

## Be Part of the Solution

- 4 Adopt-A-Stream
- 4 Plant Filter Strips
- 4 Develop, Restore, or Protect Wetlands
  - 4 Use Conservation Tillage
- 4 Properly Decommission Abandoned Wells
- 4 Use Proper Fertilizer & Pesticide Rates
  - 4 Encourage Wildlife Habitat
- 4 Exclude Livestock from Waterways
  - 4 Protect the Stream Corridor
  - 4 Properly Maintain Your Vehicle
  - 4 Volunteer Stream Monitoring
- 4 Reduce Impermeable Surfaces
  - 4 Get Involved

Contact the Calhoun Conservation District to learn how you can help protect the Battle Creek River and your watershed!



### For More Information Contact:

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# Battle Creek River Watershed Project



Protecting Your Water  
Resources

[www.calhouncd.org](http://www.calhouncd.org)

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area where all waters flow to a common destination such as a wetland, river, pond, or lake. We all live in a watershed.

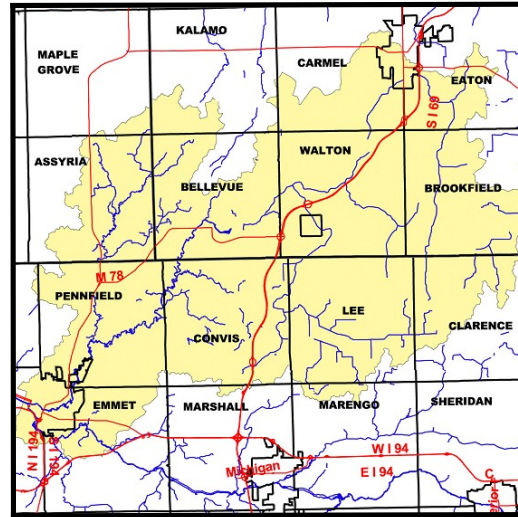
Take a look around you, whether you live in town or on a farm, and observe where water flows. Follow the water as it meanders across the landscape and think about where it is going and where it's been. Water is constantly moving in a continuous cycle, being used and reused over and over again.

A watershed consists of water both above and below the earth's surface. Most Calhoun, Eaton, and Barry County residents get their drinking water from groundwater.

Groundwater and surface water are interconnected. Water from rain or snow melt will seep through soil into the sands, gravels, and bedrock below. This water may eventually become the water that supplies your well, or may return to the earth's surface to feed lakes and streams.

## Why Should You Be Concerned?

The choices that we make can have positive or negative influences on our surface and ground water quality. Human activity can contaminate and impair our watersheds, making them unsuitable for drinking, recreation, irrigation, wildlife, fisheries, and other uses. An investment in watershed improvement will reap many benefits!



## Watershed Area

The Battle Creek River Watershed area covers 187,000 acres across northern Calhoun County (Emmett, Pennfield, Convis, Lee, and Clarence Townships), southeastern Barry County (Assyria and Maple Grove Townships), and southern Eaton County (Kalamo, Bellevue, Carmel, Walton, Eaton, and Brookfield Townships). The main drainage channel is the Battle Creek River, which receives small tributaries such as Wanandoga Creek, Goose Creek, Ackley Creek, Crooked Brook, Ellis Creek, Indian Creek, State and Indian Drain, and Big Creek. The headwaters of the Battle Creek River begin at Narrow Lake in southern Eaton County, head north through Charlotte, swing southwest through Bellevue, and outlets to the Kalamazoo River in Battle Creek, which then flows into Lake Michigan. Local residents and visitors enjoy the watershed area for the vast rural and wetland areas, lakes, and the many recreational activities including fishing, canoeing, hiking, and hunting.

## About the Project

The Battle Creek River Watershed Project is an effort by landowners, residents, conservation groups, and local, state, and federal agencies to protect the quality of water for drinking, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, and fisheries. The Battle Creek River has been identified as one of the leading contributors of phosphorus and sediment to the Kalamazoo River. The overall goal of this project is to identify the natural resource and water quality needs, problems, and solutions that will help restore the Battle Creek River. A watershed management plan will be developed that integrates the concerns of watershed stakeholders and, through implementation, improves the water quality within the watershed area.

## What Can You Do?

Consider your activities and how they impact the quality of the water around you. The improper use and management of household chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, road salt, septic systems, leaking storage tanks, storm water run-off from impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways, and parking lots, pet waste, livestock waste, and soil erosion can all impact water quality.

By getting involved in this project, you can educate yourself and others to recognize and promote best management practices that protect water quality. Contact your local Conservation District for information and assistance concerning the many programs that are available to help you protect your water resources.

By using caution in our daily lives, we can be sure that these valuable water resources will be available and enjoyed by future generations.