

# Stormwater Rights

## A PROPERTY OWNER'S GUIDE



**Greenville  
County**

In 2002, as a federal mandate, the County of Greenville established a storm water program in order to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act. Programs were created to address water quality issues related to storm water runoff and to help correct some of the County's worst flooding problems.

Property owners continue to be responsible and accountable for actions that could lead to water quality degradation and flooding issues.

## Your Responsibilities

### Blocking Water Flow/Diverting Water

- ✓ Do not attempt to block the natural path of water on your property in any way.
- ✓ Consider the natural drainage path when installing fences and sheds.
- ✓ Do not attempt to divert water from your property onto another property.

### Reinforcing Stream Banks

- ✓ Reinforcing stream banks could require permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, even for small streams.
- ✓ Contact the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information or design alternatives at 864-467-2755.

**PROTECT OUR WATERS**

# **Waste on Your Property**

## **Trash, Debris, and Fallen Trees**

It is important to keep drainage ditches in your yard free of debris so that water can drain properly. Yard debris also causes algae blooms which affect water quality.

## **Streams On - or Adjacent to - Property**

According to state law, it is the responsibility of property owners with streams on or adjacent to their properties to keep the streams free of debris and fallen trees.

## **Yard Waste, Oil, or Paint**

Do not dump any substances such as dog waste, yard waste, motor oil, antifreeze, or paint into creeks or streams on your property or storm drains in your neighborhood. Streams and storm drains are part of the County's stormwater system. Dumping items will directly affect the water quality and can result in fines and enforcement actions.

# **Sediment and/or Water From A Neighboring Property**

If the offending property is a single-family residence or agricultural operation, the matter should be settled between the property owners.

If the sediment or water is coming from an entire subdivision, report the problem to Greenville County's Land Development Division.

If you plan to make any modifications to your property that disturb the topsoil or may alter drainage patterns, please check with Greenville County Land Development to see if permits are required.