

## Watersheds

### 1. What is a watershed?

A watershed is the area of land on which all precipitation that falls flows downhill to a common outlet like a stream, river, or estuary. One local example is the Parkers Creek Watershed that drains 7,949 acres in Calvert County that lie mostly east and north of MD 765 and Rts. 2/4 and south of Dares Beach Road. Parkers Creek flows east into Chesapeake Bay [see watershed map below].

For more information, visit: [Watersheds and Drainage Basins | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/watersheds)



### 2. Where are the largest watersheds in the County?

The five largest watersheds in Calvert County are Hunting Creek (19,229 acres; 6.0% impervious land cover; 57% forested), St. Leonard Creek (18,973 acres; 4.8% impervious, 64% forested), Fishing Creek (13,278 acres; 5.7% impervious, 67% forested), Hall Creek (10,445 acres; 7.1% impervious,

48% forested), and Parkers Creek (7,949 acres; 4.2% impervious, 73% forested). Data were obtained from the Calvert County Technology Services Department and are derived from 2011 land use/land cover information.

3. How much precipitation does Calvert County receive each year to sustain these watersheds?

On average, about 43 inches of rainfall and 14 inches of snow, or about 45 inches of equivalent rainfall--assuming a ratio of snowfall in inches to equivalent rainfall in inches of 10:1 for average snowfalls occurring when air temperatures are around 30° F [Location and Climate | Calvert County, MD - Official Website \(calvertcountymd.gov\)](http://calvertcountymd.gov) Wetter snowfalls occurring at warmer temperatures will have ratios of snowfall in inches to equivalent rainfall in inches closer to 5:1 and therefore yield more liquid precipitation. April tends to be the driest month and September the wettest. Although, Calvert County does not usually have distinct dry and wet seasons.