

When Are Permits Required?

So, your property borders on a watercourse or has a stream running through it and it needs some work. *What next?*

In general, most stream maintenance can be done without a permit. For example: trimming of branches, removal of built up leaves and fallen branches or small rock placement (less than 10 square feet) for bank stabilization doesn't need



Clearing of woody debris within a watercourse, even at this scale, may not require an inland wetland permit.

a permit.

However, a permit may be required if the removal of debris includes

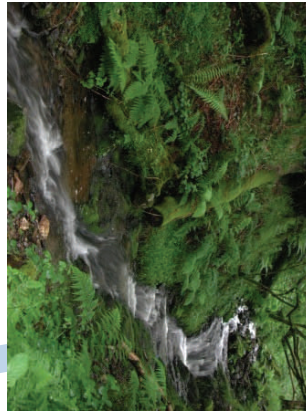
roots with soil disturbance, if

sediment buildup requires more than a shovel and if any structure is involved.

The best plan? When in doubt, give us a call and we'll help you out as best we can. If an Inland Wetland permit is required, we can help you through the process.

Tel: 860-489-2221

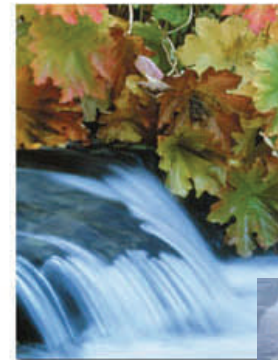
A healthy stream.



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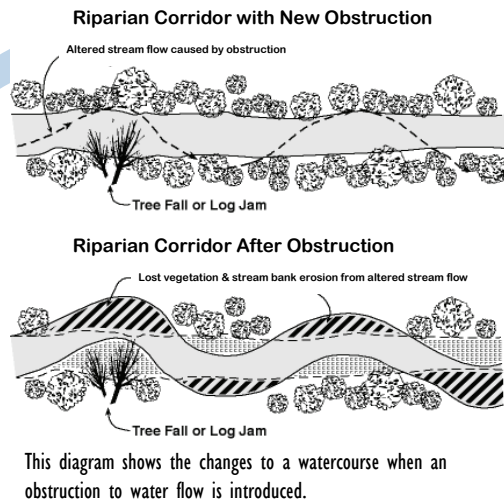
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Stream Maintenance: A Homeowner's Summary



Stream Maintenance: Your Responsibility

One of the most common concerns raised by private landowners involves a situation in which trees and other debris accumulate in stream channels and obstruct stream flow. These obstructions can become large enough to disrupt existing drainage and contribute to flooding, stream bank erosion and property damage. This is more and more of an issue as the rain patterns become more severe.



The primary responsibility for the protection of property from flooding rests with the land or building owner abutting a watercourse or seasonal stream. If a stream or watercourse becomes fully or partially blocked the land owner(s) have a duty to remove any obstructions to the flow of water. No governmental agencies have authority to undertake removal of stream blockages on private properties.

Taking Action

While homeowners are not required to remove obstructions or “logjams”, the obstructions can contribute to the stability and overall health of their streams by removing obstructions to flow before significant sediment or debris have been deposited. Riparian landowners should conduct routine stream inspections twice a year to identify fallen trees and other debris that need to be removed from the stream or banks. Special inspections should be made after large storm events, during which debris is often deposited.

Removal of debris should only be conducted during “low” flow periods, which typically occur during mid to late summer and autumn. Small debris can be removed from the channel without special tools or equipment. Larger logs and trees across the channel will need to be cut into manageable pieces and dragged out of the stream. Any disturbed areas along the stream channel should be seeded and stabilized immediately.

Managing Yard Waste

A common cause of blockages in residential areas is yard waste that has been thrown into a stream channel or placed along its banks. During a time of localized flooding,



yard wastes can accumulate behind a fallen branch or a drain inlet and block the normal flow of water. Therefore, it is very important not to place any yard waste along the banks of a stream or seasonal watercourse. Instead, leave grass clippings on the lawn or compost them along with leaves & other vegetative matter away from the stream, to make a healthy, free alternative to mulch for use in your garden and home landscape.

Maintaining Streamside Walls

For property owners with retaining walls along a stream, it is crucial for reasons of safety that the wall be maintained free of trees along the top or bottom. The wall surface should be regularly checked to repair any loose stone or failing concrete.



The property owner who owns this wall has a responsibility to keep it in a structurally sound condition. This wall failure into the stream is not only a hazard but a violation of inland Wetland Regulations as well.

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