

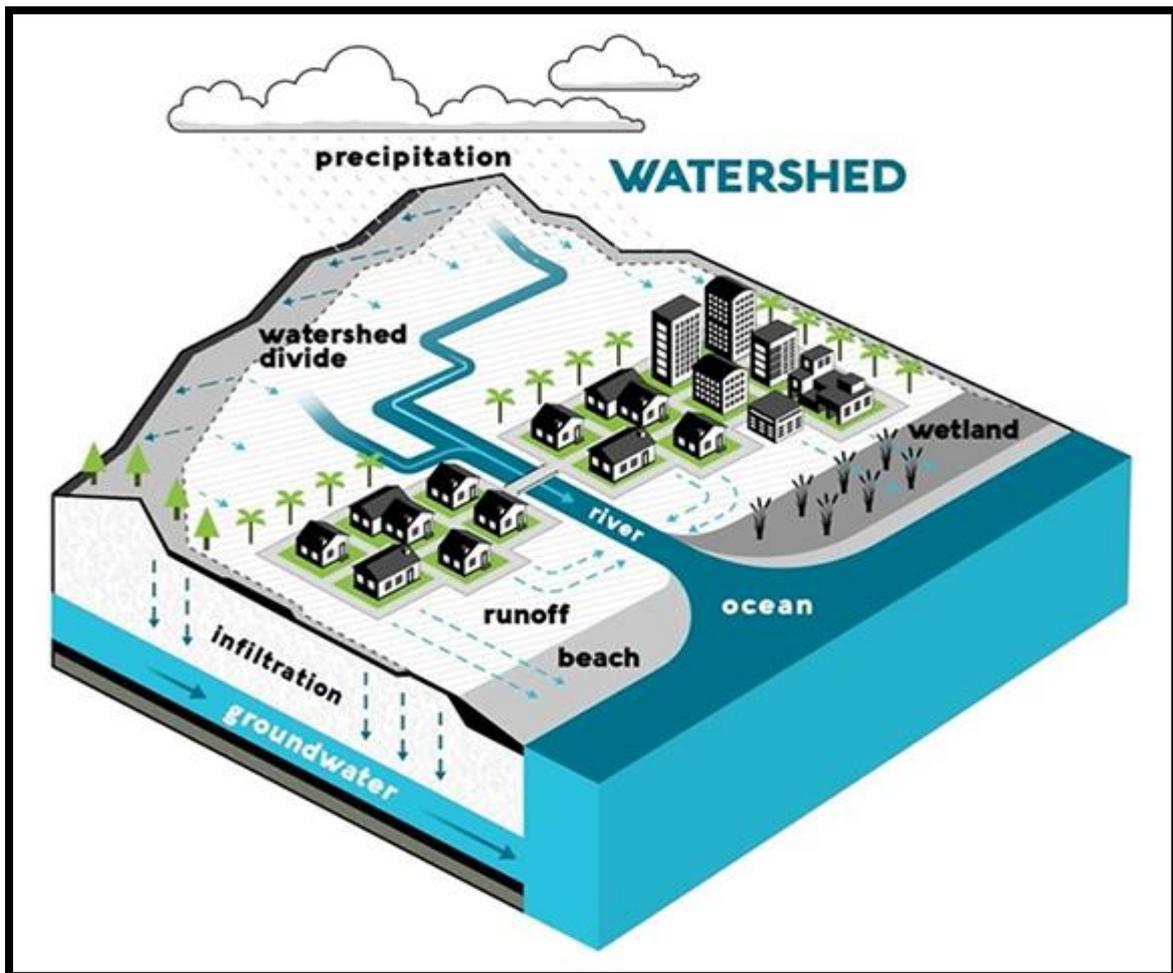
Watershed Management

Watershed: A watershed (also called drainage basin/catchment area) is an area of land that drains or “sheds” water into a specific water body. It is an independent drainage unit for surface water runoff. One watershed is separated from another by a natural boundary known as the water divide or the ridgeline.

Types of Watershed: They are classified depending upon the size, drainage, shape and land use pattern.

