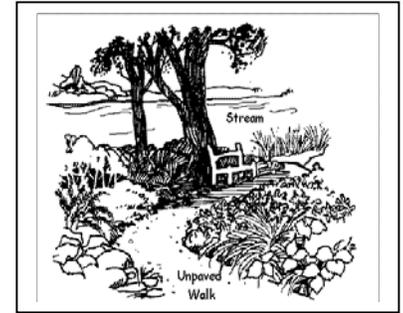


# Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2015

## Life on the Edge – of a Waterway



dsf.chesco.org/

Lawns/  
Gardens

Maintaining stream buffers and tree canopies

### WHY?

Car Care

A key component for improving water quality is the protection of environmentally sensitive areas of vegetation that exist near streams, lakes and ponds, and wetland areas. These buffer areas help protect water quality in local streams and the mainstem of the Blackstone.

Pet Waste

Vegetated buffers and tree canopies along stream banks shade waterways thus keeping temperatures down and dissolved oxygen up, provide detritus in the stream that serves as food and shelter for aquatic species, and stabilize stream banks, stream channels and floodplains from the erosion and scour of high velocity flood flows. These buffers also serve as the link between terrestrial wildlife and their source of water, food and cover. The roots absorb and "take up" nutrients and other pollutants from ground water as it migrates through the root zone. Plant stems and leaves filter pollutants and sediment from overland flow of storm water through passing through the buffer.

Clean  
Dishes/  
Clean  
Streams

Rooftop  
Runoff

Buffers prevent lawn chemicals from entering the waterway. Fertilizers washing into aquatic systems can cause algae blooms, which can ruin swimming and boating opportunities, create foul taste and odor in drinking water, and kill fish by removing oxygen from the water. Buffers also prevent sedimentation from erosion. Too much sediment can cloud the water, reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches aquatic plants, and raising water temperature thus reducing oxygen. Sediment can also clog the gills of fish or smother fish larvae.

Household  
Hazardous  
Waste

It is very important to protect and restore stream buffers and tree canopy to help preserve these environmentally sensitive areas. If you are lucky enough to have a waterway or wetland on your property, you have a unique opportunity to help improve water quality in your neighborhood and the Blackstone River. Here's how to create, protect and maintain buffer areas.

Pervious  
Surfaces

### HOW?

Stream  
Buffers

- ◆ Don't mow down to your stream. Leave at least 10 feet in native plant buffer to filter pollutants.
- ◆ If you fertilize your lawn, stop application at least 20 feet from water's edge to minimize runoff.
- ◆ Reduce surface water runoff and erosion by using permeable paving surfaces, directing runoff to planted areas and increasing groundwater recharge.



more →

- ◆ If your stream bank has begun to erode, seek expert help to repair it.
- ◆ Compost yard waste such as grass clippings, sticks, leaves, and brush; do not dump on the river's edge or into the water, as it can add nutrients that result in excessive aquatic plant growth just like fertilizer does.

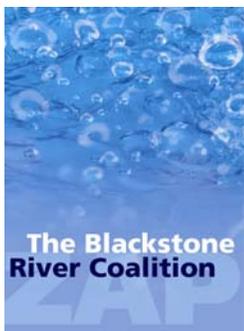
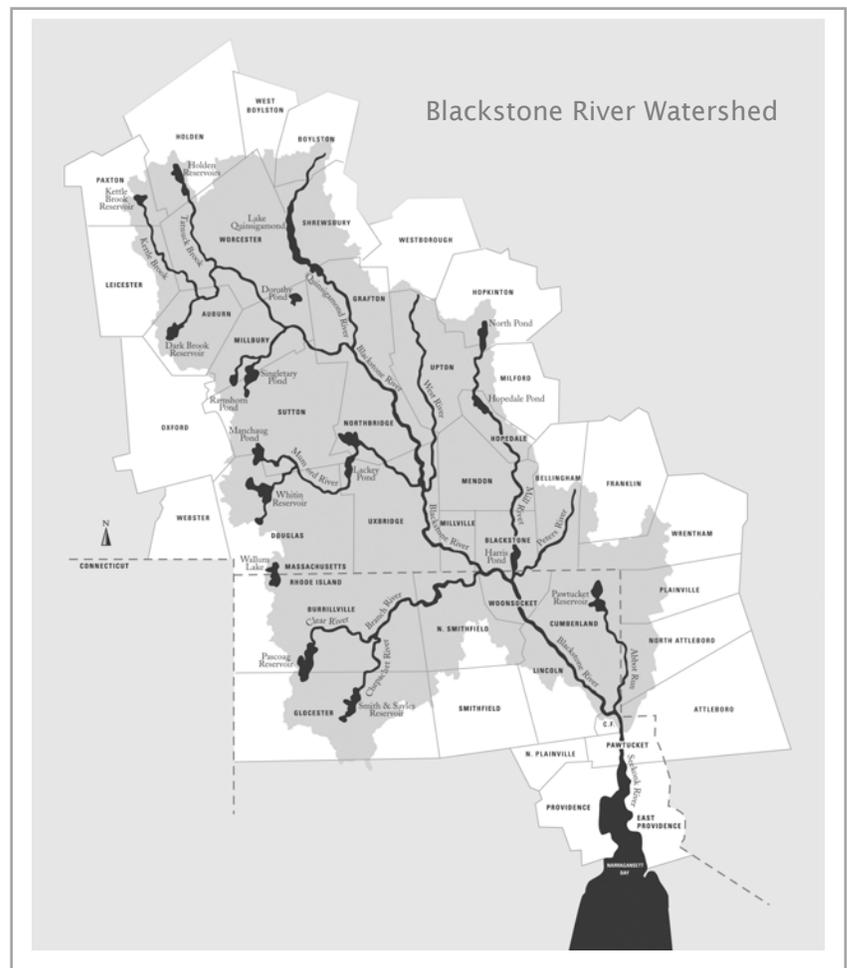
## RESOURCES

[http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/URI\\_HomeLandImprovement.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes/URI_HomeLandImprovement.pdf)

## BENEFITS

You help keep the watershed healthy, protecting fish and wildlife habitats. You also make your neighborhood more enjoyable.

If you live within the shaded area on the map, then you live in the Blackstone River watershed.



**The Blackstone River Coalition** is a partnership of numerous organizations working to restore the Blackstone River and improve the health of its watershed. For more information contact BRC Coordinator Peter Coffin at 508-753-6087 or [peter.coffin@zaptheblackstone.org](mailto:peter.coffin@zaptheblackstone.org).

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