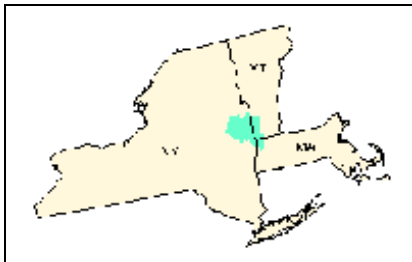


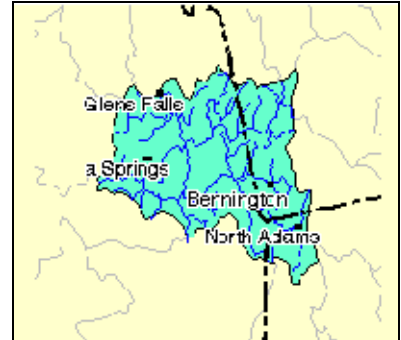
What is a watershed?

Even the largest landscaped area seems small in comparison to the whole “environment,” so it may seem absurd that one tiny yard could have any impact on the environment at large. But it does. You don’t have to have a three-acre garden or a scenic view of a lake to have a big impact on water quality. Each one of us affects the quality of water in the lakes, rivers, and streams of New England and New York. That’s because each of us lives in a watershed.



The town of Bennington is in the Hoosic River sub-watershed.

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water and is defined by the hills and valleys in the landscape. Watersheds can be very small, like a neighborhood that drains into a local stream. Or they can be very large, stretching across miles of land, encompassing many smaller watersheds and many small or large tributaries.



The Hudson River Watershed encompasses 11 major sub-watersheds.



The southwest corner of Vermont, in Bennington County, contains three distinct and unique watercourses: the Batten Kill, the Walloomsac River, and the Hoosic River. These three rivers are part of the larger Hudson River watershed.

The Hudson River basin encompasses about 13,300 square miles over parts of eastern New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.²

Careful decisions about how we manage the landscapes around our homes can make a huge impact not only on the quality of water in our local streams and ponds, but even in more-distant rivers, lakes and estuaries.

¹ Adapted from “Landscaping at the Water’s Edge: An Ecological Approach” Published by UNH Cooperative Extension, 2007.

² Water-Quality Assessment of Hudson River Basin – Analysis of nutrient, pesticide, and sediment data, 1970-90 By Patrick J. Phillips and Dorothea W.