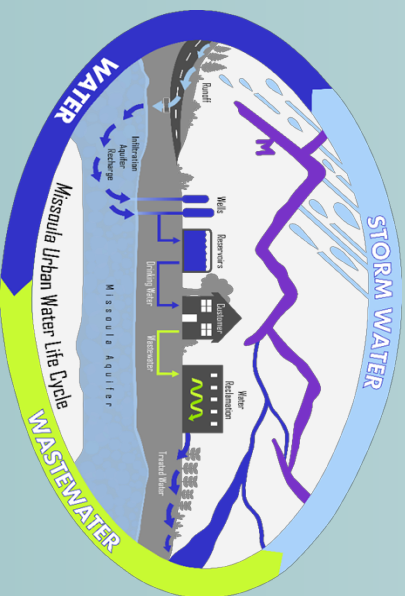


## HOW CAN I HELP?

- Use **native vegetation** and reduce turf grass by increasing native wildflowers and grasses.
- **Soil test** before you apply fertilizers. Use low or no-phosphorus fertilizers.
- Capture and **reuse rainwater** to control stormwater runoff.
- Dispose of **pet waste** properly in the trash or toilet (not onsite septic systems).
- **Wash your car** on the lawn instead of pavement.
- Maintain all vehicles to **eliminate leaks** and spills.
- **Recycle** and dispose of household chemicals properly (motor oil, household cleaners, paint, etc.)
- **Compost** leaves and lawn clippings to keep them out of the storm drains which choke our creeks with too much organic material, depriving them of vital oxygen.
- Leave a riparian **buffer** along waterways.
- Remember to get your **310 permit** anytime you are altering vegetation along the creek.
- Be **involved** in a watershed organization!



## STORM WATER

City of Missoula

1345 W. Broadway St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Phone: (406) 552-6357  
Email: [stormwater@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:stormwater@ci.missoula.mt.us)

### Who are we?

- Works within the Public Works & Mobility Department
- Uses 6 Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) to manage the MS4 program - one of them is Public Education & Outreach
- Enforces and controls pollutants from sources such as vehicles, streets, and construction



### Missoula Conservation District

3550 Mullan Rd, Suite 106  
Missoula, MT 59808  
Phone: (406) 303-3427  
Email: [missoulacd1946@gmail.com](mailto:missoulacd1946@gmail.com)

### Who are we?

- A subdivision of the state of Montana, governed by elected and appointed supervisors, and staffed by ecologists
- Provides technical advice to landowners regarding streambank stabilization, grazing, and conservation
- Issues required 310 permits for projects near streams per Montana's Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act



301 W. Alder St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Phone: (406) 258-4890  
Email: [waterquality@missoulacounty.us](mailto:waterquality@missoulacounty.us)

### Who are we?

- Created in 1993 by the City of Missoula and the Missoula Board of County Commissioners
- Samples monitoring wells and streams throughout the valley
- Conducts water quality research and enforces water quality laws

# RATTLESNAKE CREEK



Learn more  
about your local  
Stormwater Utility

Welcome  
to your  
watershed

# Rattlesnake Creek Watershed & Hydrology

## Rattlesnake Creek

Flows for 26 miles and drops over 5,000 feet in elevation until it reaches downtown Missoula. Its headwaters originate from a designated Wilderness area with glacial lakes, diverse plants, and abundant wildlife. It is very popular for hiking and mountain biking. Some of its **riparian areas** are in the process of being restored since the removal of the Lower Rattlesnake Dam.



© Joseph Tomelleri

Rattlesnake Creek is home to the federally threatened bull trout.

### What is a riparian area?

The corridor along a streambank with diverse vegetation that supports bank stability, filters pollutants, and provides habitat

This area holds glacial lakes that feed into the creek. Several have their own dams that affect their ecological functions and need to be either removed or rehabilitated.

The Rattlesnake Reservoir was the City's original source of drinking water. In 2020, the Dam was removed to restore the creek and improve public safety.

The confluence of Rattlesnake Creek and the Clark Fork River is where the two waterbodies merge. This is known by the Salish as the "Place of Small Bull Trout."

### What is a stormwater drain?

Infrastructure that drains excess rain and snowmelt runoff from impervious surfaces such as streets, parking lots, and sidewalks

### Stormwater

Is rainwater or melted snow that runs off streets, lawns, and other sites. As stormwater runoff flows, it picks up and carries away pollutants, depositing them into creeks, rivers, and groundwater. This nonpoint source pollution is the number one cause of waterway impairment in Montana. Only 2.5% of Rattlesnake Creek watershed is comprised of developed land and it is one of the only unimpaired watersheds in Missoula. This urban area has over 290 **stormwater drains** installed within the watershed and over a mile of pipe to help drain the area.

