



Our lake.  
Our future.  
**Ours to protect.**

## Why Water Matters

One of the jewels of the Upstate is Lake Greenwood, a beautiful 11,400-acre lake that is the source of drinking water, tourism, economic benefits, and pride. Companies move to the region for its abundant supply of clean water vital to their operations. Lake Greenwood also has a well-deserved reputation as a recreational mecca, and it lures a considerable number of retirees to the Upstate. A substantial portion of the residential growth in the Upstate is fueled by a desire to live close to natural splendor along the shores of Lake Greenwood and the rivers that feed it.

The whole Upstate region is interconnected. Our waterways link us together. Everyone in Laurens, Greenwood, Newberry, and Greenville Counties – human, plant, and animal – has an impact on the quality of our lake.

## The Saluda River Basin

The precipitation that falls into a valley and onto the surrounding area flows downward, creating a stream or river. The area of land that contributes water to a stream or river is called a watershed or drainage basin. The Saluda River, Reedy River, and Lake Greenwood are formed in the Saluda River Basin.

The Saluda river Basin spans ten counties, including Laurens, Greenwood, and Newberry – the three counties that surround Lake Greenwood. Encompassing 2,523 square miles, the basin contains 14 watersheds, 5,609 miles of streams, and 69,198 acres of lake waters.



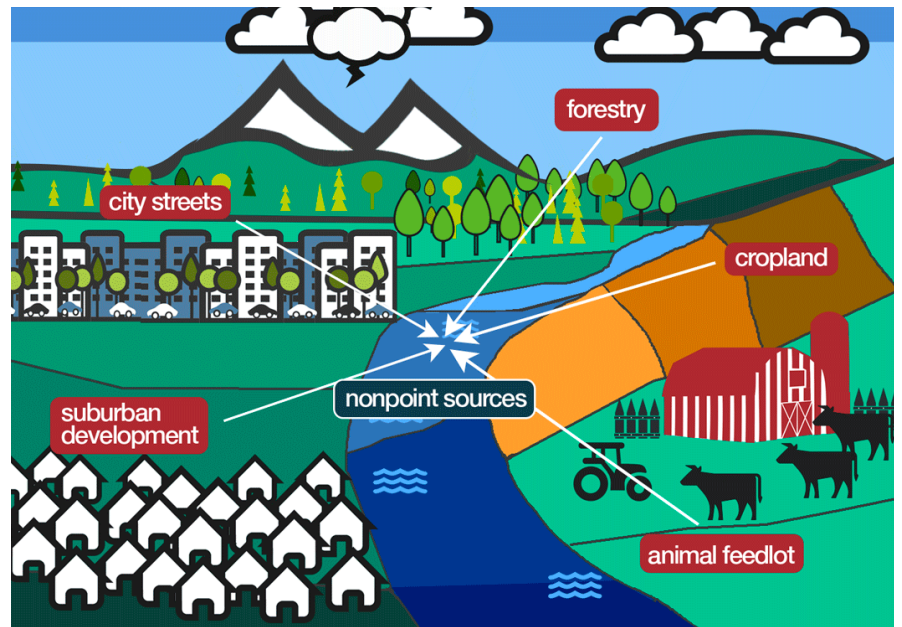
## What is Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint-source pollution generally results from land runoff, rain, drainage, and seepage. Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, it comes from many diffuse sources. As rainfall runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and ground waters.

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems. These pollutants have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife. Because nonpoint source pollution comes from so many places, addressing it requires the help of everyone in the watershed.

## Nonpoint source pollution comes from:

- 💧 Lawns and Gardens
- 💧 Household Chemicals
- 💧 Solid Waste Disposal
- 💧 Water Efficiency
- 💧 Motor Vehicles
- 💧 Boats
- 💧 Septic Systems
- 💧 Pet Waste
- 💧 Hard Surfaces
- 💧 Farms
- 💧 Forestry
- 💧 Construction



## What You Can Do to Prevent Nonpoint Source Pollution

- 💧 Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.
- 💧 Do not pour household chemicals down the drain, into storm drains, or in your yard. This includes spot removers, furniture polish, deodorizers, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, disinfectants, moth repellents, ammonia, paint and other finishes, thinners and solvents, and swimming pool chemicals.
- 💧 Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, and car batteries properly at recycling centers or service stations.
- 💧 Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze - do not hose them into the street or lawn.
- 💧 Wash your car at a carwash or in your lawn (not on a paved driveway).
- 💧 Have your septic system inspected and pumped every 3-5 years so it operates properly.
- 💧 Reduce soil erosion by planting appropriate plant cover on bare patches of ground.
- 💧 Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces. Consider a rain barrel or garden to capture runoff.
- 💧 Reduce water requirements of your landscaping by selecting plants suited to the local environment with minimal need for watering. Consider low maintenance groundcovers, or shrubs and trees that slow rain runoff.
- 💧 Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses and mulching to reduce water use.
- 💧 Use fertilizers wisely. Keep fertilizers away from driveways, sidewalks, and within 75 feet of waterways. Do not apply pesticides or fertilizer if rain is expected. Only use fertilizers that are really needed, based on soil tests and specific needs of your plants.
- 💧 Install high efficiency toilets and showerheads, which combine high performance with water efficiency. Check for and repair toilet and faucets leaks. Don't run water continuously when washing dishes, brushing teeth, showering, and shaving,
- 💧 When boating, avoid producing a wake within 50 feet of shore.
- 💧 When boating, stow trash safely from blowing off your boat and bring it ashore for recycling or disposal.
- 💧 Scrub boats with brush and water instead of routinely using soap or detergent. If cleansers are needed to remove stains, use phosphate-free detergents.