

Top 10 Ways to Improve Your Watershed

Broad River, Madison County

1. Install **BMPs** on your property (see reverse)
2. Monitor and service your **septic tank**
3. Alert Georgia EPD, local code enforcement personnel, or the county extension agent to any potentially **problematic activity**
4. Talk with your neighbors and business partners about **healthy watersheds**
5. Become a member of the Broad River **Watershed Association**
6. Keep water in the streams by conserving it at home – **“dilution is the solution”**
7. Pick up and dispose of **pet waste**
8. Test soil before you use **fertilizer** – you might not need it
9. Buffer streams with **native plants and swales**
10. Participate in Georgia’s **Adopt-a-Stream** program

Recommended Best Management Practices

For the Broad River Watershed

These BMPs provide landowners and others with tools to improve water quality. EPD administers grant funding to assist with implementation, and other sources of information, such as the County extension office and the Georgia Adopt-a-Stream program, are excellent partners.

Limiting Livestock Access to Riparian Areas and Streams: Best implemented when producers have alternative water sources and shade for their livestock.

Vegetated Buffers/Filter Strips/Swales : Strips of vegetation next to an area of runoff. The runoff flows over the buffer or filter strip to allow sediment to be captured and allow water to be filtered into the soil.

Monitoring Malfunctioning Septic Tanks: Ensure that septic tanks are monitored and maintained through educational programs and/or ordinances.

Stackhouses for Poultry Litter: Poultry growers should consider stacking broiler litter for more than eight days to eliminate fecal coliforms in runoff from land-spread litter.

Wildlife Management: Measures designed to address animal overpopulation or the concentration and infiltration of specific animals into streams and lakes.

Educational Programs and Materials: Communities employ various methods to engage area residents, employers, and developers on the rules and efforts behind maintaining local water quality.

Stream Crossings: Designed to protect water quality and erosion by concentrating animal and livestock crossings over stable access points or structures.