10 Simple Steps
YOU Can Take to Help Improve
the Watershed You Live In

Adopt A River! Maintain a segment of a local stream, lake, or wetland by yourself or with a group.

Stencil Area Storm Drains! Organize a Stenciling Day in your community. Stenciling increases community awareness of the potential for storm water to pollute local surface waters.

Let it Grow! Allow shrubs, vines, and grasses to grow tall. Their growth filters water flowing off your lawn prior to entering lakes, steams, and storm drains. Lawns maintained at 2-3" are healthier and need to be mowed less often.

Use Fertilizer Sparingly! Have your soil tested to determine your fertilizer needs. Excess fertilizers often wash down storm drains and cause lakes and streams to become chocked with algae. Use phosphorus free fertilizer.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! Become an informed consumer. Avoid excess packaging, reuse or recycle containers, and buy products made from recycled materials.
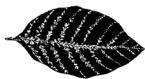
Clean Up After Your Pet! Clean up animal waste, especially when by a lake or stream, or when droppings land on paved surfaces allowing run-off into nearby rivers, ditches, or other waterways.

Handle Chemicals Carefully! Never allow oil, paint, antifreeze, fertilizer, or other hazardous waste chemicals to enter a storm sewer. Take these items to a hazardous waste collection site.

Naturalize a Portion of Your Shoreline! Branches left in the water provide necessary fish and wildlife habitat. Natural plantings filter lawn runoff and provide shelter and cover for wildlife.

Keep Streets and Gutters Clean! Don't sweep grass clippings or leaves into the street or storm drain. They contribute unwanted nutrients to the area surface waters.

Support Your Local Watershed Efforts! Small efforts by individuals can add up to make a substantial difference. Contact the Hawk Creek Watershed Project at 320-523-3666 if you are interested in doing water monitoring or finding out more about the efforts of the project.