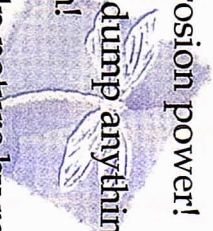


Make a Difference

SIX SIMPLE STREAM SOLUTIONS

1. Don't mow to the edge of the streambank (e.g., into the stream's "Buffer Zone")!
2. Do plant trees and shrubs in your Buffer Zone for more anti-erosion power!
3. Don't dump anything in the stream!
4. Do help nature by removing trash and debris from streams!
5. Don't change the course of your stream!
6. Do keep septic systems in good working order!



"The goal of life is living in

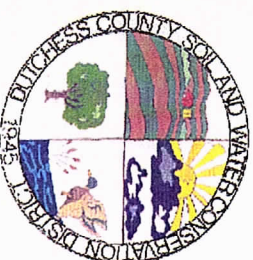
agreement with nature."

Zeno, Greek philosopher (335 BC - 264 BC)

at the Water's Edge...

at the Water's Edge...

Contact us for assistance!



DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2715 ROUTE 44, SUITE 3

MILLBROOK, NEW YORK 12545

PHONE: (845) 677-8011 X3

FAX: (845) 677-8354

THIS BROCHURE WAS ADAPTED FROM ONE DEVELOPED BY:



**SUMMIT SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
2775 HUNTER ROAD, SUMMIT, OHIO 44486

2795 FRONT STREET, SUITE D
CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO 44221

THIS BROCHURE WAS PREPARED WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO THE VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS UNDER TITLE 11 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE WAPPINGER CREEK WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Make a Difference

Make a Difference



Living by a stream can be an enhancement or a hassle to your lifestyle. A lot depends on your approach to your stream and its "riparian area" (that strip of land that runs alongside a stream). Here are some simple solutions that you can use to make living by a stream more enjoyable — and help the stream stay healthy, too!

at the Water's Edge...

KEEP IT CLEAN,

KEEP IT HEALTHY

Your stream is an asset to your property. Keep it that way by clearing away any trash that you might find in it. And of course, don't dump ANYTHING into the stream. Even "natural" materials like grass clippings and leaves can pollute the stream.

FERTILIZING? DO IT SENSIBLY!

Fertilizing directions are there for a reason. Many people use too much fertilizer. When it rains, the excess runs off the lawn and pavement, and into nearby water bodies. Once there, they pollute the water by encouraging too much algae growth.

Note: Bring a soil sample to the Cornell Cooperative Extension to find out what your soil needs prior to applying fertilizer.

PUT THAT LAWN MOWER AWAY!

One of the best things you can do for your stream is to not mow right up to the edge of the bank. By allowing the native plants and grasses to grow, you help to prevent erosion as well as improve the quality of water that flows into the stream. The roots of these plants help to anchor the soil, while stems and leaves help to slow down the water entering the stream. The slower this runoff is, the more likely that harmful chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers, will never reach the stream to pollute it.

If you don't like the "natural" look, try landscaping with native plants! They look nice, and they do a great job of holding onto the soil. Check out the list in this brochure for ideas.

LET IT WANDER A LITTLE

Streams need a little room to move from side to side, so don't be upset if the stream redirects its channel slightly from year to year. If a stream is threatening something on your property—don't redirect it—contact us—Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) for assistance. Changing the path of your stream not only requires a permit from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, but it can lead to increased flooding and bank erosion for you and your neighbors.

KNOW YOUR WATERSHED

Your stream collects water from its watershed, so become more aware of how that land is used. Is there construction activities taking place near where you live? Where are the industrial and commercial land uses?

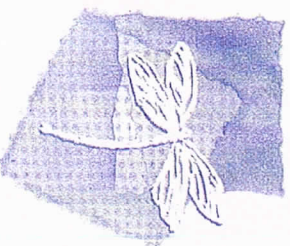
Being involved in the decision-making processes within your community could help to assure the health of your stream. Contact your Town Hall for information on how you can get involved.

DEVELOP A PLAN FOR PLANTING

There are plants that work well beside a stream...and those you want to keep out! If you are interested in cultivating the area around your stream, contact the DCSWCD for assistance and become familiar with the beneficial plants as well as the bad ones. Here are some examples...

DESIRABLE RIPARIAN PLANTS

Red or Black chokeberry
Common buttonbush
Silky, Redosier, or Gray dogwood
"Bankers" dwarf or "streamco" willow
Common winterberry
American elderberry
Viburnum
Common spicebush
Trumpet creeper (vine)
Daylily
Sycamore
White spruce
River birch



Note: The DCSWCD holds an annual seedling sale each spring that includes most of the species listed above

UNDESIRABLE PLANTS

(Invasive Species)

Common reed grass (Phragmites)
Garlic mustard
Glossy and Common buckthorn
Japanese honeysuckle
Purple loosestrife
Reed canary grass (Phalaris)
Smooth brome