



Ten things you and your community can do to protect water resources!

1. **Maintain open, forested floodplains.** Filling floodplains shortchanges the filtering power of natural areas and increases flooding elsewhere.
2. **Plant trees and maintain streamside buffers.** Streamside trees and native vegetation help filter stormwater run-off and help hold streambank soils in place.
3. **Promote clustering where new development is likely.** Clustered developments require less pavement for roads and sidewalks and keep more of the overall parcel as natural open space.
4. **Disconnect your downspout from the street drain.** Rainwater from your roof is just as damaging to creeks and streams as run-off from a parking lot. Let your yard help filter out impurities and infiltrate stormwater back into your aquifer.
5. **Convert large yards or public spaces from mown grass to meadows.** The typical suburban lawn is nearly as impervious as a parking lot! Native meadow grasses infiltrate stormwater better and provide critical habitat for grassland birds.
6. **Convert a corner of your yard to a rain garden.** A wet area in your yard can be considered a nuisance or an amenity, depending on how you manage it. If it's wet, look for native plants that like "wet feet" and create a visual focal point.
7. **Maintain a naturally vegetated edge between creeks and pastures or cultivated fields.** A naturally vegetated stream buffer will filter out excess fertilizers and pesticides from adjacent farm fields.
8. **Cut back on lawn fertilizers and pesticides.** Much of the fertilizer you apply in the spring flows directly into the local creeks because the grass is not ready to absorb it. Set your mower height at 3 inches and use a mulching mower to create a healthy, organic lawn. Fertilize only in the fall!
9. **Pick up after your pets and keep livestock out of streams.** Pet and animal wastes carry many harmful bacteria and possible diseases. They make creeks less amenable to native critters and require expensive water treatment for human uses.
10. **Keep your paved surfaces at a minimum.** Patios and parking spaces can be created with attractive pervious materials that allow stormwater infiltration to the soils below.

