

Living Along a Kentucky Stream

KY Water Awareness Month 2015 Article

As Kentuckians, we all have a special responsibility to maintain and preserve the nearly 91,000 miles of streams and rivers that meander through the hills and flat lands of our picturesque state. Follow these simple steps to improve and sustain stream health:

- Plant trees, shrubs, and deep rooted grasses in the buffer zone. A buffer zone is the strip of vegetation along the bank that separates a body of water from a developed area, such as a lawn, building, or driveway.
- Keep onsite wastewater treatment systems in good working order.
- Help nature by removing trash from streams. Plan or participate in a local stream clean-up event.
- Let nature take its course, do not change the path of a stream.
- Do not mow in the buffer zone. For urban yards allow a 10-foot buffer zone, for larger yards with mid-sized streams allow a 25-foot buffer zone, and for large streams a 150-foot buffer zone is ideal.
- Never dump anything into the stream. Not even yard waste.

By abiding by these six simple steps we all can be environmental stewards and safeguard the streams and rivers of Kentucky and the inhabitants that call them home. For more information on stream health read *Living Along a Kentucky Stream*, a guide developed by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. The guide is available online at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ip/ip73/ip73.pdf> or at your local county Extension office.

Reference:

Gumbert, A. (2007). *Living Along a Kentucky Stream*. Retrieved October 13, 2010, from <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ip/ip73/ip73.pdf>.

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