

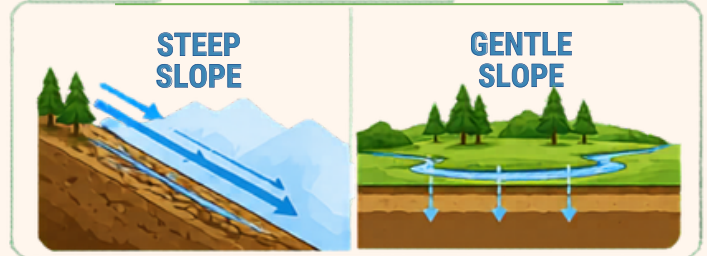


Watershed features



SLOPE

Steeper slopes speed up runoff and increase its velocity to streams. In flat areas, more water infiltrates into the ground.



SIZE (DRAINAGE AREA)

The total area within the boundary that collects water. Larger areas mean more water to manage.



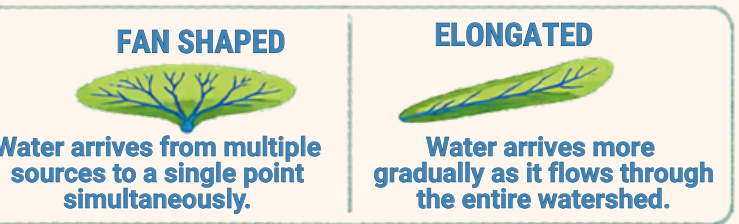
DRAINAGE DENSITY

The number of streams and tributaries in an area.



SHAPE

Watershed shape affects how quickly runoff reaches the outlet and the magnitude of peak flows.

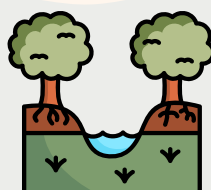


Along with physical watershed features, its natural habitats like wetlands, forests, riparian areas, and streams work together to slow, store, and filter water. These nature-based systems support clean water for people, wildlife, plants, and the ecosystems we all depend on!

WETLANDS:
FILTERS POLLUTANTS FROM
RUNOFF.



**RIPARIAN AREA: VEGETATION ABSORBS
SEDIMENT AND POLLUTANTS, KEEPING
THEM FROM WATER WAYS.**



FORESTS:
SLOWS RUNOFF.



To Be WISER About Water!