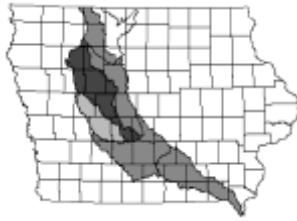


# Healthy Watersheds = Healthy Water!



## Raccoon and Des Moines River Watersheds

A **watershed** is an area of land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake. Within each different watershed, the land “sheds”, or gets rid of, water into a common body of water. The Des Moines area is in both the Raccoon and Des Moines River Watersheds. The water that drains off of the land eventually ends up in one of these rivers (statistics for both of these watersheds are in the table below).

The watershed approach to improving our environment has gained much popularity in this decade. In this integrated approach, things happening on the land as well as in the water are studied. If people are taking good care of the land, there will not be as much soil, chemicals, and other contaminants being washed into bodies of water. Many successful watershed management programs are being carried out in the U.S.

	<b>Raccoon Watershed</b>	<b>Des Moines Watershed</b>
<b># of Counties</b>	23 counties	38 counties
<b>Land (sq. miles)</b>	3639.25	9539.4
<b>Land (acres)</b>	2,329,120	6,105,197
<b>#Rivers and Streams</b>	28	88
<b>Total River Miles</b>	3595.5	10,678.8
<b>Location</b>	Iowa	Iowa and Minnesota