

## Watersheds: Protecting Source Water

A watershed (or drainage basin) is the area of land that collects water and drains into a stream or other body of water. Each of our reservoirs is surrounded by a watershed, and as rainwater drains from the watersheds into the reservoirs, it can pick up pollutants. Because of this, we carefully monitor activities on or near our watersheds.



Waterworks manages more than 12,000 acres of watershed lands. The grass, trees and plants that grow in the watersheds are important because they

help filter pollution out of the water as it runs off the land and into the reservoirs. We work hard to take good care of these resources and keep them healthy. We inspect the watersheds to keep them free of chemicals and trash. We keep streams clear and work hard to prevent soil erosion.



Many different plants and animals live in our watersheds. They thrive on the ideal conditions found there. Animals and waterfowl found on our watersheds include ducks, heron, geese, hawks, owls, rabbits, turtles, beavers, deer, opossums, eagles and more. Parts of our watershed are home to some state endangered plants and threatened animals.