

7. Do a "Green Lawn" Audit- Identify problems and find environmental friendly solutions.

- Are you mowing so that grass clippings stay on the lawn and out of the street and storm drains?
- Do you only apply fertilizers when necessary and not before heavy rainstorms that could wash the chemicals into the storm drains?
- Do you compost yard and garden waste? 
- Have you landscaped your yard to reduce water runoff and eliminate soil erosion?
- Do you have a rain garden? Check with the Medina County SWCD for a future rain garden workshop.



*Local leadership for soil and water conservation!*

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HOW CAN  
YOU BECOME



## A STREAM STEWARD ?



There are several ways that you could help to keep Medina County's streams and waterways cleaner and to protect them from pollution.

Medina County Soil & Water Conservation  
District's Mission Statement

To provide the Medina County community with education, guidance, and technical assistance that promotes the wise use of its soil and water resources.

1. Make your home "The Solution to Pollution"-

Read and apply the points from the homeowner's guide, "The Solution to Stormwater Pollution!" By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater which flows into our streams and rivers. If you lose your guide or need guides for your neighbors, please call the Medina County SWCD office or check the EPA website for a guide:



[www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution\\_to\\_pollution.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/solution_to_pollution.pdf)

2. Do a stream clean-up- Litter and trash along stream banks and in the stream water create a hazardous habitat for the animals and plants that live there. Litter is also unsightly and mars the natural beauty of the environment. Most litter can be recycled if disposed of correctly.



3. Minimize Erosion on your stream banks-

Sediment is one of the leading causes of water pollution when it washes off the land and into the water. The best way to prevent bank erosion is to establish plantings of trees and other vegetation. The plant roots will help anchor the soil on the stream's bank.

4. Mark a storm drain- Storm drains gather lots of pollution from the street and nearby yards. This stormwater is not filtered, but drains directly to a stream or river.



Work with Medina County SWCD to label these storm drains and educate your neighbors.

5. Monitor a stream- Many groups in northeast Ohio help to monitor stream health. They wade into a stream and collect physical data (i.e. temperature), chemical data (i.e. pH and nitrogen levels), and biological data (i.e. aquatic insects and fish). Call the Medina County SWCD office for training and equipment.



6. Sponsor a "SOS" (Sign Our Stream) sign- Citizens can sponsor a sign with a stream's name on it where that stream crosses under a road. This sign draws attention to the stream, creates citizen "ownership" of the stream, and hopefully results in better care for the stream and its water. There are limited streams still available; check with the Medina County SWCD office.