



# The W.E. Pledge

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## The Water Enhancement Team Pledge Program—Top 10 Actions for Healthy Water

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No matter where you are in Salem, you are in a watershed. A watershed is an area where water drains to a common body of water. Salem has over 14,000 storm drains that lead to nearly 90 miles of streams. Rainwater runoff, also called stormwater runoff, flows untreated into storm drains and directly to local streams. Any pollution on the ground can be picked up by stormwater and flow to streams. Oil, pesticides, fertilizer, *E. coli* bacteria, trash, and heavy metals are just some of the pollutants picked up by stormwater and deposited into local streams. According to the EPA, urban runoff is the #1 source for stream pollutants. So, the water quality of a stream depends upon your activities at home.

### So, what can you do?

Fill out the following pledge. This pledge contains the top 10 tips to keep our waterways healthy. Commit to doing these things at home, and you can help keep local streams clean and reduce pollution.

*Our everyday behaviors affect streams.*

*Our choices can make a difference.*

### Contact the City of Salem's Clean Streams Team:

503-588-6211

[stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net](mailto:stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net)

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

[facebook.com/CleanStreamsClearChoices](https://facebook.com/CleanStreamsClearChoices)





## The Pledge

Look through the list of top 10 actions for healthy water and check the box for the actions you plan to take at home.

Print and post one copy in a commonly-used area where you will see it.

Send a copy to us by emailing the completed form to [stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net](mailto:stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net), or by mailing it to:

City of Salem  
Attention: The W.E. Pledge  
1410 20th Street SE, Bldg. 2  
Salem OR 97302

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## I pledge to:

- 1. Never dump anything down storm drains. Help keep storm drain grates near my home clear of leaves and debris so they can properly drain water.
- 2. Keep a "Clean Streams Yard" by landscaping with native plants and planting bare slopes. Let the lawn go dormant in the summer, or water only one inch per week. Ensure that irrigation water does not run off into the street.
- 3. Find natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizer, or if necessary, use only as needed and per package instructions.
- 4. Reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals in the house where possible by using the least toxic products for the job.
- 5. Pause before I plug the pipes! I won't throw trash in toilets or dump fats, oils, and grease down sinks.
- 6. Conserve water at home by taking shorter showers, turning off the water when brushing my teeth, only washing full loads of clothes and dishes, and retrofitting my home with low-flow fixtures.
- 7. Increase the amount of material I recycle, and find out if something can be recycled before throwing it in the trash.
- 8. Purchase and use reusable items such as water bottles, lunch containers, straws, shopping bags, etc. instead of using single-use plastic items.
- 9. Practice stream-friendly car care by keeping my car's engine tuned, fixing fluid leaks promptly, and washing my car on my lawn, or taking it to a commercial car wash.
- 10. Reduce the problem of animal waste on the ground by not feeding the ducks and geese in our parks and public areas and, if applicable, by picking up after my pet every time they go outside.