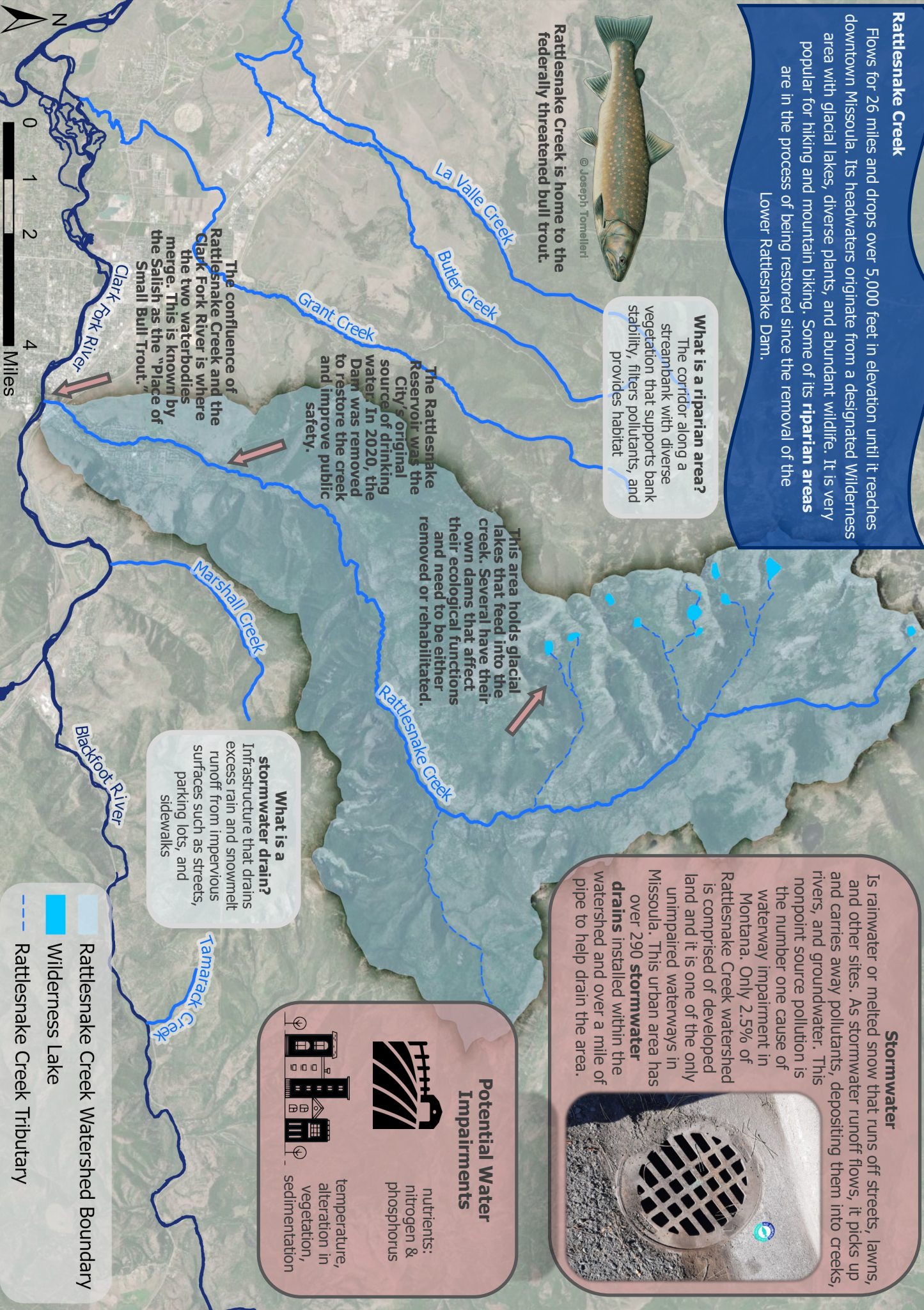
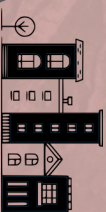


### Potential Water Impairments



nutrients:  
nitrogen &  
phosphorus

temperature,  
alteration in  
vegetation,  
sedimentation



Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Boundary  
 Wilderness Lake  
 Rattlesnake Creek Tributary