



# PLEDGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE SPRUCE CREEK WATERSHED!

Everyone lives in a watershed! A watershed is an area of land that water flows across as it moves toward a common body of water, such as a stream, river, lake or coast.

What you do in and around your home impacts your watershed. Even the smallest home and yard changes can make a big difference along your waterfront and possibly save you money. Take the Protect Kittery Waters watershed pledge to commit to protect Kittery's water resources.

## The Problem

The rain-water that flows off our streets and yards can carry a nasty mix of heavy metals, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, yard waste, detergents, and animal feces! City storm drains deliver these substances directly to our streams and lakes, making life tough for the animals that live there. It's tough for people too — water pollution often prevents us from enjoying our own waterways.

## The Solution

We are all citizens of a watershed. The problem of water pollution must be solved just as it was created; by the combined actions of all citizens who live and work in the watershed. If each of us "Takes the Pledge" to change a few of our daily habits, we can bring protect the waters of Kittery and Eliot.



## Take the Watershed Pledge!

Taking the Pledge is simple:

1. Discuss with your family the activities and changes you are willing to make.
2. Fill out the pledge form below or visit [www.protectkitterywaters.org/pledge](http://www.protectkitterywaters.org/pledge) to take the pledge online.
2. Check the boxes next to the activities you choose to adopt or continue.
3. Submit the form with your completed information.
4. Print and hang the pledge where your family will see it every day.

We hope you will consider the impacts of your household activities and make a few simple changes. Once you see how easy it is to make one or two changes, you may decide to make a few more.

**If you pledge to adopt or continue 5 watershed-friendly practices, you'll receive a Protect Kittery Waters yard sign! If you can pledge for 6 to 10 practices, you'll get an extra rain drop added to your sign. And, the highest honor – get all 3 drops if you pledge to adopt 11 or more practices!**



### Spruce Creek Watershed Improvement Project

Town of Kittery, Maine  
200 Rogers Road Extension  
Kittery, Maine 03904  
[www.protectkitterywaters.org](http://www.protectkitterywaters.org)

## YOUR PLEDGE FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### As a citizen of the watershed, I pledge to adopt or continue the following practices:

#### Build a Better Buffer

- Keep or plant gardens as a buffer at the base of hills, in ditches, and along the road and water's edge

#### Care for Your Lawn

- Reduce the amount of my yard that is planted in grass
- Cut the grass higher and leave clippings on lawn to increase water absorption, reduce run-off, and naturally fertilize the grass
- Use less or no pesticides, fertilizers, and water on lawn and gardens

#### Prevent Erosion

- Minimize erosion along driveway and road and around my property
- Mulch and plant bare spots to reduce soil erosion – especially on slopes and at the waters' edge

#### Garden Smart

- Landscape with native plants where possible
- Keep trash, debris, fall leaves, and lawn clippings away from ditches, streams, and the water's edge
- Compost yard waste away from streams and the shoreline

#### Reduce Runoff

- Direct downspouts toward plant beds and grass and away from hard surfaces
- Use a rain barrel to collect rooftop rain and provide free water for your lawns and gardens
- Create rain gardens to capture and slow down runoff
- Where possible, reduce paved surfaces around my home by using gravel, bricks, or interlocking blocks

#### Keep It Clean

- Pick up after pets and dispose of the waste in the trash or toilet
- Have my septic system inspected and pumped at least every 3 to 5 years
- Use biodegradable soaps and minimize toxic household products
- Never dump toxic materials down drains or on the ground

#### Spread the Word

- Encourage my friends and neighbors to take the watershed pledge

*Mail this form back to us – and we'll send along your yard sign if you've pledged 5 or more practices!*