

STORMWATER

NITRO, WV

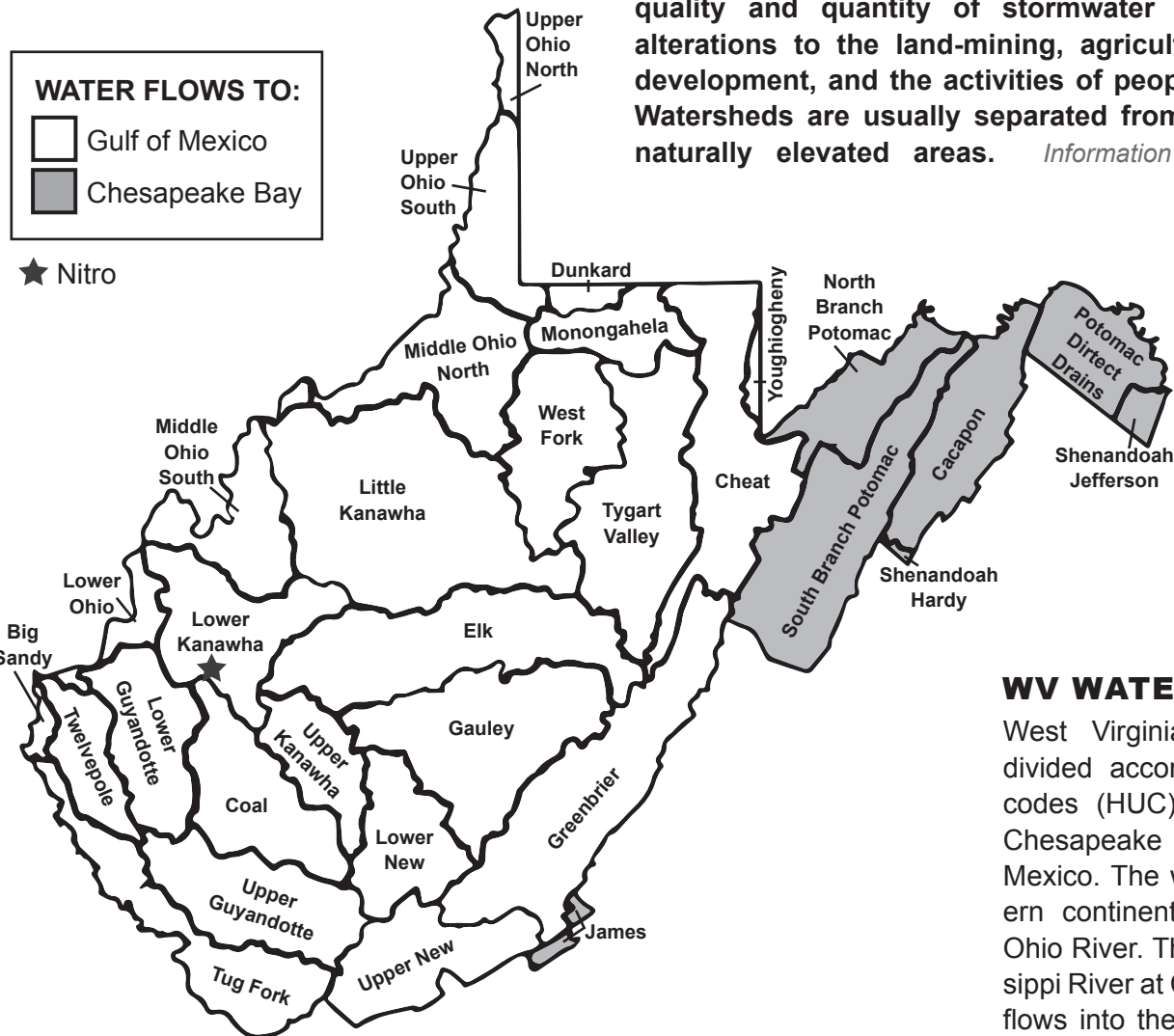
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

WEST VIRGINIA'S WATERSHEDS

A watershed is simply the geographic area through which water flows across the land and drains into a common body of water, whether a stream, river, lake, or ocean. The watershed boundary will more or less follow the highest ridgeline around the stream channels and meet at the bottom or lowest point of the land where water flows out of the watershed, the mouth of the waterway. Much of the water comes from rainfall and stormwater runoff. The

quality and quantity of stormwater is affected by all the alterations to the land-mining, agriculture, roadways, urban development, and the activities of people within a watershed. Watersheds are usually separated from other watersheds by naturally elevated areas. *Information is from the WV DEP.*



***West Virginia has over 9,000 streams covering 32,000 stream miles.**

WV WATERSHEDS

West Virginia has 32 watersheds divided according to hydrologic unit codes (HUC) that contribute to the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The waters west of the eastern continental divide flow into the Ohio River. The Ohio joins the Mississippi River at Cairo, IL. The Mississippi flows into the Gulf of Mexico at New Orleans, LA. The eastern continental divide also changes the course of five of our eastern rivers towards the Potomac River. The Potomac enters the Chesapeake Bay southeast of Washington DC. A few streams in the southeastern corner of the state flow towards the James River.

WHY ARE WATERSHEDS IMPORTANT?

Watersheds are important because the surface water features and stormwater runoff within a watershed ultimately drain to other bodies of water. It is essential to consider these downstream impacts when developing and implementing water quality protection and restoration actions. Everything upstream ends up downstream. We need to remember that we all live downstream and that our everyday activities can affect downstream waters.

STORMWATER HOTLINE See a stormwater issue? Please, let us know! You can call City Hall at (304) 755-0705, or email the stormwater hotline at MS4hotline@cityofnitro.org