



# Clean Water

for communities in northeast Missouri

Northeast Missouri is home to an abundant network of lakes, rivers, and streams. Much of the drinking water in our region comes from the North Fork of the Salt River, which flows into Mark Twain Lake. Recreation at Mark Twain Lake drives economic activity in our part of the state, and communities rely on an ample supply of affordable, clean water to serve their people and attract businesses.

**That's why we all need to work together to protect our water.**

## Quick facts

- The North Fork of the Salt River supplies drinking water for more than 70,000 people.
- The Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission water treatment plant near Florida, MO can treat 10 million gallons of water per day to serve people in 14 counties.
- Mark Twain Lake is a man-made reservoir – it was created in 1984 when Clarence Cannon Dam was completed. Today, thousands of people visit it every year to boat, fish, and swim.
- In times of low water, the city of Shelbina can pump water from the North Fork of the Salt River into Shelbina Lake to add to the city's water supply.



## The North Fork Salt River Watershed

The North Fork Salt River Watershed is the area of land from which water drains towards the North Fork of the Salt River. Everything that goes into a river, creek, or stream within the watershed can affect the quality of water that becomes our drinking water.



## Pollution in our watershed

A lot of things end up in our lakes, rivers, and streams that shouldn't go there. When rainwater runs over the ground, it picks up loose bits of soil, trash, and substances like oil or fertilizer. This is called **non-point source pollution**, and it makes it harder to clean and treat the water that becomes our drinking water.



**In northeast Missouri, a lot of non-point source pollution happens because of erosion (soil that gets washed away when it rains).** Good land management and farming practices, such as using no-till farming methods, growing native grass buffers, and planting cover crops, can help prevent erosion and keep our water clean.



## It takes all of us to keep our communities' water clean.

### Here are some ways you can help:



**Plant native trees, grasses, and other plants.** Native plants have grown in Missouri for a long time and need less water and fertilizer to grow. Their roots soak up rainwater and hold the soil in place to stop erosion.

**If you have a stream on your land**, grow buffers of native grass and plants around it. Buffers do a tremendous job of filtering pollutants before they get into the water.



**Don't litter.** Always throw trash into a trash can, so it doesn't end up in our streams. Use less plastic and recycle what you do use.



**Think about what goes down the drain.** What you flush or wash down the drain can end up in our streams, so never flush chemicals, medicines, or other items except toilet paper. If you have a wastewater system in your home, make sure it's working as it should.

### If you farm:

- Use no-till or low-till farming methods.
- Plant cover crops on fields to help prevent erosion.
- Keep animal waste away from streams. This will help prevent too much bacteria and nutrients from getting into the water.



**Form a Missouri Stream Team and help take care of your local stream.**



## Learn more

[www.streamteamsunited.org/educational-resources.html](http://www.streamteamsunited.org/educational-resources.html)