

6 Ways to Keep Creeks Healthy

Maintain AT LEAST a 10 foot buffer from the top of creek banks. Keep the buffer area clear of liquids, chemicals, vehicles and debris.

Trim back tree limbs 2 feet above the top of the bank and remove low lying branches while retaining the canopy near the creek.

Keep your creek banks vegetated with low groundcover to minimize soil erosion. Plant native plants appropriate for your creeks banks.

Prevent invasive plants like ivy, vinca, arundo or blackberry from being established along creek banks.

Prevent contaminants from entering the water by limiting fertilizer and pesticide use. Avoid routine perimeter spraying for ant control; use integrated pest management (IPM) practices.

Minimize impervious surfaces so that stormwater is allowed to soak into the ground rather than run off directly into waterways or stormdrains.

6 Things NOT to do to Creeks

The following activities can cause flooding and are PROHIBITED without a Drainage/Flood Control permit:

Never install or build structures near a waterway without first contacting the County's Application & Permit Center to find out if you need a permit.

Don't allow any obstruction in a natural creek or man-made (improved) channel.

Never deposit or dump any material (including yard waste) on a creek bank or in a creek or channel.

Don't excavate, grade or alter a channel, or reduce the holding capacity of any waterway.

Avoid destroying or significantly altering riparian or bank-stabilizing vegetation (including cutting, clearing, burning and removing) except as necessary to maintain the creek's water flow capacity.

Do not plant any shrub, vine or tree within a riparian corridor without a written permit.

Our Creeks Are in Trouble!

With hundreds of miles of creeks in our County, even seemingly minor incidents can have significant impact on the health of our waterways.



Help Prevent This from Happening to Our Creeks