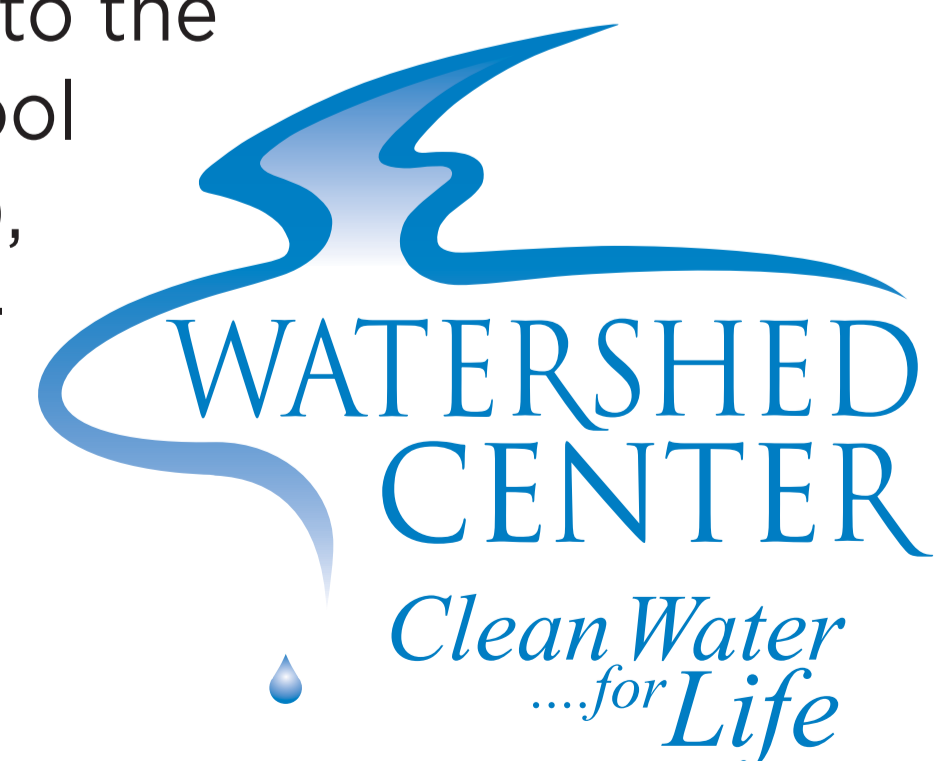


# Forests and Watersheds

*You can no more disconnect a forest from it's watershed than a tree from it's roots*



Forests are a critical part of the clean water picture. Healthy forests act as a filter, and a sponge, helping to remove impurities and control runoff. The canopy intercepts rainfall, absorbing the erosive energy of rain. Roots bind the soil, further preventing erosion, and assist water absorption into the ground. Trees also provide shade to cool waters (which improves oxygen levels), and leaves that wash into streams provide the major energy (food) source for a stream ecosystems. Healthy forests mean healthy waterways.



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Photos: Kyle Kosovich