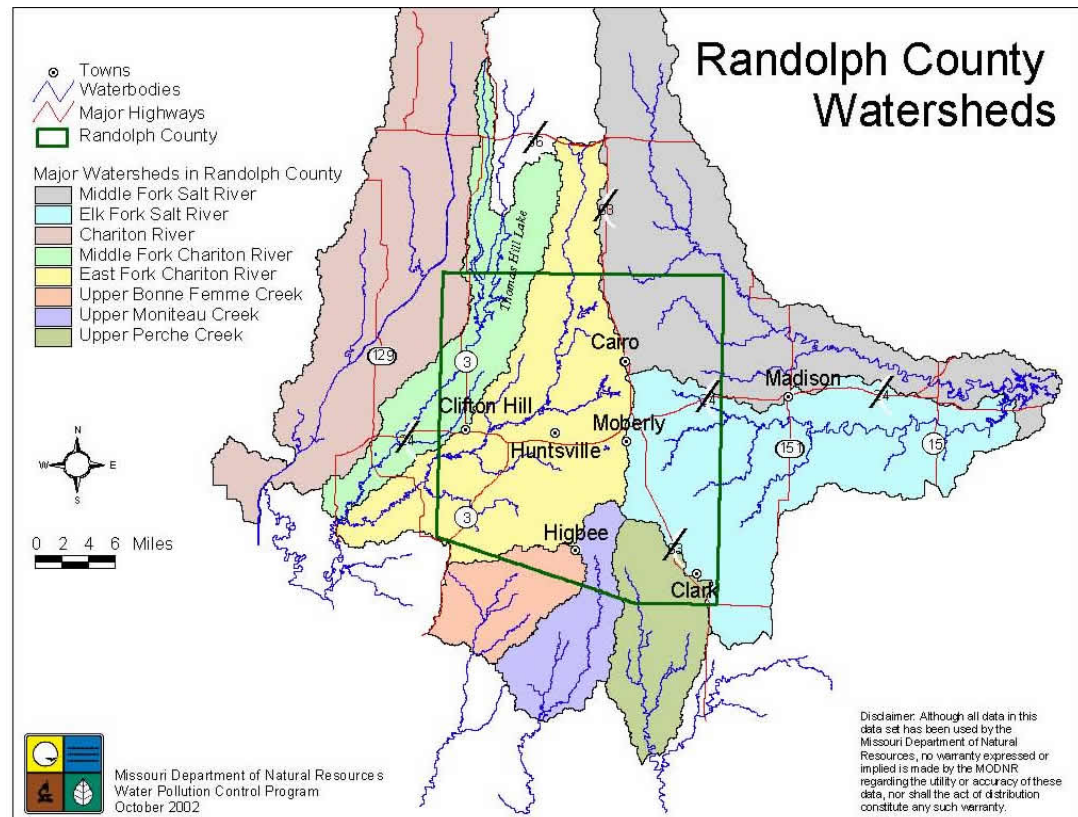
- Technically, a person can stand on a bridge on Seven Bridges Rd and spit in Sweet Springs Creek and it will reach the ocean.

- Sweet Springs Creek runs into the Middle Fork of the Chariton River near Clifton Hill.
 - The Middle Fork flows into the Little Chariton River over by Keytesville.
 - The Little Chariton flows into the Missouri River by Glasgow.
 - The Missouri River merges with the Mississippi near St. Louis and then flows all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.
- Therefore, technically, a person can stand on a bridge on Seven Bridges Road and spit in an ocean a 1000 miles away...

The Storm Drain Stenciling Project is sponsored by the City of Moberly to raise public awareness concerning the interconnectedness of the City of Moberly's storm drain conveyance system and local lakes, creeks and streams. Storm drains are NOT just holes in the ground where we can dump used motor oil or leftover paint or whatever else we feel like dumping in them. If people are aware of where the waste water and pollutants in a storm drain travels and which body of water it drains into, they may not be as apt to dump something down it.

Storm Drain Stenciling

Storm drains are actually part of the local watershed.



Protecting our Watersheds begins at home...

Household Chemicals

- Chemicals commonly used around the home are toxic. Use less toxic or non-toxic alternatives whenever possible.
- Buy chemicals only in the amount you expect to use, and apply them only as directed. More is not better.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly; do not pour them down the drain or on the ground to avoid disrupting your septic system, contaminate treatment plant sludge, or contaminating runoff.

Landscaping and gardening

- When landscaping your yard, select plants that have low requirements for water, fertilizers, and that discourage pests. Test your soil before applying fertilizers.
- Preserve existing trees, and plant trees and shrubs to help prevent erosion and promote infiltration of water into the soil.
- Use landscaping techniques such as grass swales (low areas in the lawn) or porous walkways to increase infiltration and decrease runoff.
- Restore bare patches in your lawn as soon as possible to avoid erosion.
- Leave lawn clippings on your lawn so that nutrients in the clippings are recycled and less yard waste goes to landfills.
- Compost your yard trimmings. Compost gradually releases nutrients to your lawn and garden which decreases the amount of fertilizer you need to apply. In addition, compost retains moisture in the soil which helps you conserve water.
- Spread mulch on bare ground to help prevent erosion and runoff.
- Keep storm gutters and drains clean of leaves and yard trimmings. (Decomposing vegetative matter leaches nutrients and can clog storm systems and result in flooding.)

Water Conservation

- Use low-flow faucets, shower heads, reduced-flow toilet flushing equipment, and water saving appliances such as dish and clothes washers.
- Repair leaking faucets, toilets, and pumps.
- Use dishwashers and clothes washers only when fully loaded.
- Take short showers instead of baths and avoid letting faucets run unnecessarily.
- Wash your car only when necessary; use a bucket to save water. Alternatively, go to a commercial carwash that uses water efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.
- Do not over-water your lawn or garden. Over-watering may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground water.
- Use slow-watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses when watering your lawn or garden. (Such devices reduce runoff and are 20-percent more effective than sprinklers.)

Community Action

- Organize or participate in clean-up activities in your community.
- Write or call your elected representatives to encourage legislation to protect water resources.
- Get involved in local planning and zoning decisions and encourage your local officials to develop erosion and sediment control ordinances.
- Promote environmental education. Help educate people in your community about ways in which they can help protect water quality. Get your community groups involved.

Would you like to help with the storm drain stenciling? Contact Geri Blakey at gblakey@cityofmoberly.com.

Watershed Protection Program

Sponsored by

City of Moberly

And

Phi Theta Kappa

