

# **LANDOWNER STREAM MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

Living along a river can be a source of pride for a landowner. It can also be the source of many questions. This information was developed to help answer some more commonly asked questions about managing property along a river. Rivers function the way they do for a reason. Changing their physical condition has varying consequences for other landowners and the aquatic wildlife. Resource professionals are available to help you accomplish your property management objectives and protect the integrity of your creek. Permits may be needed for various activities and are noted accordingly. This information is subject to change and was last updated in March, 2009.

## **CAN I REMOVE LOGJAMS?**

A property owner or a separate entity with the property owner's permission may be able to remove logjams from a stream. Contact the US Army Corps of Engineers to explain your method of removal and inquire about whether a permit is needed. Also contact the Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR) Forester with questions on possible uses of the woody material. Contact the floodplain administrator about where to place removed materials.

## **CAN I REMOVE FALLEN TREES?**

Property owners can remove fallen trees from a river. Removal is highly recommended in cases where the fallen tree lies partially or entirely across the river and blocks flow. This blocked flow can lead to bank and floodplain erosion. If the tree roots are securely anchored in the bank, removing the tree top and leaving the roots will help stabilize the bank. For removal of a few trees, contact a local tree service or arborist. Contact the floodplain administrator about where to place removed materials.

## **CAN I PLACE FILL IN THE RIVER?**

Placing fill material along a river must be permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio EPA. This activity is also subject to local floodplain and zoning regulations. Contact the Corps of Engineers, your county floodplain administrator, and your township or county zoning inspector for details.

## **CAN I REMOVE GRAVEL BARS OR OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE RIVER?**

Moving or removing material such as sand or gravel bars from a river may require permitting by the Corps of Engineers and the Ohio EPA. Contact the Corps of Engineers for details on permitting activities in streams. The Ohio Division of Mines and Reclamation must be contacted for a surface mine permit. Contact the Soil and Water Conservation District for technical assistance in assessing the environmental impacts of altering gravel bars.

## **CAN I STABILIZE THE RIVER BANK?**

Resource professionals should evaluate bank erosion areas before any type of stabilization practice is attempted. If stabilization is determined to be possible for a site, the stabilization method will dictate what types of approvals are needed. The county floodplain administrator must approve every type of project, and some projects may need Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA approval and possible permits.

## **CAN I REMOVE LIVE TREES ALONG THE CREEKS?**

Live trees can be removed from along a river. However, there may be legal restrictions in addition to the wildlife habitat loss and water quality benefit reduction. If the tree and its roots are to be removed, contact the Corps of Engineers. Call the local NRCS office to find out if a wetlands determination must be done. If you are interested in harvesting trees for profit, contact the forester, an informational pamphlet is available. If you are on non-

agriculturally zoned land, check with your county or township zoning inspector to determine if any restrictions apply. If you remove a tree from the stream bank, leaving the stump and roots is highly advisable to help protect the bank from erosion.

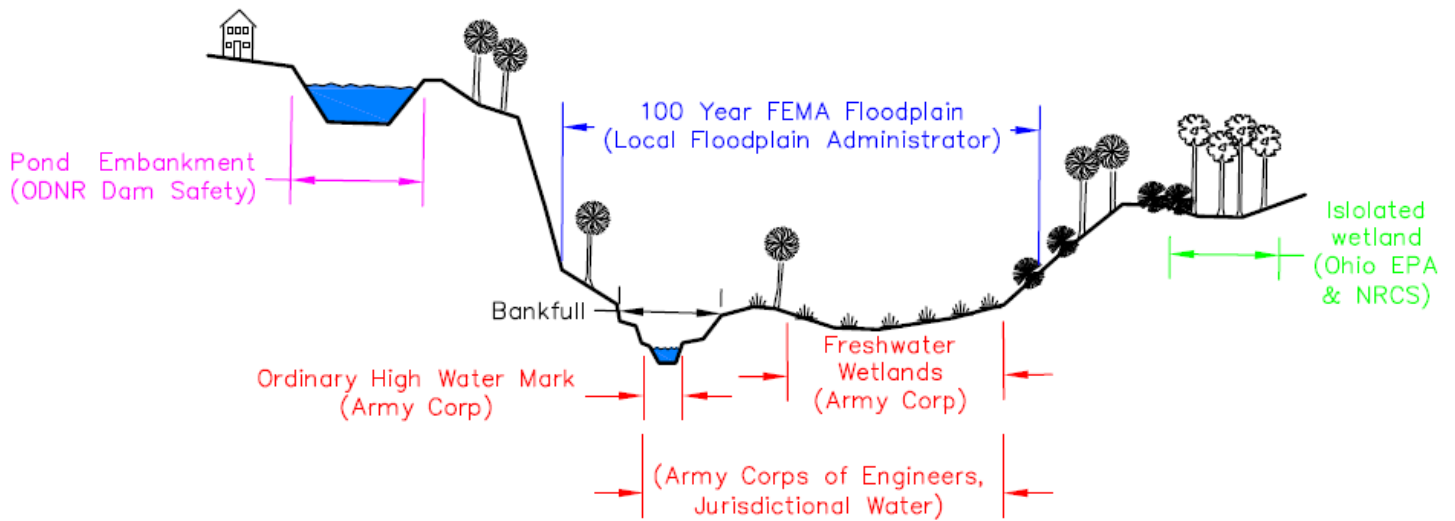
**CAN I CONSTRUCT A PERMANENT CREEK FORD (shallow crossing)?**

A permanent creek ford must be permitted by the Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA. Contact the Corps of Engineers for details on what type of permitting is required. The construction method and permanent alteration of the channel may have an adverse impact on the creek. This activity would also be subject to any local floodplain and zoning regulations. Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines are available for temporary crossing designs used during logging operations.

**CONTACTS:**

Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency	(740) 654-4357
Fairfield County Regional Planning – (floodplain admin.)	(740) 652-7110
Township Zoning Inspector	see your local phone directory under government
ODNR/Division of Mines and Reclamation (Robert Lasley)	(614) 265-6633
Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 401 Unit	(614) 644-2001
ODNR Forester (Jason Van Houton – call on Wednesdays)	(614) 265-6703
(Lisa Bowers – Urban Forester)	(614) 728-4210
US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District	(304) 399-5210
Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District/NRCS	(740) 653-8154

## What Permit Where?



### CONTACTS – Fairfield County:

#### Floodplain Administrator

(County non-incorporated limits)

Fairfield County Regional Planning

(740) 652-7110

(City or Village incorporated limits)

see your local phone directory under government

City of Lancaster

(740) 687-6614

City of Pickerington

(614) 833-2221

Village of Baltimore

(740) 862-4491

Village of Bremen

(740) 569-4788

Village of Buckeye Lake

(740) 928-7100

Village of Canal Winchester

(614) 837-7501

Village of Millersport

(740) 467-2333

Village of Sugar Grove

(740) 746-8406

Violet Township

(614) 382-5973

ODNR – Floodplain Administrator

(614) 265-6750

ODNR - Division of Dam Safety

(614) 265-6731

Natural Resource Conservation Service

(740) 653-5320

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, 401 Unit

(614) 644-2001

US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

(304) 399-5210