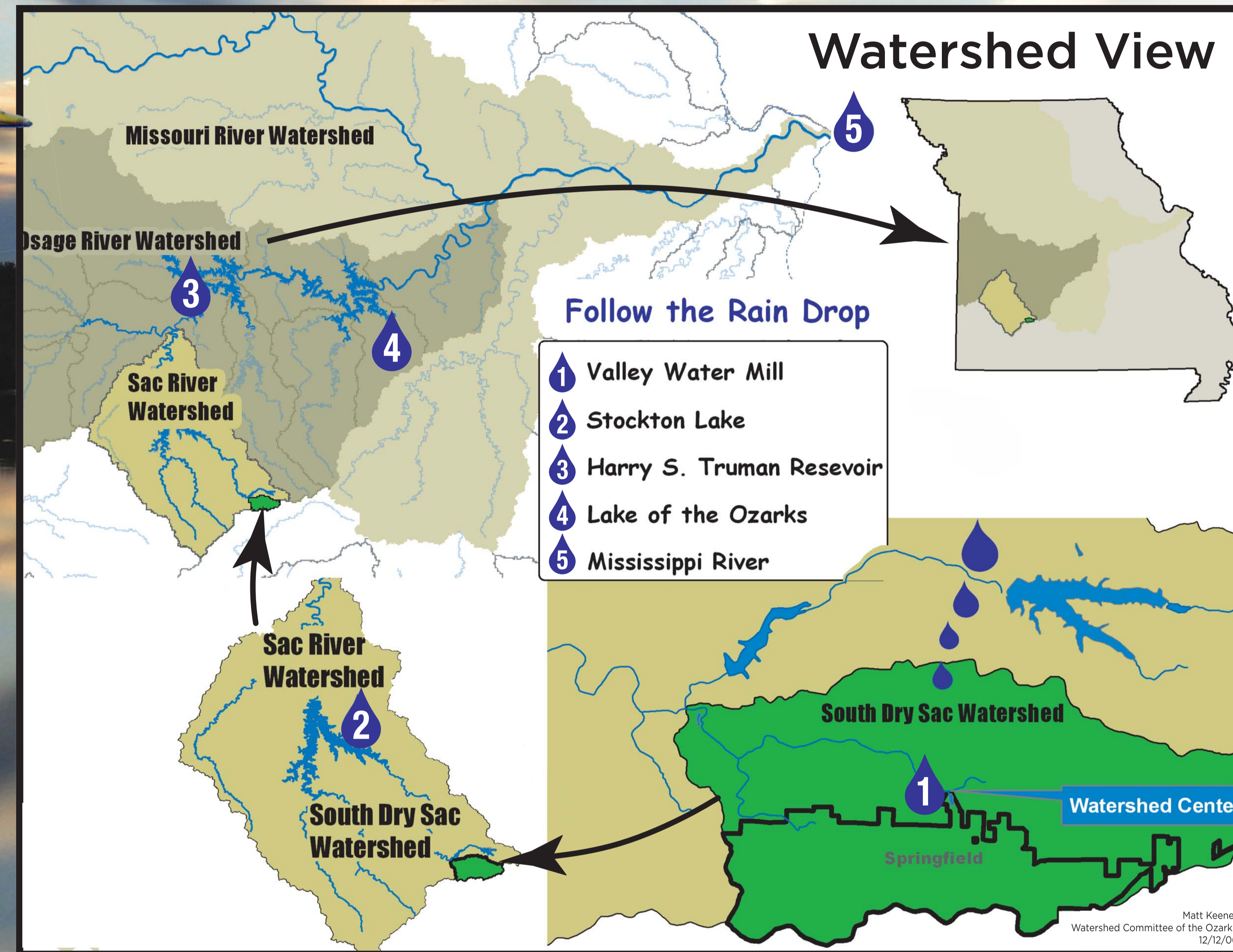


The Watershed Connection

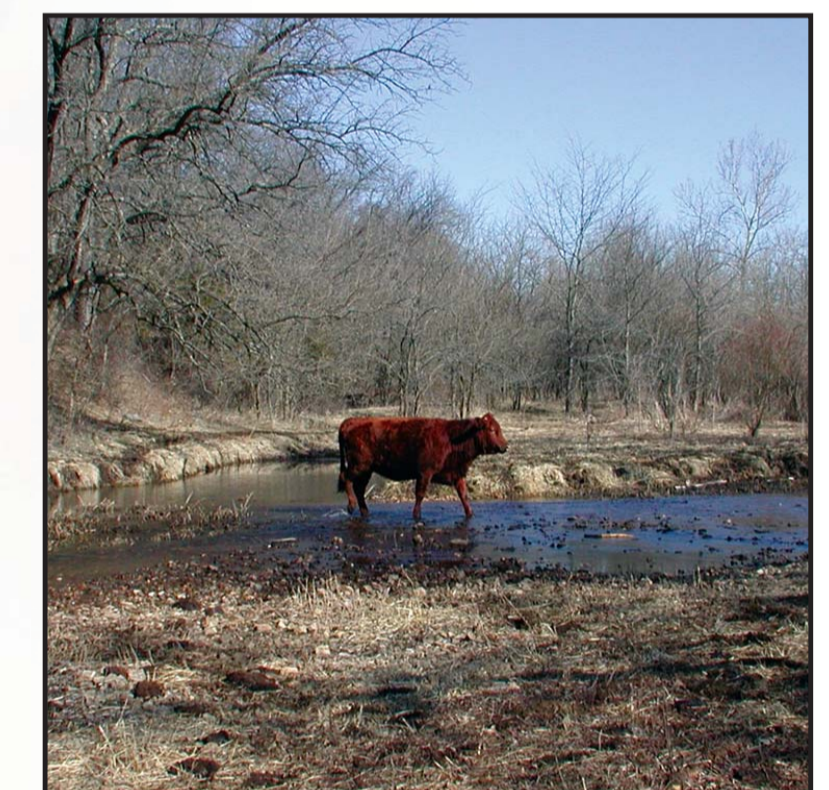


In what ways do humans impact watersheds, lakes and streams? Here are the big three human impacts in the watershed and their effect on waterways:



Nutrients come from animal waste, human sewage, and fertilizer runoff. A direct affect of nutrients is increased algae growth, which can lead to fish kills and taste and odor problems in drinking water.

Bacteria often come from animal waste and human sewage. Bacteria must be removed from drinking water by disinfection, and pose risks to recreational users of streams and lakes. Sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, livestock, and pet waste are common sources of bacteria such as *E. coli*,



Cryptosporidium and *Giardia*.



Sediment in streams comes from erosion. Sediment clogs reservoirs, damages stream habitat, and is costly to remove from drinking water. Erosion accelerates when plants and trees are removed.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a body of water. We all live in a watershed, and we rely on watersheds for our water supply.

What is your watershed address?

Watersheds can be described from very small to very large, like your address. For example, you live at a street number, in a zip code, in a state, in a country. The South Dry Sac in front of you is inside the Little Sac watershed, inside the Osage River watershed, inside the Missouri River watershed, inside the Mississippi River watershed.

You are connected to your watershed

We rely on our watershed(s) for recreation like boating and fishing, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and even our drinking water supply! What people do in the watershed directly affects the health of the streams and lakes the watershed flows into.

Watershed view

On the map above find the rain drop labeled (1) and your location here in this watershed. The green area is the South Dry Sac watershed: all of the runoff in this area flows to the South Dry Sac, the stream in front of you. Follow clockwise to (2) and notice the South Dry Sac flows into the larger Sac River watershed. Stockton Lake is in the Sac River watershed. The Sac River watershed is

part of the larger Osage River watershed containing Truman Lake (3) and Lake of the Ozarks (4). The Osage River flows to the Missouri River and The Missouri River flows into the Mississippi River (5).



Did You Know?

Did you know the water underneath us flows, too? However, it may flow very differently than the streams above.