

PROTECT THE HEALTH OF YOUR STREAM!

LEAVE trees and shrubs to grow on stream banks!

WHY? Streamside vegetation provides cooling shade, prevents erosion, and filters out 80 % of pollution and sediment from runoff.

CREATE or maintain wide buffers along streams and wetlands.

WHY? A 50 foot buffer of native trees and shrubs will help minimize erosion streams and improve local and downstream water quality. Wider buffers will also provide nutrients and habitat for wildlife that live in and around the stream.

STORE soil and mulch piles away from the stream. Avoid throwing lawn clippings or yard waste into your stream—compost it instead!

WHY? Soil, mulch and yard waste can get into the stream when it floods. As these materials decompose, they reduce oxygen in the stream and degrade general water quality, which can kill fish and other aquatic life.

LIMIT your use lawn fertilizers and chemicals, and maintain your septic system in good condition.

WHY? Lawn chemical and septic tank pollutants can easily get into streams and harm animals and plants that need the water.

USE porous materials like brick, pavers and porous asphalt or cement when installing or replacing a walkway or a driveway

WHY? Porous paving allows rainwater to seep into the ground, limiting runoff that can harm streams.

DISPOSE of chemicals, soapy water or swimming pool water properly; don't dump chemicals directly into storm sewers.

WHY? Storm sewers flow directly into streams, where chemicals, chlorine and detergents can kill fish and other wildlife, and harm local and downstream water resources.

NEVER DUMP OIL, ANTIFREEZE, OR OTHER CHEMICALS ON YOUR PROPERTY OR DOWN A STORM SEWER.

CONSULT THE COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DISPOSAL OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

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ALL STREAMS ARE IMPORTANT!

Whether your local stream is a spring-fed rivulet or a wide creek, every waterway supports aquatic plants and animals and is an important part of the water cycle. All streams are part of a single system flowing eventually into the ocean; if they are kept free of pollutants, the whole system stays healthy.

PROTECT WITH STREAM BUFFERS

Stream Buffers are areas of land along streams where trees, shrubs, and other plants grow. Wide undisturbed buffers help keeping streams healthy by protecting banks, filtering pollutants, providing shade as well as nutrients for stream dwellers. How wide should it be?

10 feet –On a small property, a line of native trees and shrubs can reduce some pollution & sediment
50 feet -Can keep banks stable.
100 feet- Protects fish habitat
150 feet-- keeps sediment and pollutants out of streams
200 feet—helps control flooding
300 feet or more--protects wildlife habitat and the natural character of streams.

Why native vegetation? The animals in our streams use leaves of specific native plant species for food and building materials; they do best when those species are present. Non-native plants help reduce erosion, but don't have relationships in the local food chain and may be invasive.

HEALTHY IS BEAUTIFUL!

Some landowners with streamside properties mow the lawns up to the edge of the stream. This practice can cause stream bank erosion, allow unfiltered runoff to rush into the stream, and eliminates good streamside habitat for birds, pollinators, fish and other wildlife.

Planting a buffer zone of native trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials will add interest to your landscape, attract pollinators *and* protect your stream.

These are some beautiful native species you might try planting:

Flowers: *New England aster; pink turtlehead; swamp milkweed; New York ironweed; Joe-Pye weed; swamp sunflower; cardinal flower*

Grasses & Sedges: *Riverbank wild rye; switch grasses, broom sedge; little blue stem*

Shrubs: *Buttonbush; witch hazel; redtwig or silky dogwood; spicebush; Virginia sweetspire; shadbush; red or black chokeberry; arrowwood; sweet pepperbush; inkberry and winterberry holly*

Trees: *River birch; red maple; ironwood; black gum; swamp white oak; tulip tree; pin oak.*

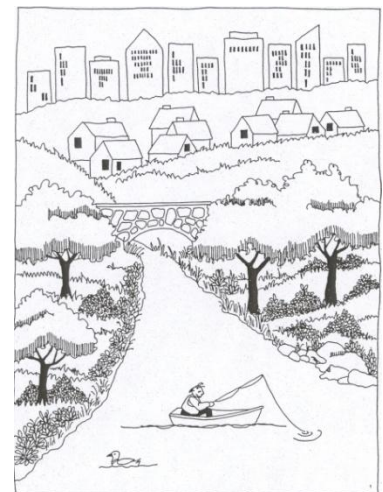
For more information about streamside plants, ask your local watershed association or consult the NJ Native Plant Society at www.npsnj.org

IF NOT YOU...WHO?

Who is responsible for taking care of our streams? *We all are!* Most of us live upstream from someone else--what we do not only affects our own water quality, but that of someone downstream of us as well. We need to work together to keep our streams clean and healthy.

Your municipality is responsible for creating ordinances to protect its streams, in compliance with state and federal regulations, and may cover development on steep slopes or floodplains, Category 1 stream buffers, stormwater management, and sewers and septic tank regulations.

Most streams cross boundaries and stream protection strategies may require the cooperation of several municipalities. Encourage local officials in towns along your stream to work together to protect it.



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