How is Stream Corridor Restoration Accomplished?

Stream Corridor Restoration is the process of restoring, stabilizing and re-naturalizing our streams and the natural buffers along them:

Planning - An assessment is made of the conditions of the stream corridor with focus on areas of greatest disturbance.

Buffer Management - The buffer is the vegetated land strip adjacent to the stream. Healthy buffer strips stabilize a stream. Often this area has been invaded by low quality invasive trees, shrubs and other non-native plants, restricting sunlight from reaching the soil. Removal of invasives and planting native deep-rooted vegetation including higher quality trees and shrubs, improve buffer health.

Stream Channel Maintenance * - Channels need to be checked and maintained regularly for proper flow and blockages. Excess logs, debris, and trash should be removed to protect the channel. Pool riffles can be installed or enhanced to slow down water and provide in-stream habitat.

Streambank Stabilization * - Banks can be reinforced with rock, logs, or a combination of other **B**est **M**anagement **P**ractices, (**BMP**), installed by trained professionals.

Native Plants - One of the best ways to restabilize a stream is to reintroduce deep-rooted native plants. A partial list can be found inside this brochure. For a more complete list of suitable native plants for our area visit, www.indiancreekwp.org/Plants-for-Lake-County-Watersheds.pdf

* requires permits

For further reading:

- **Indian Creek Watershed Plan**, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, 2004
- **Restoring and Managing Stream Greenways, A Landowner's Handbook**, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, (CMAP), prepared for the Chicago Region Biodiversity Council of Chicago Wilderness
- **Watersheds, A Practical Handbook for Healthy Water**, by Clive Dobson and Gregor Gilpin Beck, 1999 Firefly Books

Why Stream Corridor Restoration is Important

Clean water sustains all life on earth. Only 2% of all the earth's water is freshwater. Restoring waterways helps improve water quality by cleaning and rebuilding the arteries -- the streams and rivers -- that sustain our earth. Everything we do to our streams and watersheds either upstream or downstream has a direct effect on future water quality. Upstream disturbances cause chain reactions further downstream that continually undermine how the natural drainage system works.

Our streams need help but cannot recover without our intervention and dedicated support.

The ***good news*** is streams recover fairly quickly when they have help. With intervention, water quality improves, flooding can be lessened, erosion and sediment problems decrease. Eventually, habitat and natural stream functions are restored. There are things we can all do to improve and maintain this valuable resource.

Within the Indian Creek Watershed, many groups have been actively working together since 1999 to improve streams, lakes and wetlands. This effort culminated in the development of a citizen driven **Indian Creek Watershed Plan**. See the **Indian Creek Project** listing on the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's website under "Planning".

This brochure was produced by:
- Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd. Local non-profit 501(c)3 organization. www.indiancreekwp.org
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, 333-B Peterson Road, Libertyville, IL 60048 **www.co.lake.il.us/smc/**
- Village of Lincolnshire, One Olde Half Day Road, Lincolnshire, IL 60069, 847-883 8600. *(With content review support from Witness Tree Native Landscapes of Geneva, IL)*

