



Your Garden, Our Shared Watershed

Also known as a drainage basin, a watershed refers to the region of land whose rain and snowmelt drain into a specified body of water.

Watersheds Matter

The land surrounding a river or stream directly affects the stream's flow rate, temperature, plants, animals and communities of people that live there.

As one who gardens on the land surrounding a stream, you directly impact, and can thus improve, the health of the community in which you live.

You Can Make a Difference

We've altered our watersheds and changed how they function through many activities including farming, urban development and straightening. How you garden can maintain or restore some of the functions of a healthy streamside.

Save Your Land by Planting Trees and Other Native Plants

Often, homes located on streams have lawns leading directly up to the edge of the water. The shallow roots of grass are inadequate to protect the bank from erosion. Every time it rains, the streambank that is not protected by native plants will erode, leading to property loss. Tree roots, stems, debris and limbs can slow water flow, allowing sediments to settle out, which means clearer water and improved soil.

Fertilizers, Pesticides & Herbicides

Chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are designed to promote or stop biological growth. Either way, they are made to alter the natural ecology and are therefore contaminants to stream health. Anything you apply to your garden will eventually end up in the stream, our shared water supply and ecosystem.

Resources

OSU Watershed Enhancement: <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/wsep/>

We all live in a watershed. This site allows you to identify yours.

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

http://nationalatlas.gov/articles/geology/a_continentaDiv.html