

# Reducing Runoff for Residents of the Watershed

Maintain A Healthy Buffer Zone	Avoid Dumping
<p>Maintain a healthy riparian buffer zone on the bank of the stream next to your property.</p> <p>A riparian buffer zone is a well-vegetated area adjacent to a stream. A healthy riparian buffer can strengthen and prevent banks from eroding, act as sediment and nutrient filtration from runoff, provide shade to fish, and protect the property from flash flooding. Avoid clearing out vegetation near streams and plant native trees on the stream banks. An ideal riparian buffer zone will have a combination of grass shrubs and trees.</p>	<p>Waste materials (trash, litter, garbage, etc.) are often found in floodplains and stream banks and ultimately washed up in the rivers. This pollutes the surface waters and causes harm to fish habitats. To prevent waste materials from washing up into fresh water bodies, garbage should be disposed of in appropriate trash bins, outside garbage cans should be secured before a storm event, and routine cleanups can be conducted on the stream banks.</p>
Reduce Contaminants	Shop Wisely
<p>Overuse of pesticides and fertilizers should be avoided. In this case, targeting the use of pesticides only in the required areas and being mindful of not spreading in non-problem areas is necessary. Fertilizers should be prevented from being sprayed on the driveway or sidewalks.</p>	<p>While purchasing fertilizers, check the labels to choose phosphorous-free ones. Excessive phosphorus in runoff can cause algal bloom that contributes to a decreased level of oxygen in the water. This is harmful to fish habitats and can damage the ecosystem.</p>



## What else can I do?

Consult with your municipality to see what other rules and regulations may be in place and what resources may be available to you to help keep the river safe and clean.