

Activity Guide Modules

Watershed and Geology Module— A watershed is the land that drains its water into a stream. Missouri has five distinct physiographic regions which affect the character of Missouri watersheds. These geological conditions in conjunction with land use practices impact the overall water quality and quantity of a given watershed.

Flood Plains and Wetlands Module— A flood plain is the land immediately adjacent to the stream that is periodically inundated with water. Wetlands are located in flood plains and provide critical functions to water quality and quantity. Flood plains and wetlands provide varying opportunities for all types of use depending on flood patterns, flood plain development, and watershed conditions.

Riparian Corridor and Stream Banks Module— The riparian corridor is the land immediately adjacent to the stream. A forested riparian corridor will strengthen stream banks and reduce erosion benefiting the water quality in a watershed. In addition, a forested riparian corridor provides habitat for wildlife, filters runoff pollutants, and provides various economic and recreational opportunities for landowners.

Stream Channel Module— The stream channel is the path where water concentrates to flow downstream in a natural meandering pattern throughout the watershed. The stream channel is the area between the banks that holds water during normal flows. Stream channels include gravel or sand bars. Some streams may not retain water all year. The stability of a stream is the function of water, sediment, energy and vegetation and can be affected both positively and negatively by human activity.

Aquatic Habitat Module – The quality and diversity of the fisheries and aquatic life depend upon the watershed conditions of the stream channel, banks, riparian zone, and flood plain. Healthy aquatic habitats are important components in all ecosystems. In addition, aquatic habitat health can affect human health and recreation.

Water Quality Module— Good water quality in a watershed is a function of good physical, chemical, and biological properties which can sustain all uses—it is critical to sustain life. Human activities can definitely affect water quality in watersheds.

Aesthetics Module— Aesthetics consist of the perceptions of beauty gained through personal senses and experiences. Such perceptions play a major role in a person's sense of responsibility for taking care of the land and water in a watershed.

Streams and Society Module— Multiple uses of water resources can lead to diverse and sometimes conflicting demands in a watershed. Cooperation between all water users is imperative to assure ample water quantity and sufficient water quality.