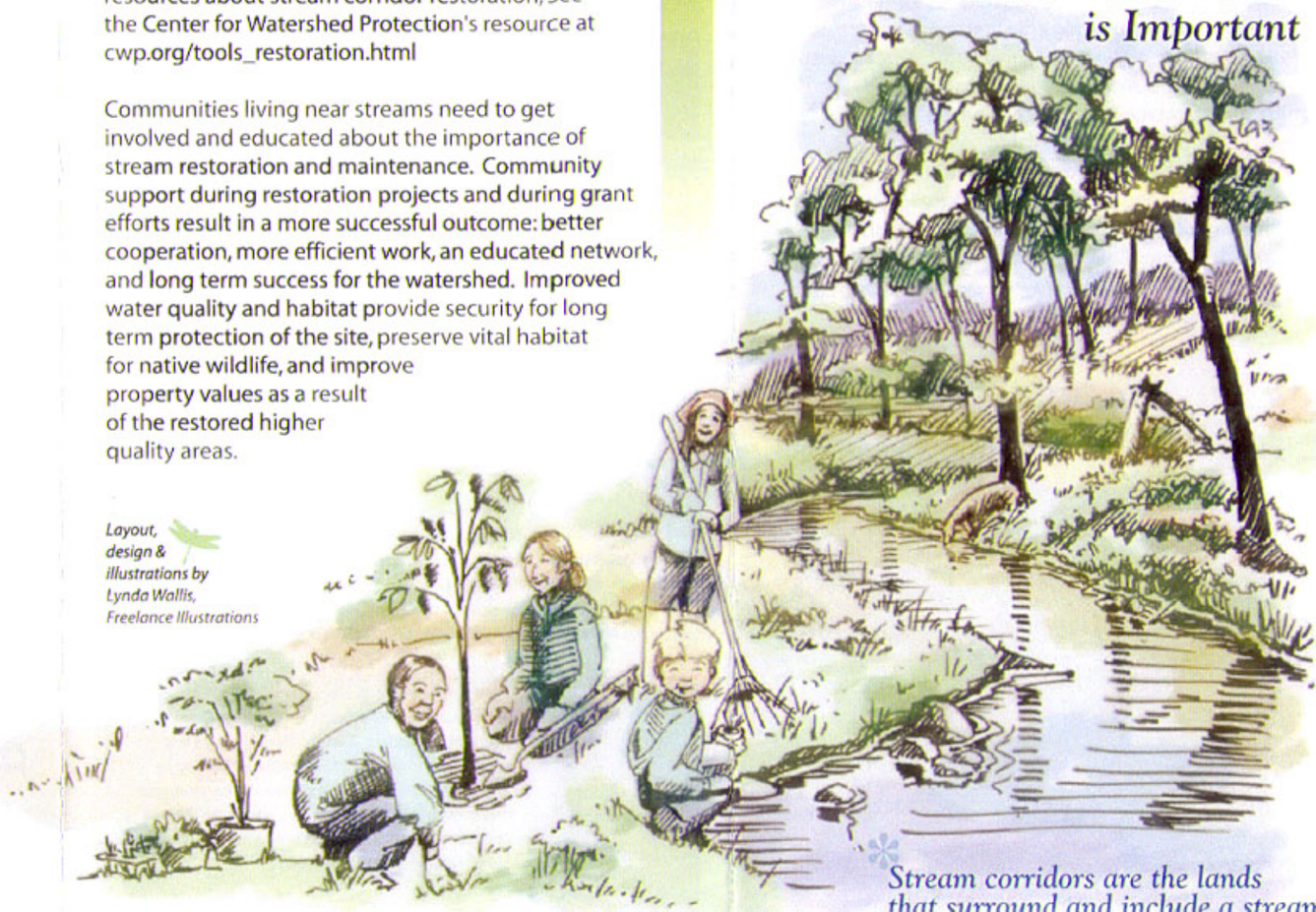
How to get involved!

Community education and involvement are key ingredients. The process simply begins with the first person, **YOU!** You can help by getting educated and involved in helping YOUR local stream. Our streams cannot recover without our intervention and dedicated support. For more information and resources about stream corridor restoration, see the Center for Watershed Protection's resource at cwp.org/tools_restoration.html

Communities living near streams need to get involved and educated about the importance of stream restoration and maintenance. Community support during restoration projects and during grant efforts result in a more successful outcome: better cooperation, more efficient work, an educated network, and long term success for the watershed. Improved water quality and habitat provide security for long term protection of the site, preserve vital habitat for native wildlife, and improve property values as a result of the restored higher quality areas.

Layout, design & illustrations by Lynda Wallis, Freelance Illustrations

Why Stream Corridor Restoration* is Important



Stream corridors are the lands that surround and include a stream