



Did you know there are two major river basins in Kane County? The **Fox River** and the **Kishwaukee River** basins cover 95% of the County.

Each basin is crisscrossed by streams and creeks that nourish the plant and animal life around us. With your help, we can keep these local treasures healthy & keep those who enjoy them happy!



# Kane County Wants You to be a **CLEAN WATER Champion**

Top 10 Things  
**YOU CAN DO** to  
Help Protect  
Streams and Rivers  
in Kane County



Kane County Division of  
Environmental & Water Resources

# Top 10 Things YOU CAN DO to be a CLEAN WATER CHAMPION

## 1. Know Where You Live

Sure you know what road you live on, what town or township, and the 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, and then go [Surf Your Watershed](#) to find your “watershed address.”

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/>

## 2. Grow Deep Roots

Native plants hold the soil in place with deep roots and act as a filter, reducing the speed of water across your yard, and allowing sediments and pollutants to settle out before they clog and pollute our streams and rivers. Consider going native on your property—find useful native landscaping information through these organizations:

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

<http://northernkanecounty.wildones.org/>

## 3. Take Care of Your Septic

Septic system leakage and discharge pollutes our waterways with excess nutrients. Septic tanks should be inspected and cleaned out every 3-5 years, depending on the tank size and usage. Learn more through the Kane County Health Department:

[www.kanehealth.com/water\\_waste.htm](http://www.kanehealth.com/water_waste.htm)

## 4. Keep Objectionables Out

Bring household hazardous wastes (oil-based paints, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) to approved collection sites. If dumped in your backyard or

down the gutter, these wastes will end up in our streams and rivers. Get details from [Kane County Recycles](#):

[www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/pages/hhw](http://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/pages/hhw)

## 5. Hold that Water

Runoff from your roof and driveway can end up running off too fast into gutters and then local waterways, contributing to local flooding. Runoff also carries pollutants to streams and rivers. How do you keep water *on* your property? Install [rain barrels](#) at your downspouts, grow [rain gardens](#) to filter and use the runoff from your gutters, or just [redirect your downspouts](#) into lawn or garden areas. Learn more about these simple actions to manage stormwater runoff:

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

## 6. Keep Dirt in its Place

When soil erodes, it travels with rainwater to streams and rivers where it can smother fish habitat, clog drinking water intakes, and make river recreation less enjoyable. Keep soil in its place! The Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District is a great local resource:

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

## 7. Go Easy on the Green

Green, lush grass looks great on a sports field, but the fertilizers and pesticides used to create that 'green carpet' effect can wreak havoc if they migrate into our local streams or rivers. Try out native plant gardens or use alternative grass species—both will grow well without chemicals.

## 8. Plant more trees

Trees are great to have around; they provide shade and habitat, but also absorb and slow the runoff of stormwater—much better than turf grass does.

[www.treesforme.com/illinois.html](http://www.treesforme.com/illinois.html)

## 9. Join Forces

Interested in knowing more about your watershed? 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! Check out one of these local groups and join forces for protecting your watershed:

**Fox River Ecosystem Partnership**  
[www.foxriverecosystem.org/index.htm](http://www.foxriverecosystem.org/index.htm)

**Friends of the Fox River**  
[www.friendsofthefoxriver.org/](http://www.friendsofthefoxriver.org/)

**Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership**  
<http://krep.bios.niu.edu/>

## 10. Enjoy the Water!

By following these guidelines, you can do your part to keep the waters in Kane County clean, and be proud of knowing you are doing a world of good for your downstream watershed neighbors. Then go out and enjoy the rivers and streams in your neighborhood!

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## QUESTIONS?

### General Questions:

Kane County Division of  
Environmental & Water Resources  
630-208-5118

[www.countyofkane.org/FDER/Pages/ewrdiv](http://www.countyofkane.org/FDER/Pages/ewrdiv)

### To report something that doesn't look right (possible pollution, violations, etc.):

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
847-294-4000

[www.epa.state.il.us/water/](http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/)