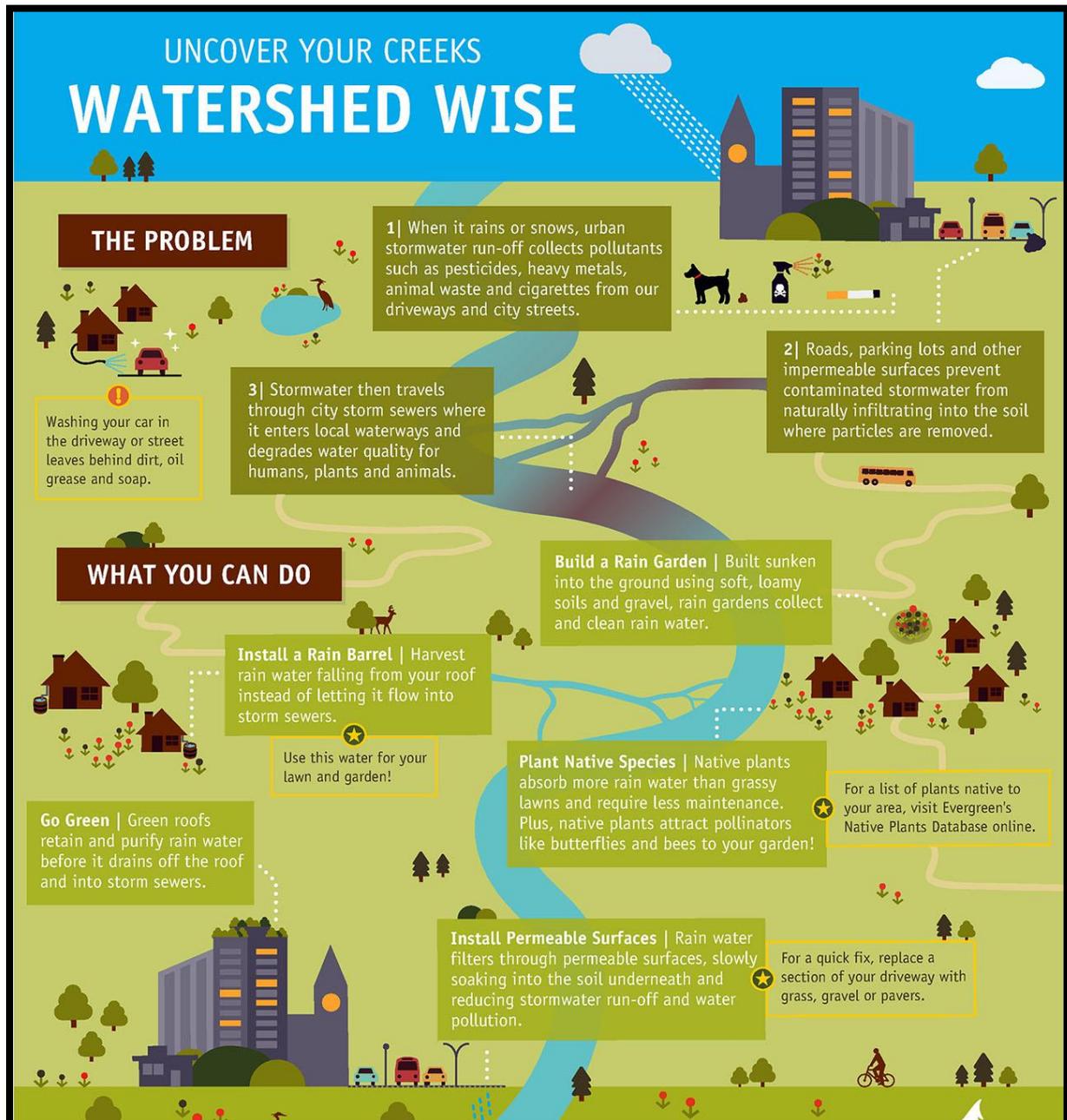
- Macro watershed (> 50,000 Ha)
- Sub-watershed (10,000 to 50,000 Ha)
- Milli-watershed (1000 to 10,000 Ha)
- Micro watershed (100 to 1000 Ha)
- Mini watershed (1-100 Ha)

Watershed Management: It is the process of implementing land use practices and water management practices to protect and improve the quality of the water and other natural resources within a watershed.



Objectives of Watershed Management:

- Pollution control
- Minimising over-exploitation of resources
- Water storage, flood control, checking sedimentation
- Wildlife preservation
- Erosion control and prevention of soil
- Recharging groundwater to provide regular water supply



Components of Watershed Management Programmes:

- Soil and water conservation
- Plantation
- Agronomical practices
- Livestock management
- Renewable energy
- Institutional developments

Significance of Watershed Management:

- **Controls Pollution:** Runoff from rainwater or snowmelt can contribute significant amounts of pollution into the lake or river.
- Watershed management helps to control pollution of the water and other natural resources in the watershed.
- **Identifies and Regulates Ecologically Hazardous Activities:** All activities that occur within a watershed somehow affect its natural resources and water quality.
- Watershed management planning comprehensively identifies such activities and makes recommendations to properly address them so that their adverse impacts can be reduced.
- **Enhances Partnership Among the Stakeholders:** Watershed management planning results in enhanced partnership among all the stakeholders in the watershed which is essential for the successful management of the land and water resources.
- It is also an efficient way to prioritize the implementation of watershed management plans in times when resources may be limited.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Inclusive growth refers to economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all. Watershed management is key for sustainable and inclusive growth.
- For instance, in drought-prone rainfed areas watershed management has shown the potential of doubling the agricultural productivity and assisting the rural families through increased water availability and diversifying the cropping and farming systems resulting in diversified sources of income.

References:

1. <https://vikaspedia.in/energy/environment/know-your-environment/water/watershed-management>
2. https://agritech.tnau.ac.in/agriculture/agri_majorareas_watershed_watershedmgt.html