

CITY OF CORVALLIS  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

URBAN STREAM MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

**GOAL STATEMENT:**

The community's urban streams function as a major component of the storm water system. The streams and riparian corridors also support fish and wildlife, provide green space and increase livability. The goal of urban stream maintenance is to protect and enhance the ecosystem and provide storm drainage.

The five objectives for the maintenance of the urban streams are:

- 1)     **Safe Drainage:**  
          The community's urban streams provide for management and conveyance of storm water. Maintenance activities should maintain appropriate flood flow and storage capacities and protect adjacent properties from undue loss due to erosion and animal damage.
- 2)     **Neighborhood Enhancement:**  
          Urban streams enhance community livability and provide green belts that mitigate the harshness of the urban setting. Maintenance activities should maintain or improve the appearance of the stream.
- 3)     **Quality Fish and Wildlife Habitat:**  
          Urban streams, although they may not be pristine, can provide quality fish and wildlife habitat. Protecting natural resources and retaining fish and wildlife can improve livability and is a community responsibility. Maintenance activities should protect, restore or enhance habitat.
- 4)     **Good Water Quality:**  
          Good water quality is both regulation and livability based. Storm water regulations will soon require municipalities to maintain and/or improve stream water quality. Community livability is enhanced by good water quality. Maintenance activities should maintain or improve water quality.
- 5)     **Community Cooperation and Involvement:**  
          Urban streams are a community asset and can serve as a education tool. Citizens cooperation and participation may reduce maintenance needs. Maintenance activities should promote awareness, education and involvement of the community and adjacent property owners.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STREAM MAINTENANCE**

The maintenance of the community's urban streams will be conducted on a section by section basis. The maintenance needs for each section may vary depending on a number of factors. Listed below are the general guidelines that will be used.

1.     Foreign debris will be removed from the urban stream, (tires, shopping carts, car parts, metal drums etc.)
2.     A 15-25 foot fire break will be cut adjacent to any wooden structure (on City property only).
3.     A 15 foot vegetation break will be cut around all bridges.
4.     Trees or limbs that could obstruct flow will be removed from the flow channel.
5.     Bank erosion will be stabilized through the use of natural materials.
6.     Rodent burrow holes will be plugged or filled.