

# Kane County's Guide to Living on a Waterway

Living along a pond, stream, or river in Kane County can be relaxing and enjoyable. However, as a waterfront landowner, you also have additional responsibilities and regulations to contend with. Following is a quick list of ways you can be a better waterfront land steward.

## For More Information

### Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

[www.FoxRiverEcosystem.org](http://www.FoxRiverEcosystem.org)

### Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership

[krep.bios.niu.edu](http://krep.bios.niu.edu)

### Lake County Citizen's Guide for Riparian Area Management

[www.co.lake.il.us/elibrary/publications/  
smc/riparian.pdf](http://www.co.lake.il.us/elibrary/publications/smc/riparian.pdf)

### UW Extension Shoreland Stewardship Practices Guide

[clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/shore.  
waterfront.pdf](http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/shore.waterfront.pdf)

## Where Can I Report Violations?

If you suspect someone is in violation of activities that require a permit, such as extending their shoreline, changing grade of the shoreline, or building activities within the floodplain, floodway or wetlands, please contact the Army Corps of Engineers at 312-353-6400, Ext. 4026 and the IDNR/OWR at 847-705-4341



Kane County  
Environmental  
& Building  
Management

719 Batavia Avenue  
Building A  
Geneva, IL 60134

# TOP TEN Things Streamside and Shoreline Property Owners Can Do To Protect Kane County Waters



*Kane County Department of Environmental  
and Building Management with funding from  
a Kane County Riverboat Grant*

## 1. Know Where You Live

Sure you know what road you live on – what town or township, and even what zip code. But do you know what watershed you live in? Do you know who lives upstream and downstream of you? Check out the enclosed map then go online to [www.co.kane.il.us/kcstorm/watersheds](http://www.co.kane.il.us/kcstorm/watersheds) to find out more about your 'watershed address'.

## 2. Shore up that Shoreline

Over time, you can lose valuable property through shoreline erosion. Stabilize your shoreline by using native vegetation and bioengineering techniques.

A buffer of native vegetation along a streambank holds the soil in place with deep roots and acts as a filter, reducing the speed of water across your yard, and allowing sediments to settle out before they clog our streams and rivers.

Permits are required for grading, installation of stabilization materials and structures like piers and docks.

## 3. Let Nature Be (But Keep it Flowing)

Fallen trees or snags provide excellent habitat and serve other useful purposes. Obstructions should be removed if they begin to cause flooding.

## 4. Don't Dump Debris

A natural, healthy shoreline includes plants, trees, and shrubs that shed leaves and other vegetative debris along the water's edge. But too much of a good thing is not good for the water. Grass clippings, leaf piles, and excess soil piles all pose a threat to healthy water. Keep those landscape debris polluters out of the waterways by using mulch piles away from the water's edge or bagging for landscape waste pickup.

## 5. Take Care of Your Septic

Septic system leakage and discharge pollutes our streams and lakes with nutrients. Septic tanks should be inspected and cleaned out every 2-3 years. For more information, see [www.kanehealth.com/PDFs/Environmental/SepticSystem.pdf](http://www.kanehealth.com/PDFs/Environmental/SepticSystem.pdf)

## 6. Keep the Objectionables Out

Bring household hazardous wastes to approved collection sites. Hazardous wastes (gasoline, solvents, oil paints, fertilizers, pesticides, expired medications etc.), if dumped in your backyard, down the drain, or down the gutter, will end up in our streams and rivers.

## 7. Show You're Skilled – Get Permits to Build

There are four (4) agencies that oversee construction activities on Kane County creeks and shorelines:

- ❖ Kane County Building Department or Municipal Building Permit Office
- ❖ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ❖ Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Office of Water Resources
- ❖ Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

A permit is required prior to most construction near water bodies. Failure to obtain permits prior to construction could be cause for fines and penalties.

## 8. Go Easy on the Green

Green, lush grass looks great on a ballfield, but the fertilizers and pesticides used to create that 'green carpet' effect can wreak havoc if they migrate into a stream or river. Try native plant gardens instead, or use grass species which don't require chemicals.

## 9. Join Forces

Interested in knowing more about your 'watershed neighborhood'? Find others in your area who are also trying to preserve and protect the local waters - watershed groups are active and the more people involved, the better! See Kane County's watershed information website: [www.co.kane.il.us/kcstorm/watersheds](http://www.co.kane.il.us/kcstorm/watersheds)

## 10. Enjoy Your View!

By following these guidelines, you can reap all the benefits of living with a waterfront property – birds singing, clear, clean water, and the pride of knowing you are doing a world of good for your downstream watershed neighbors!

## Agency Contacts for Permits

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**  
Regulatory Branch  
111 North Canal St. Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60606-7200  
312-846-5530 Ext 4026  
[www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)

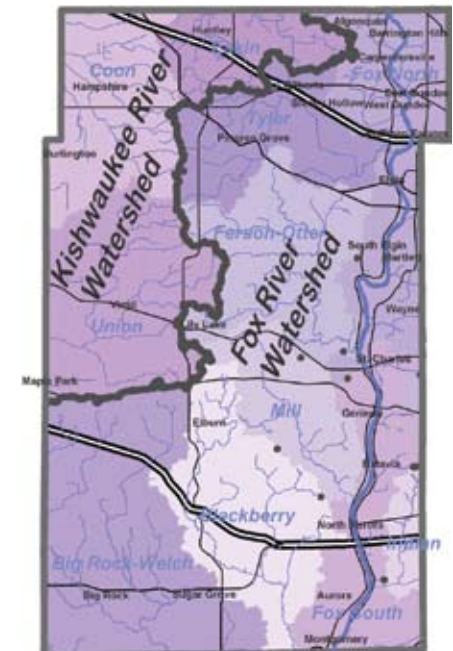
**IL Department of Natural Resources**  
2050 W. Stearns Road  
Bartlett, Illinois 60103  
847-608-3100 [www.dnr.state.il.us/owr](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/owr)

**Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District:**  
2315 Dean Street, Suite 100  
St. Charles, Illinois 60175  
630.584.7961 Ext. 3 [www.kanedupageswcd.org](http://www.kanedupageswcd.org)

**Kane County Development Department**  
719 Batavia Avenue  
Geneva, IL 60134  
630-208-3480 [www.co.kane.il.us/development](http://www.co.kane.il.us/development)

### Kane County Department of Environmental & Building Management

719 Batavia Avenue; Building A • Geneva, IL 60134  
630.208.5118 • [www.co.kane.il.us/kcstorm](http://www.co.kane.il.us/kcstorm)



Kane County River Basins and Subwatersheds

