



# Introduction: Vermillion River Watershed

## 'Reflecting life' in the Metro area's largest watershed

The Vermillion River winds through rural, suburban, and urban landscapes from its headwaters in Scott County through Dakota County to its confluences with the Mississippi River at Hastings and Red Wing. The river drains 335 square miles of land.

The river includes approximately 49 miles of Department of Natural Resources-designated trout streams and maintains a self-sustaining population of brown trout.

The Vermillion River, tributary streams, lakes, and wetlands provide significant benefits: conveyance for stormwater, flood control, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, recreation, and natural beauty.

The 2016 Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan describes the VRWJPO's goals for the next 10 years:

- Protect or restore water quality in rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands.
- Protect and restore groundwater quality.
- Maintain a sustainable water supply.
- Address more intense fluctuations (up and down) in river flow rate and volume.
- Improve public awareness and stewardship of water resources.
- Improve watershed resilience to changing precipitation and temperature patterns.
- Protect or restore sensitive biological resources, such as plants, fish, insects, and wildlife.

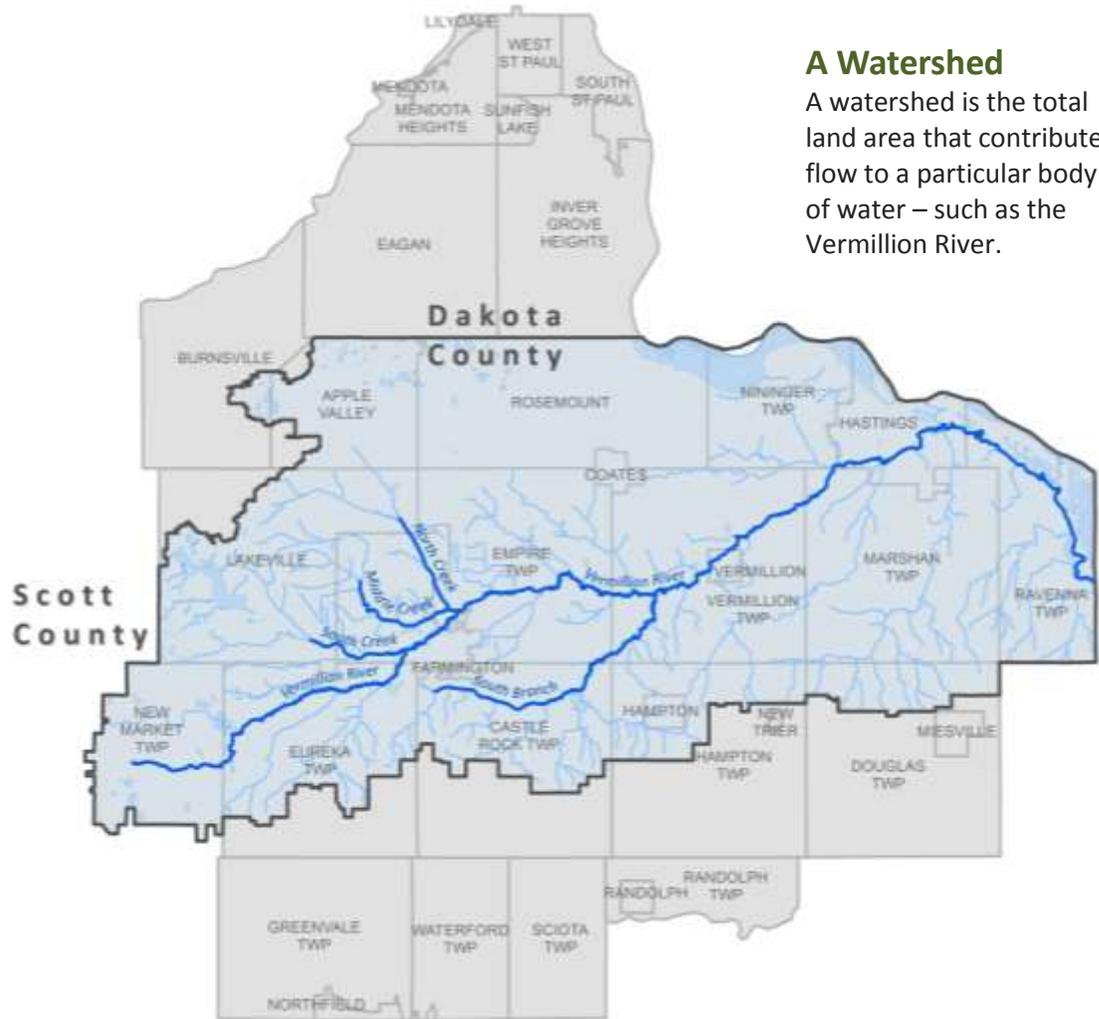


Community of Christ Church in Apple Valley installed two raingardens totaling 1,140 square feet to retain and infiltrate rooftop and turf runoff in 2008.

Technical and financial assistance were provided by Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and the VRWJPO.

## A Watershed

A watershed is the total land area that contributes flow to a particular body of water – such as the Vermillion River.



The Vermillion River Watershed includes all or part of 20 cities and townships in Dakota and Scott Counties. The Vermillion River main stem and major tributaries are shown in darker blue.

### VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED JOINT POWERS BOARD

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Tom Wolf
- Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg



The Vermillion River contains trophy-sized brown trout, a rare amenity in a growing metropolitan area.

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