

STREAM PROTECTION

Property owners with streams or open channels (drainage ditches) are faced with many, often unexpected challenges and responsibilities such as maintenance, bank erosion, and pollution prevention concerns. Major tasks for these owners are to maintain the buffer of vegetation along the stream, and to remove litter or debris before it affects the downstream community. Taking these actions lessens the adverse impact of polluted runoff to the downstream neighbors and our waterways.



Activities that can **NEGATIVELY** impact stream health:

- ❖ Dumping of yard debris, concrete or rocks on stream banks and in streams.
- ❖ Disturbing land within the stream buffer
- ❖ Draining roof or lawn runoff directly into the streams via piping
- ❖ Removing native vegetation within stream buffer
- ❖ Over-applying chemicals on lawns, and flower beds
- ❖ Altering the normal course of the stream channel
- ❖ Building structures in the stream channel



Activities that can **IMPROVE** stream health:

- ❖ Allow stream buffer to grow naturally
- ❖ Plant additional vegetation along the stream
- ❖ Pick up animal waste and other litter
- ❖ Apply lawn and pest control chemicals at appropriate times at correct volumes
- ❖ Use a mulching mower, and let clippings fall instead of bagging.



What Can You Do?

Be vigilant for anything that does not appear to belong in the storm drain system or streams. If it does not look or smell like natural rain water, it probably isn't. If you see suspicious discharges, please report them to **Public Works Department** at 404-296-6489