

Quick Guide to Stream Maintenance and Stewardship

Proper maintenance along streams is important to ensure that obstructions are removed and that no damage is done to the stream or aquatic organisms. This quick guide has been assembled to help you meet the City's code requirement that helps reducing flooding impacts, while considering ways to help preserve or restore stream health on your property.

Tip #1: Conduct a visual inspection of the stream flowing across your property. Look for the following common obstructions within the channel area:

- Overgrown blackberries or other vegetation. Look for blackberries growing over the water whether in small clusters or complete growth over the channel. This photo illustrates an example of where maintenance action is needed.
- Litter, wood products, lawn products other debris. All of these materials, including compost piles, need to be removed from the stream channel and located a minimum of 10-ft from the top of bank.
- Fences that cross the stream. These structures are prohibited unless permit documentation can be supplied. Fences that run perpendicular to the stream are like bridges and can act as a barrier to flow and cause backwater flooding conditions.



Tip #2: At a minimum, trim blackberries back as shown in the photograph on the left. To lessen future maintenance needs and enhance the health and character of the stream, consider investing in blackberry removal and stream restoration with native plants. Remember that herbicides use in the stream corridor is not allowed unless you have a state permit.



Tip #3: Conduct visual inspections and regular maintenance periodically during the growing season (i.e. June 15th and September 15th). Check again after major rain events to assure no new debris blockages have appeared. This will distribute the work needed, especially if restoration isn't currently an option. Remember that work outside of these dates is prohibited due to the presence of protected fish. Contact the City for information and technical assistance at 541-664-3321, Ext. 243 or 244.