

1 Life at the Water's Edge

one in a series of six fact sheets on stream management

Introduction to Streamside Management

You are receiving this series of fact sheets because you live on or near a stream in Cuyahoga County. Every stream in

Cuyahoga County eventually drains to Lake Erie, the source of our drinking water. The

health of Lake Erie and major river systems is dependent on the health of its small headwater streams and tributaries.



JOSEPH C. HAMMOND

This series of fact sheets provides an opportunity to:

- ✓ Increase your land value
- ✓ Reduce problems, like erosion, along your stream
- ✓ Improve wildlife habitat on your property
- ✓ Protect and improve the quality of Lake Erie
- ✓ Make a difference in your community



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

How does maintaining or improving my stream increase property values?

Studies have shown that:

- ☛ The appraisal value of houses with natural streams is 3 times HIGHER than those with channelized streams.
- ☛ The closer a property is to a natural area, the higher its value.
- ☛ 60% of suburban residents enjoy wildlife viewing and are willing to pay a higher price for properties that are attractive to wildlife.

What is Stream Stewardship?

Stream Stewardship is the idea that each and every one of us is responsible for the sensible use of streams that flow through our properties.

Who's Responsible for What?

Every stream has two components:

- ☛ The water flowing in it
- ☛ The land beneath & around it

Private individuals own the land that forms the stream channel on their property. However, because it is considered a "public good",

the water in the stream is owned by the State of Ohio, or all of us! This means that property owners can use the water, but not in ways that infringe on the rights of others.

What many property owners may not realize is that "using" water properly also depends on what they do with their land. If, for example, you decide to armor the stream bank, culvert the stream in a pipe, remove natural bed materials, or fill in a ravine, your land alterations can negatively affect:

- ☛ How the stream water flows
- ☛ What the water contains
- ☛ Whether the stream's inhabitants are healthy, or can even exist!
- ☛ Erosion rates downstream
- ☛ The value of the property you've tried to protect and improve!

You are ultimately legally responsible for any resulting changes downstream.



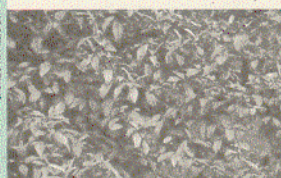
Backyard

Habitat

Improvement

Ideas

Control Invasive Non-native Species!

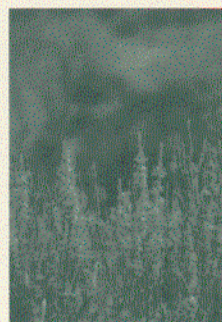


Autumn Olive

Invasive non-native plant species threaten Ohio's native ecosystem by crowding out native plant species, altering

the food web and displacing the wildlife that relies on native plants for food, shelter, and breeding sites. Of the more than 700 non-native plants in Ohio, fewer than 100 are known to be a problem in natural areas.

Invasive non-native plants typically grow fast, produce a lot of fruit, and have an efficient method of dispersing their seeds.



Purple Loosestrife

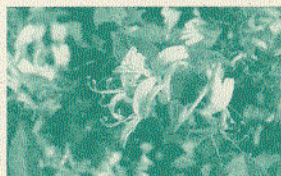
Consider phasing out invasive non-native species in your backyard and along your stream, and replace with native plants. To find out more about controlling

invasive non-native plants

in your backyard, contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District or Ohio

Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) – Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (614) 265-6453



Honeysuckle

Returning our urban areas to a more natural environment

Information provided by Invasive Plants of Ohio, created by ODNR – Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, the Nature Conservancy, and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks.

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