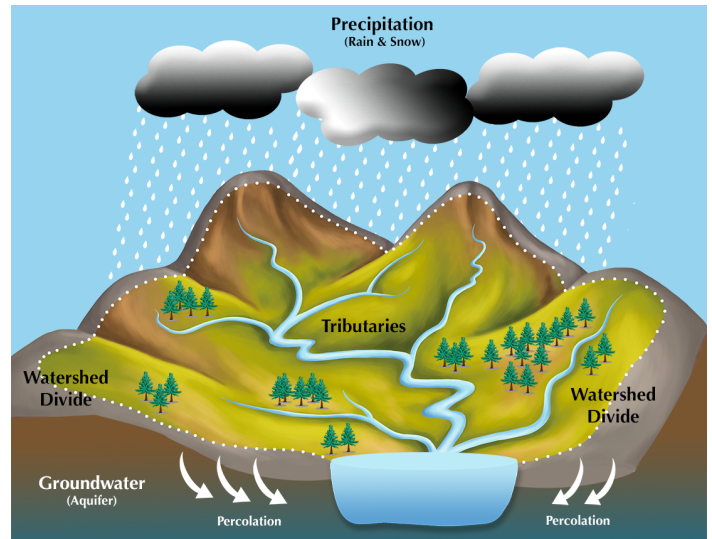




Mohawk River Watershed: Poentic Kill

Key Terms:

- **Watershed:** An area or ridge of land that that drains into a particular stream, river, or lake.
- **Sub-watershed:** A watershed that drains into a larger watershed.
- **Tributary:** A river or stream flowing into a larger waterbody, usually a river or lake.



Source: Kim Roberts, Center for Watershed Protection

Mohawk River Watershed

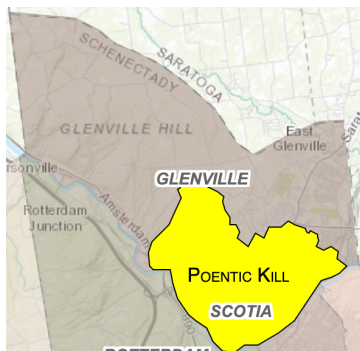
The Mohawk River Watershed flows from the valley between the western Adirondacks and Tug Hill Plateau all the way to the Hudson River, spanning 140 miles. The watershed makes up one quarter of the Hudson River Basin, which eventually drains into the Atlantic Ocean. It covers nearly 14 counties, contains over 4,000 miles of freshwater rivers and streams, and also holds 135 notable freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

Poentic Kill Watershed

The Poentic Kill Watershed is a sub-watershed of the Mohawk River Watershed. The watershed corresponds to the Poentic Kill river, which is 14.4 miles long in total. The watershed's northern portion lies within Glenville. As of 2010, the quality of recreation and aquatic life was determined to be impaired due to



Source: NYDEC



Source: Schenectady GIS Mapping

an excess amount of nutrients and sediments. Nutrient pollution most often is caused by agricultural runoff consisting of pesticides. Pesticides contain nutrients such as Nitrogen and Phosphorous to aid in plant growth, but when those nutrients end up in water bodies they can negatively impact aquatic life by changing the pH and oxygen level in the water. In 2002, the water quality of Poentic Kill was tested and determined to be in good shape with no major issues. Residents can prevent watershed pollution by supporting local legislation to do so, pushing for regular water quality assessments, educating themselves on watershed protection, and following the individual practices below.

Ways That You Can Prevent Watershed Pollution:

1

DON'T DUMP!

Never dump ANY substance down the storm drain. This includes but is not limited to car fluids, household cleaning products, car washing chemicals. It's illegal! Also, avoid flushing personal care products and medications down the toilet. Instead, read disposal instructions and participate in drug take-back programs.

2

FERTILIZE FRUGALLY

When using lawn chemicals, like pesticides and fertilizers, try to use as little as possible. Also, look at the weather forecast. If it's supposed to rain within the next few days, consider holding off on applying products so that they are not washed into storm drains.

3

DOUBLE-CHECK DISPOSAL

When you're about to dispose of chemicals and household items such as paint, medication, and car fluids, double-check the preferred disposal method on the label of the product to ensure that it is properly discarded. Look into local hazardous waste disposal locations and check the FDA website for drug-take back programs near you.

4

GROW GRASS

Growing grass and other plants in your yard is a great way to absorb fertilizers and pesticides before they make their way to a storm drain. Roadside ditches are a great place to plant long grasses that will act as a buffer for soil so that it is not washed into the sewer system.

5

PICK UP POOP

Always pick up your pet's waste so that bacteria and viruses do not enter nearby storm drains.

7

CONSERVE WATER

Water is a valuable resource. Be conscious of your water consumption and brainstorm ways you might lessen it. Shorter showers, decreasing yard watering, and fixing faucet leaks are some examples.

6

SWEEP DON'T SPRAY

Instead of power washing or hosing down your driveway and sidewalks, consider sweeping them. Washing them will rinse any car fluids and chemicals present on your driveway into storm drains.

References

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