

River Smart Pledge



I care about protecting the quality of water in our watershed. I know that clean rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and aquifers are necessary for health, recreation, and the survival of all creatures.

I want to be **River Smart!** I commit to taking at least four of the following steps to protect our local water resources. I will strive to achieve all where appropriate for my home.

In maintaining my lawn, gardens, and landscape, I will... (PICK 2)

- nurture native trees, shrubs, and flowers around my home.** I will limit lawn areas. I will plant or allow natural buffers to grow at the edges of streams and wetlands.
- mow my lawn properly, following the rule "mow high and let it lie."**
I will use the highest setting on the mower, not cut more than one third of the height of the grass, and allow the clippings to lie as mulch.
- water my yard infrequently or not at all.**
I recognize that one inch of water a week is usually fine. I will not water when the sun is high or overnight. I will recognize that brown grass is dormant, not dead. It will return to life when rain comes.
- use fertilizer carefully or not at all.**
I will have the soil tested to determine what my yard needs. I will never apply phosphorus on an established lawn unless the soil is deficient. If necessary, I will use only a slow-release, low-concentration fertilizer or natural compost.
- abstain from using pesticides and herbicides.** I will protect children, pets, birds, and butterflies from lawn-care toxins. I will only spot treat if absolutely necessary.
- create natural places for the water to soak into the ground.** I will use swales or rain gardens to manage stormwater. I will limit paved areas and will use pervious materials when possible for patios, driveways, and walkways.

In maintaining other areas around my home, I will... (PICK 2)

- have my septic system pumped out regularly.**
- fix leaky faucets and toilets, and only buy water-efficient appliances and fixtures.**
- use non-toxic cleaners and "green" building materials in my home.**
- recycle all that I can (plastic, paper, electronics, etc) and safely dispose of hazardous chemicals at a collection event.**
- learn how to dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications.**
- dispose of pet waste in the trash or a pet-waste processor (better).**
- wash my vehicles in a carwash or on the grass, but not on my driveway.**

Address:

Print Name:

Sign Name:

**For more information
and River Smart tips, visit:
www.beriversmart.org**