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TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

- 1. WATER YOUR LAWN ONLY WHERE AND WHEN NEEDED.** Use rain barrels to water your lawn and garden. Redirect rooftop runoff using a rain barrel or at the very least, use a spreader. Concentrated flow from downspouts can create rill erosion.
- 2. LIMIT THE USE OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS ON YOUR LAWN.** Consider using an alternative to the use of chemical pesticides, such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is the use of natural methods to deter pests.
- 3. PLANT NATIVE VEGETATION.** By planting vegetation that is adapted to this region, you will reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers and watering that will be required. That means less work for you!
- 4. DISPOSE OF PET WASTE PROPERLY.** Because pet waste can be high in bacteria and nutrients, it should be disposed of in a trash can or a pet septic system: <http://www.cityfarmer.org/petwaste.html>
- 5. CAREFULLY CHOOSE WHERE YOU WASH YOUR CAR.** Washing your car at an eco-friendly carwash that is connected to the sewer system or recycles wash water will reduce the amount of water runoff that eventually finds its way into local streams. If you do wash your car at home, use a biodegradable detergent and wash where the water can be absorbed into the ground.
- 6. MAINTAIN YOUR CAR PROPERLY.** Regular maintenance will ensure a smooth running machine and reduce the amount of oil and other fluid leaks as well as reduce other pollutants that result from driving cars.
- 7. DISPOSE OF OR RECYCLE CHEMICALS PROPERLY.** All paints, oils, grease, antifreeze and cleaning products should be disposed properly. Bi-County Solid Waste Management regularly sets collection dates and times for household hazardous waste. For more information call 931-648-5751.
- 8. CREATE A RAIN GARDEN.** <http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/sevenmile/rainwater.html>
- 9. PROPERLY MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM.** For most people, the septic system is literally “out of sight, out of mind.” Unfortunately, septic systems are one of the top polluters because of their limited lifetime and up to 35% failure rate. Septic system discharge has high levels of bacteria and nutrients that can contaminate groundwater, as well as streams. It is very important to have your septic system regularly inspected (every three years) and maintained.
- 10. JOIN A WATERSHED ORGANIZATION.** Doing so will help you learn more about your own watershed and its unique qualities. It will keep you informed as to what is going on in your watershed and what future plans are for the area. Remember that each voice can make a difference!
The Red River Watershed Association: <http://www.redriverwatershed.org/>
The Cumberland River Compact: <http://www.cumberlandrivercompact.org/>

Adapted from the Center for Watershed Protection website (<http://www.cwp.org/>)

<http://www.montgomerycountyttn.org/county/stormwater/>

Prepared by the Montgomery County Storm Water Coordinator