

1. Watershed Planning Resources

Watershed Plan Builder

- 1.1 Open the [Watershed Planning](#) site.
The Watershed Plan Builder Tool (Plan Builder) is a Web-based watershed plan development tool that promotes a consistent approach to watershed planning.

The Plan Builder leads users through a series of questions to produce a **customized watershed plan outline** that is populated with relevant data links drawing from EPA water programs, regional and state information, stakeholder contacts, and narrative sections needed to complete a watershed plan.

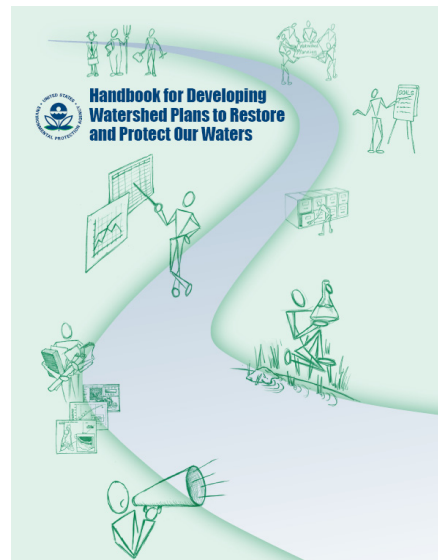
What is a watershed plan?

A watershed plan is a document that results from the watershed planning process and provides assessment and management information for a geographically defined watershed, including the analyses, actions, participants and resources related to development and implementation of the plan. The plan provides a road map to help you identify the problems, set goals and implement solutions in your watershed. EPA has recommended developing comprehensive watershed plans, particularly for impaired waterbodies.

- 1.2 Click the [Watershed Plan Builder](#) link.
A series of pages prompts the user for information about the watershed such as reasons for developing a watershed plan, current land use activities and pollutants of concern. The answers provided are used to customize the plan outline to include information relevant only to that watershed.
- 1.3 Scroll down and click the **Enter the Plan Builder** button.
Start the process by entering contact information. This information is stored so that work can be retrieved at a later date as the watershed plan continues to be developed. While developing the plan, the saved project can be updated with new information, or the customized outline can be re-created to incorporate new tools and information that are added at a later date.
- 1.4 On the left, blue sidebar, click **Examples**.
- 1.5 Review the watershed plan information on the **Corsica River Watershed**.

Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters

The Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters is intended to help any organization including communities, watershed organizations, and government environmental agencies develop and implement watershed plans to meet water quality standards and protect water resources. It should be particularly useful to persons working with impaired or threatened waters. The Handbook is intended to supplement existing watershed planning guides and is generally more specific than other guides with respect to guidance on quantifying existing pollutant loads, developing estimates of the load reductions required to meet water quality standards, developing effective management measures, and tracking progress once the plan is implemented.



- 1.6 Go to the [Handbook's Web page](#).
Through this Web page, individual sections of the Handbook can be downloaded as well as the entire Handbook. There are also links to EPA's [January 2006 webcast](#) on the Handbook and a [Handbook Fact Sheet](#).
- 1.7 Go to the [Watershed Planning Process](#) Web page.
This page shows the steps of the planning process at the top of the page. Each step has detailed instructions to help you prepare that section of the watershed plan.



- 1.8 Click **Characterize Watersheds**.
Look to the right-hand side of the page to see an inset navigation box for a detailed list of sub-steps. A similar box will appear on the page for every step. Notice the resources that are listed below the line: EPA programs, plan outline and plan examples.
- 1.9 On the left-hand sidebar, click **Analysis Tools and Technical Assistance**.
- 1.10 Click **Analysis Tools** from the left-hand menu for a collection of tools and technical assistance links.

More info on Characterize the Watershed

- Gather Existing Data and Create a Watershed Inventory
- Identify Data Gaps and Collect Additional Data if Needed
- Analyze Data
- Identify Causes and Sources of Pollution That Need to Be Controlled
- Estimate Pollutant Loads
- Results and Next Steps

[EPA Programs](#)
[Plan Outline](#)
[Plan Examples](#)