

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains it into a stream, river, lake or other body of water.

Watersheds are important for your drinking water. The grass, trees and leaves that grow in them help keep your water clean. They remove pollution from the water as it flows across the watershed into our reservoirs.



Think of it as the way Mother Nature cleans your drinking water.



Our region's biggest watershed is the Chesapeake Bay drainage area. It covers thousands of acres from New York State to Hampton Roads. The smaller watersheds of many lakes, streams, and rivers are found in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Chickahominy River, Waterworks' fresh water source, is in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. So are our five reservoirs.

Waterworks carefully watches over these watersheds and keeps them very healthy. We want to keep them in excellent shape so that they will help keep your drinking water clean.

Many different plants and animals live on our watersheds. Some of them are ducks, heron, geese, owls, rabbits, turtles, beavers, deer, opossums, and eagles are. Some state endangered plants and threatened animals are even found there.