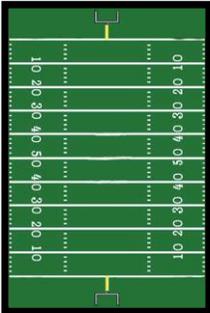


Cool Facts About Your Water!

Bath Tubs and Football Fields

Imagine how much water it takes to fill up your bath tub at home. Now, think about how big a football field is. If it rains only **one inch** across an entire football field, there would be enough water to fill **1,000** bath tubs!



Next, think of how small a football field is compared to how big our own Renville County is. It's almost **100 square miles!** Almost **one half of a million** football fields could fit in Renville County!

But get this, if our entire county received one inch of rain, almost **500 million** bath tubs could be filled with all of the water!

So then, where does all the water in Renville County go?

If you guessed that all of the water goes into the Minnesota River, well, you are not completely correct. Water also ends up in lakes, ponds and wetlands. In addition, some water gets absorbed by the soil and goes into the ground into an underground storage of water, called an aquifer. Then, if water goes into the soil, plants such as grass, trees and crops use the water and release it back into the air. If it is not absorbed by plants or the soil, water can change into gas and rise up into the atmosphere, this is called evaporation. Excess water that does not end up in lakes, get absorbed by the soil or evaporate into the atmosphere, ends up running off the land, going through streams and eventually goes into the Minnesota River.



Why Should I Care?



Water is our most essential element, and without it, we would all die. Water moves in a cycle and while humans become more industrialized, develop more land and allow harmful chemicals to enter our water, the pollution can end up harming us and our ecosystem. Therefore, it is important that we keep our water clean. (See "10 Simple Steps YOU Can Take to Help Improve the Watershed You Live In.")