

# KALAMAZOO RIVER



# Be River Wise

## OUR WATERSHED

**100%** of our water comes from our watershed

**2,020** square miles in the watershed

**400,000** people live in our watershed



**47%** of watershed is farmed for agriculture

counties with a footprint in our watershed **10**

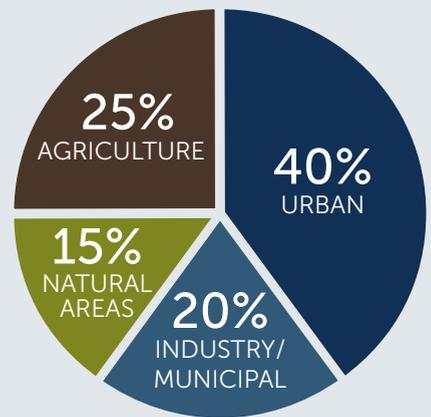


**8%** of watershed is located in urban areas

## THE ISSUE

Need to reduce phosphorus by **50%**

Only 8% of watershed is urbanized, yet it accounts for 50% of all the phosphorus that gets into the river.



## WHAT IS PHOSPHORUS?

Phosphorus is the nutrient found in manure, leaves, soil, and lake sediments that fertilizes plant and algae growth in rivers and lakes.

**1** pound of phosphorus



**500** pounds of Algae

Algae and other aquatic plants grow when stormwater runs into rivers during storms. Fertilizers contain phosphorus and nitrogen. Roadway runoff also contains heavy metals, salt, and harmful sediments. What gets to the street, gets to the creek!

## THE SOLUTION



Use rain gardens and green landscape to soak rain water into ground.

Use rain barrels to slow stormwater runoff.



Keep driveways clear of grass clippings and other debris.