

# Core Curriculum

## YOUR WATERSHED NEEDS YOUR HELP!

### SCHOOL or HOME

- 1) Become a **Water Quality Steward** in your school or home. Make an inspection of the grounds for possible problems with **erosion** or **polluted runoff**. Make a detailed list or drawings of the problem sites along with some suggested **BMPs**. Show your findings to your teacher, principal, or parents.
- 2) Conduct a **recycling** project. Collect cans, newspapers, plastic bottles, and bags. Make arrangements to have them picked up or brought to the recycling center. Place a **litter** bag in your automobile and empty the garbage you collect in the trash bin at home.
- 3) Conduct a cleanup of the school grounds or yard of your home. Make sure to clean any **debris** away from storm drains and out of drainage ditches.
- 4) Plan a Water Quality Stewardship Day for your school or family to demonstrate all you've learned and to share with them the importance of being a Water Quality Steward.
- 5) Construct a garden out of recycled materials using hardy plants that need less watering and chemical use (xeriscape). Use **organic** gardening techniques. **Mulch** your plants to hold moisture and reduce watering. Plant in bare patches of soil.

### COMMUNITY

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and other government agencies offer a wide variety of opportunities for citizens to become actively involved in cleaning up and maintaining the health of the state and national water bodies. We need your help!

### INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP

This cleanup is held each year along the coasts and inland waters of the world. Volunteers fill out data cards identifying the debris they pick up along the coasts, islands and waterways. The event in the United States is usually held in September of each year. Mississippi: [www.masgc.org/cleanup](http://www.masgc.org/cleanup)

### STORM DRAIN MARKING

Volunteers mark storm drains and distribute flyers to the surrounding neighborhood. This program increases public awareness of urban runoff, and what citizens can do on their own property to reduce impacts on water quality. Mississippi: [NPS Section](#), MS Dept. Environmental Quality Phone: 601-961-5171

### STREAM STEWARDSHIP

This program is a volunteer stream monitoring program. Volunteers attend a 2-day workshop and then may adopt a section of a stream or river and monitor water quality, conduct clean-ups and/or improve stream habitat. Mississippi: [dveeder@mswf.org](mailto:dveeder@mswf.org)

This activity page was provided by special permission from The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. To learn more about the Watershed Harmony Environmental Puppet Theater or Study Guide, please visit [www.bayoutown.com](http://www.bayoutown.com).