



Streams are among the most important natural resources in the Kansas City region, contributing to the quality of life in our communities.

Many property owners may not realize that what they do on their land impacts neighborhoods, stream habitats and water quality downstream. The condition of land surrounding streams directly affects property values, the health of the stream and the well-being and safety of the public.



## What can YOU do to protect our streams?

- **DON'T MOW TO EDGES.** Mowing close to a stream's edge damages roots that hold soil in place, causing stream banks to erode and contributing to loss of natural habitats. Avoid mowing within 10 to 25 feet from the edge of a stream.
- **FERTILIZE LESS.** When these organic nutrients enter the stream cycle they degrade water quality. Test your soil for healthy levels of nutrients on a regular basis.
- **DON'T DUMP CLIPPINGS.** Proper containment and disposal of organic trash and yard waste is critical to maintaining clean streams. When these materials enter the stream cycle they decompose, releasing foul odors and leading to poor water quality.
- **LANDSCAPE WITH NATIVE PLANTS.** Check with your local nursery for plants that have deep roots and are naturally adapted to the climate and soil. Their natural properties eliminate or reduce the need for mowing, watering, fertilizers or pesticides.



Clean Water. Healthy Life.



For more information, visit  
[www.marc.org/water](http://www.marc.org/water)