

# FRESH WATER

Southwestern Illinois contains a wealth of water resources, including the Mississippi River, the Kaskaskia River, and Carlyle Lake, the largest man-made lake in the State of Illinois. There are also approximately 200,000 acres recorded as "wetlands" within the region. While our water resources are considered as critical assets, many of these resources have become impaired over the past several generations.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this region contains approximately 26,000 surface acres of impaired lakes and an additional 800 miles of streams listed as being impaired. Pollutants include remnants of pesticides and herbicides, as well as elements such as phosphorus, manganese, and zinc. Sources of pollutants include urban storm sewer runoff, agricultural practices including crop production and animal feeding operations, industrial point discharge, recreational pollution sources, and individual waste treatment systems.



## WHAT WE DO

We take a comprehensive approach to addressing water quality concerns, including leading multiple watershed and greenway planning efforts, advocating for state and federal programs, as well as local ordinances, that specifically address water quality, and raising private and public funding to implement on-the-ground or educational projects that will lead to improved stream or lake health.

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development is also very interested in water quantity, and as such is leading a comprehensive study in water supply within the Kaskaskia River basin, as well as assisting local communities in identifying and protecting green infrastructure for improved stormwater management.