

Arkansas Stream Team

Get Your Feet Wet

Have you ever floated a stretch of river and thought it just begged for a cleanup? Is the high riverbank on your property seriously eroded? Have you quit swimming in the neighborhood creek because of unsightly algae, silt or trash in the stream? There's a solution to your problem, but it will require team effort to get the job done.

More than 90,000 miles of streams lace The Natural State, from the mighty Arkansas River to small creeks you can jump across. These rivers, streams, bayous, creeks and springs provide millions of hours of recreational activity, millions of gallons of water for drinking, irrigation and industry, and millions of dollars of income to the state and its residents.

Unfortunately, we've hurt the quality of many waterways in The Natural State. We've lost thousands of miles of free-flowing, natural streams to dams, industrial and agricultural pollution, in-stream and off-stream mineral mining, and numerous other impacts. In fact, recent studies indicate we've lost more than 25 percent of the state's smallmouth bass streams during the last century. Volunteers are needed to help resolve these problems.

Arkansas's Stream Team program provides opportunities for concerned citizens to become involved in stream and watershed conservation. Efforts revolve around three primary aspects of stream conservation: education, stewardship and advocacy.

Education. The Stream Team program provides information to increase understanding and appreciation of Arkansas's stream systems. Volunteers receive training in water-quality monitoring and streambank maintenance and restoration techniques.

Advocacy. People with first-hand knowledge of problems, needs and solutions are better equipped to weigh both sides of a stream issue and speak out on behalf of Arkansas's rivers and streams. The Stream Team program teaches volunteers how to work for the proper conservation of Arkansas's water resources.

Stewardship. The Stream Team program helps landowners and stream users plan and carry out projects by matching them with the appropriate agency or ongoing organizational efforts. Litter control, streambank stabilization, streamside tree plantings, improvement of fish and wildlife

The photos below show what a Stream Team can do to renovate a seriously eroding streambank. This type of successful stream improvement is occurring across the state. Many areas need assistance, so please volunteer to help keep our waterways in The Natural State.



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habitat, water-quality monitoring and other special projects are all possible. Working with landowners, volunteers have repaired hundreds of miles of eroding streambanks. They've monitored water quality on thousands of miles of streams and have picked up tons of litter.

Write to: State Stream Team Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205 and request a sign-up form, or call (800) 364-4263. Return the completed form and you will receive an inventory form and directions for surveying your chosen stream. Stream Team members can adopt a stream, determine its current situation and plan a project based on their initial survey. This is done with the landowner's approval and technical assistance from program sponsors. Projects can include litter pickups, water-quality monitoring, streambank erosion control, watershed improvement and more. Your imagination is the only limitation.



Riparian zone habitat along Arkansas waterways is the ideal environment for many terrestrial and aquatic amphibians and reptiles. Many of these species are very sensitive to pollutants and may pay the ultimate price for poor water quality. On a brighter note, they are the direct beneficiaries of restored riparian areas.



Education through hands-on experience is an excellent way to learn about how we can make a difference to improve water quality, create stream habitat for better fishing and increase terrestrial wildlife habitat.



Join the Arkansas Stream Team.

Get your feet wet and help us conserve Arkansas's streams for future generations.

The Arkansas Stream Team is co-sponsored by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Environmental Quality, Soil and Water Conservation Commission, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S.D.A Forest Service, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H RESQ Center, Arkansas Cattleman's Association, Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, Arkansas River Valley Feeds, Three Rivers Audubon Club, Arkansas Bass Association, Arkansas Smallmouth Bass Club, Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Trout Unlimited, Arkansas Canoe Club, Cargile Pork, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.