Best Management Practices: Tips for Stream Maintenance

* ***Avoid close crop mowing to the edge of a stream and allow a plant buffer to grow.***
* ***Create a buffer by planting native plants, and create a natural habitat for water based wildlife.***

Good Native Plants
Lady and Wood Fern
Green or White Ash
Box Elder
False Jasmine
Partridgeberry
Sycamore

Harmful Non-native Plants
Knotweed
Purple Loosestrife
Wisteria
Garlic Mustard
Multiflora Rose
Bamboo

* Don't deposit leaves or grass clippings near or in a stream. They alter natural balance of nutrients.

* Avoid using non-organic weed killer and other chemicals on your lawn, as they can run-off into a stream. Whenever possible use a natural or organic methods to control weeds.

* Avoid using concrete and other hard substances as stream bank reinforcement, because they increase erosion related problems.

* Maintain an efficient storm water drainage system that gradually filters water into a stream.

* Fence large farm animals, such as horses and cattle away from the edge of a stream. Never compost animal waste near a stream. Manage pet waste.

* Prevent ponding by creating small artificial waterfalls along tributaries increase water movement and oxygen content while providing a more landscape feel to a stream

Signs of a Healthy Stream

* ***Clear and odorless***
* ***Presence of fish, frogs turtles and other aquatic animals***
* ***Quality buffer-10 to 50 ft.. on either side of stream***
* ***Variety of species within buffer***
* ***Variety of flow types-pools and riffles***
* ***Minimal amounts of erosion and sedimentation***
* ***Minimal amount of algae in the stream***

Threats to our Watersheds

Problem: Erosion - Sedimentation

What is it? The wearing away of a stream bank and the flow of muddy water into the stream.

Caused by:
* Flooding and uncontrolled run-off
* Improper construction practices
* Poor buffer areas
* Poor storm water management

Prevention/Solution:
* Create plant buffer zones
* Distribute storm water flow evenly
* Create protective barriers

Problem: Flooding

What is it? The overflow of stream water onto land, which can cause severe erosion and sedimentation.

Caused by:
* Heavy rains and run-off
* Overdevelopment
* Altering a stream's natural course
* Loss of wetlands
* Large areas of pavement and concrete

Solution:
* Maintain infiltration system on the property.
* Promote water seepage into the ground to replenish the groundwater.

Problem: Pollution/Contamination

What is it? The introduction of foreign, harmful substances into the stream.

Caused by:
* Fertilizers
* Pesticides
* Common chemicals (detergent, etc.)
* Biological waste: sewage & manure
* Oil and solvents

Prevention/Solution:
* Use biodegradable products
* Limit domesticated animal access to stream
* Store and dispose of chemicals properly
* Properly manage stormwater run-off and septic systems

Problem: Litter and Trash

What is it? Any non-degradable or foreign material put into a stream.

Common Examples:
* Rubber Tires
* Plastics
* Packing Materials
* Aluminum, glass and metal

Solution:
* Dispose of such materials properly.
* Adopt-A-Highway - Adopt-A-Waterway programs
* Community Clean-up Days
* Proper management of waste