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# Richland Creek Watershed Alliance



## A WATERSHED IS COMMON GROUND

*A watershed is a land area that drains water flowing above and below the surface to a single resource.*



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Why should we care?

*Water is essential for all living things....  
Streams are life flowing....  
What is good for fish is good for people....  
Water is a limited resource.*

- Improve Water Quality
- Protect Aquatic Ecology
- Recreational Enjoyment
- Flood Defense

### ***Water is a vital and distinct compound on Earth.***

Our sustenance, health and economy are dependent on clean water. Lakes, rivers and streams provide water resources for agriculture, drinking supply, fisheries, recreation, transportation and energy production. Streams replenish our larger waterways.

### ***Richland Creek is a valuable spring-fed perennial stream needing restoration and protection.***

Richland Creek watershed currently has 20 stream-miles federally listed as "impaired" — not meeting the regulatory requirements designated for aquatic habitat and recreational use. Richland Creek faces many urban challenges — loss of riparian, run-off pollution, alteration and excessive withdrawal. RCWA tackles big environmental issues on little financial resources. Everyone benefits from stream conservation.

### ***Richland Creek has historical significance.***

*Father of Nashville*, General James Robertson, built the first brick house in Nashville (1787) along the stream he named Richland Creek. Coined the "western edge of civilization" in 1796, Richland Creek became a battle line between the south and north (Battle of Nashville) in 1864.

**RCWA**  
**P.O. Box 92016 Nashville, TN 37209**  
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### You can help!

*RCWA, P.O. Box 92016 Nashville, TN 37209*  
*"I support the Richland Creek Watershed Alliance (RCWA) mission — to educate, advocate and participate in activities and scientific research to improve, protect and enhance the sustainability of the Richland Creek watershed."*

<b>Date</b>		<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Print Name</b>		<b>Email</b>	
<b>Address</b> (please include zip code)		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Please check one: _____ \$25 INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP</b>			
_____ \$50	_____ \$100	_____ \$200 DONATION	
_____ \$250	_____ \$500	_____ \$1000 BUSINESS SPONSOR	

# Some Accomplishments

- Facilitated 17 creek clean-ups — removed 40 tons of stream debris
- Created documentary, *A Creek Story* about the organization and watershed
- Retrofitted 75 rain barrels
- Implemented 2 rain gardens
- Successfully advocated to reclaim riparian area at Nashville's new West Police precinct (54,000 sq ft)
- Prompted and contributed to the TN Wildlife Resources Agency Instream Flow study
- Secured improvement to the rerouting design for the Creek around the rock quarry after the flood — saved hundreds feet of original stream channel
- Implemented a stream monitoring program for Richland Creek
- Engaged hundreds of stakeholders in projects and workshops
- Formed many partnerships and collaborations

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## What is a Riparian Corridor?

The interconnected land area of a stream or river that provides food, shelter and movement for many kinds of wildlife.

Riparian, derived from the Latin "ripa," (riverbank) refers to the land area and plant ecology along waterways. The riparian corridor includes the stream, vegetation and flood zone that constitute wildlife corridors. Multitudes of animal species are dependent upon healthy riparian corridors for food, water, shelter and movement. Unfortunately, many riparian zones have diminished, or have been degraded to a point they no longer are suitable to provide wildlife habitat and migration.

The riparian and aquatic ecosystems share resources and the extent of the riverbank affects the health of streams. Riparian vegetation filters-out pollution and prevents stream bank erosion. The tree canopy cools water temperature, which helps maintain healthy levels of dissolved oxygen. Riparian zones may only occupy 1% of the landscape but their purpose is unique and more diverse compared to other landscapes.

Reclamation and restoration of riparian corridors additionally makes good flood defense.

"Mayor Dean tours Richland Creek April 30 while volunteers remove debris as part of Nashville Waterways Recovery Project," *Impact Nashville*.



RCWA JOINED MAYOR'S INITIATIVE — REMOVED 16 TONS OF FLOOD DEBRIS

Connections with neighborhoods, government and businesses are important for preservation and restoration of the natural environments in cities. Our watershed includes many people and urban activities that need to be involved with stream conservation. Everyone helps pass along the integrity of the resource to future generations.



Volunteers prepare for RCWA stream monitoring study to evaluate dissolved oxygen levels around a low-head dam on Richland Creek — August 2011.



Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and RCWA volunteers conduct fish survey — assess Richland Creek's biotic integrity in July 2010.