



What YOU Can Do to Protect Our River

Make a commitment to be part of the solution. Here's how:

In your home

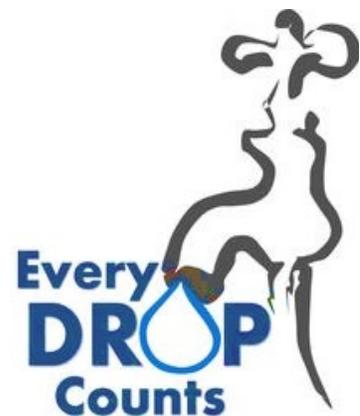
- **Be a water saver!** Every drop you save means more water for fish, wildlife, plants, and you. Be sure to fix leaks in and around your home.
- **Naturalize your yard.** Plant rain gardens and native vegetation when landscaping your property to minimize soil erosion, provide habitat for native birds, and help keep water clean. Reduce the use of herbicides, pesticides, and chemical fertilizers on your lawn.
- **Promote vegetated buffers along streams.** Lay off the lawn mower and preserve or replant streamside trees and shrubs
- **Check your septic system and underground storage tanks (oil) regularly.** This could potentially save you from a costly clean-up, and it will also prevent harmful bacteria and volatile compounds from entering your drinking water.
- **Recycle used motor oil.** Take it to your local gas station. Motor oil is a hazardous waste, and its destructive impact on wildlife can easily be avoided by proper disposal.
- **Properly dispose of pharmaceuticals and household hazardous waste. Don't flush** them away, dispose of cleansers, beauty products, medicine, auto fluids, paint, and lawn care products at the local household hazardous waste facility or on special collection days. Septic systems and wastewater treatment can't handle these materials.
- **Use non-toxic, phosphate-free cleaning supplies.** Remember that **what goes down your drain will eventually reach the river**, affecting all the fish and invertebrates in the vicinity. Phosphates encourage algae growth, which can suffocate aquatic life.
- **Reduce, reuse, recycle.** Attempt to reduce the amount of potential waste coming into your home and actual waste going out.



In our community

- **Get involved and be a FOLAR member.**

FOLAR offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, from monitoring water quality to assisting with community-based outreach efforts.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE RIVER

In Our Community (Continued)

- **Act locally.** Talk to local officials about your concern for clean water. Land use decisions made by municipalities affect water quality downstream. This can include adopting codes and ordinances that protect streams and reduce stormwater.
- **Manage stormwater.** Protecting natural areas, reducing impervious surface cover in new developments, and utilizing green infrastructure practices to filter runoff are key steps in improving stormwater management.
- **Clean it up.** Support FOLAR and participate in a clean-up day. It's a great way to meet other river lovers, introduce kids to river stewardship, and spend a day outdoors. Set an example by always picking up your own trash and pet waste before it washes into our waters, and encourage neighbors to do the same.

Down by the river

- **Carry out what you carry in.** Leave areas by the river as clean (or cleaner!) than they were when you arrived.
- **Keep a trash bag in your tackle box or pack.** If you fish dispose of your fishing line properly in order to prevent animal (or human!) entanglement.

On your boat

- **Don't pick up plant and animal hitchhikers.** Reduce the spread of invasive species by inspecting and hosing down your boat's hull and draining all bilge water before moving to new waterways.
- **Slow down and enjoy!** Treat vegetated shallows, marshes, and mudflats as no wake zones. This will minimize the uprooting of native plants and destruction of wildlife habitat. Take the time to relax and bask in the river's natural beauty.
- **Use mild detergents when cleaning your boat.** Toxic cleaners can poison the river's fish and other plants and animals. Natural and biodegradable products work just as well, without the detrimental side effects.
- **Double your cycles.** Four-cycle outboard motors are quieter, get much better mileage, and run cleaner than their two-cycle counterparts without compromising power, response, or torque.



We all make decisions about how we live and interact with our environment. We are all a part of the River corridor, and we can enjoy and protect it during our day-to-day activities.