Activity 1.1: What is a Watershed

Overview:

This activity will introduce participants to the concept of a watershed while placing a focus on local watersheds.

Learning Objective:

A**fter completing this activity, participants will be able to:**

• Define what a watershed is and identify what watershed they live in.

• Describe and identify the components of a watershed.

Instructions:

1. Introduce the concept of a watershed.
Prompt: A large area of land that naturally absorbs water from rain and snow before draining into a nearby waterbody like a river, stream, or lake.

2. Provide participants with a copy of the DIY Watreshed Model sheet.

3. Ask participants if they know the name of their local watershed.
• Go to https://shorturl.at/imX49 for an interactive map to find your local Sudbury watershed.
• Remind participants that even though we may not see water when we look outside our windows or walk down the street, we are always in a watershed that is connected to streams, rivers, and in our case, a large lake.

Instructions (cont.):

4. Ask participants to think about all the different things that might be found in a watershed.

• **Prompts**: Think of some examples of things that are living (e.g., people, plants, animals, bugs) and non-living (e.g., cars, parks, lakes, schools, houses, industry, farms, stores, storm drains). What about "things that are big and small" or "things that move and don't move"?

5. Introduce the topic of plastic pollution and litter in watersheds.

• Ask participants to think about the different kinds of plastic they use in their everyday lives.

• Explain to participants that these items can sometimes become litter, which means they can also be found in watersheds.

• **Prompts**: Think back to a rainstorm or a windy day, would it stay in the same spot? Is there something else that might happen?

6. Ask participants to complete the "Create Your Own Watershed Model" activity and follow prompts.