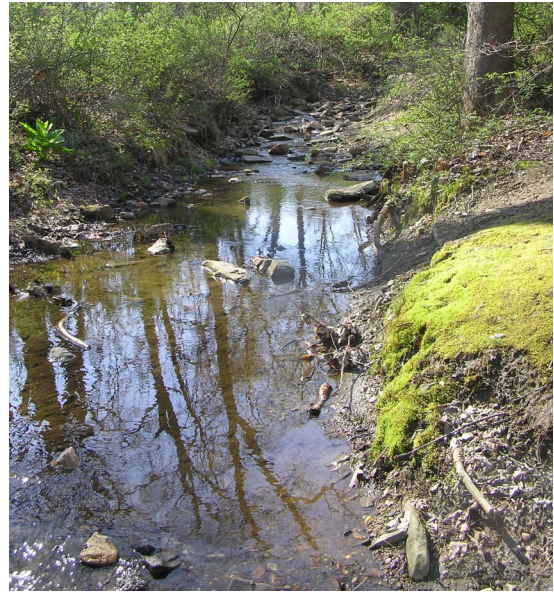


# Environmental Issues In Your Backyard

## Backyard Stream

Healthy backyard streams need to have an established buffer zone. A buffer zone is a transition zone between the backyard and the stream. The buffer zone is vegetated to decrease the amount of pollutants that can reach a stream from a backyard. The vegetation acts as a filter.

Begin a buffer zone with a no mow area (the wider the better) that follows the stream bank. Be sure that the grass is at least three inches high. Plant shrubs and trees that need little or no fertilizers to stabilize the shoreline and reduce erosion. Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in your yard only when necessary, and be sure to follow all directions for application. To further reduce the amount of pollutants reaching the stream, store firewood, trash, and other materials away from streams.



To ensure that the quality of your backyard stream is maintained educate your neighbors on practices that will protect the stream's health. One practice could be a neighborhood trash pick-up day that will not only improve the appearance of your neighborhood, but also improve the health and water quality of your backyard stream.

## Where To Get Help for backyard stream information

- Soil Erosion and Rainwater Runoff Harm the Chesapeake Bay; [http://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Documents/tip3.pdf](http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/tip3.pdf)
- Cecil Soil Conservation District; 410-398-4411 ext. 3; <http://www.cecilscd.com>
- Caring for your Backyard Stream; <http://dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea/Documents/BackyardMakeover.pdf>
- The Backyard Stream Guide (pgs. 4-9); <http://www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal/PDFs/BackyardStreamGuide.pdf>