

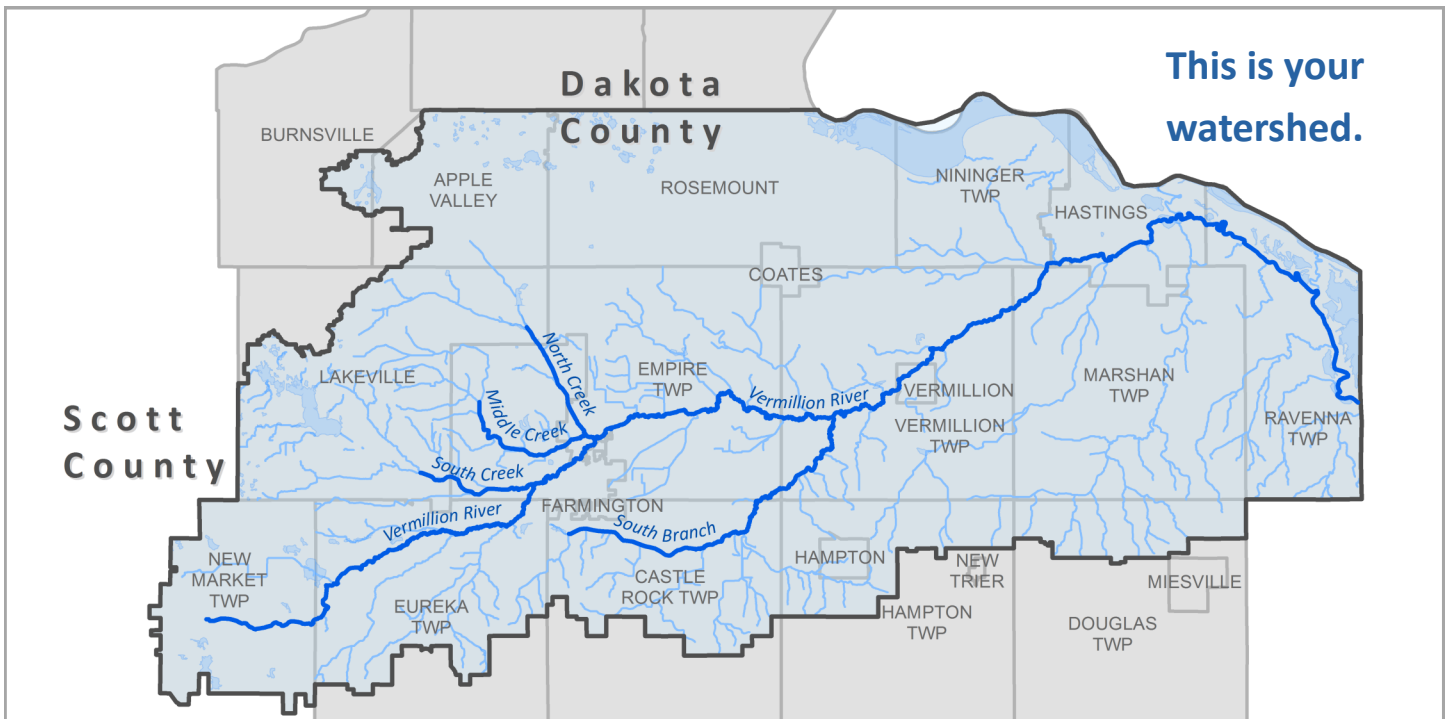


# Vermillion River Watershed

Reflecting life in the Metro area's largest watershed

## What is a watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that drains to a river, lake, or other waterbody. If a raindrop falls anywhere inside the watershed it will eventually find its way to the main waterbody at the bottom. This is true of water falling in the Vermillion River Watershed, where water collects in the main stem before it flows into the Mississippi River. We all live in a watershed.



The Vermillion River Watershed includes all or part of 20 cities and townships in Dakota and Scott Counties. The Vermillion River Watershed is made up of several main streams and numerous smaller tributaries.



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 goals of the Vermillion River Watershed are to:

- 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.

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