Upper Main Stem Subwatershed

Strategies for a healthy subwatershed

The land area around the upper Vermillion River main stem (and smaller streams that run into it) make up the Upper Main Stem Subwatershed. The Upper Main Stem Subwatershed (shown in red on map, left) is part of the Vermillion River Watershed (shown in blue). Land and water in this area drain to the upper main stem of the Vermillion River.

The Upper Main Stem Subwatershed includes predominantly rural, large-lot residential, and commercial land use. Changes in land-use (from development, new infrastructure, or shifting farming practices) alter the natural flow of water. This allows rain water to move more quickly from where it falls. Increased runoff carries pollutants (such as sediment) to lakes, rivers and streams.

For example, urban roads, parking lots, and pavement allow stormwater (and pollutants) to quickly move to water resources. Overland flow from agricultural land also drains stormwater from fields into rivers and streams.

Practices that slow stormwater and soak up the rain can improve water quality.

Healthy land and water resources depend on everyone. Find out more about what you can do to improve the Upper Main Stem Subwatershed’s water resources.

Includes:
- Elko New Market,
- New Market Township,
- Northern Eureka Township,
- Headwaters of the Vermillion River,
- All watershed areas in Scott County, and
- Upper main stem of the Vermillion River and all tributaries to it.
The Vermillion River Watershed encompasses an area of approximately 335 square miles, including portions of two counties and all or portions of 20 cities, towns, and townships. The main stem of the river begins in southeastern Scott County in New Market Township flowing east through central Dakota County, passing over a waterfall in the City of Hastings, and then discharging to the Mississippi River both through a northerly flowing outlet near the City of Hastings as well as through a southerly flowing outlet near the City of Red Wing, Minnesota.