Guidelines for Maintaining Streams in Your Community

DEP wants to help Pennsylvania communities complete all necessary stream work in a way that is environmentally-responsible, reduces the likelihood of future flooding problems, and complies with regulations. When in doubt, contact PA DEP for assistance before you start stream work projects.

Green Light—Go!

Proceed—These actions do not require DEP notification, pre-approval, or additional permits:

- Removing woody debris and manmade debris materials from the stream, banks, and riparian areas by hand or using handheld equipment
- Removing above items using heavy equipment from the bank; equipment should not enter the stream or dig into the streambed
- Removing gravel and debris in and close to bridges and culverts (Note: review permit conditions first)
- Crossing a flooded stream for emergency access to your property, if conditions are safe

Yellow Light—Slow Down!

Call DEP first—Notification, pre-approval, or emergency permits may be required:

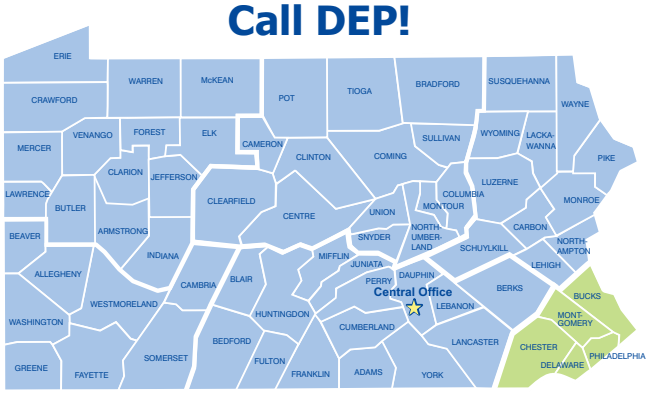
- Rebuilding roads and bridges across streams
- Streambank stabilization projects, including riprap
- Removing gravel bars from the stream channel using heavy equipment
- Repairing a bridge or culvert, or removing one in danger of failure

Red Light—Stop!

These actions require permits from DEP, and possibly from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or other agencies:

- Redirecting the flow of a stream by reshaping gravel bars, or moving gravel to the streambank
- Moving/relocating a stream
- Dredging or damming streams, or creating dikes
- Building a new bridge or culvert

Remember: When in Doubt, Call DEP!



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- **Southeast (Norristown) Regional Office**
  2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401
  Phone: **(484) 250-5900**

Visit the DEP website at **http://www.dep.pa.gov** for more information about relevant permits and programs.

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