

Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance Guiding Principles

To help achieve its mission, the Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance believes the following principles must be acknowledged and applied:

1. The overall ecological health of the Eagle Creek Watershed includes physical, chemical, biological and aesthetic aspects of the aquatic resources. All have equal value and cannot be considered separately. Most human activities in the watershed impact one or more of these aspects to varying degrees.
2. Water quality and aquatic life are linked to and dependent upon the surrounding landscape.
3. To protect water resources, it is necessary to maintain or restore natural surface water flow paths, minimize stormwater runoff volume and increase infiltration and ground water recharge.
4. All types of land uses and changes to them must be carefully managed to protect watershed ecological health.
5. Headwaters, other tributary streams and the various segments of Eagle Creek, itself, all function differently from one another and require different techniques for their protection. Further, each stream's functionality steadily changes along its length. Therefore, maintaining the natural continuity of each stream corridor is an important determinant of stream health.
6. Headwater streams (the smallest starting points) and the wetlands that often form them, are critical to watershed health, and must be preserved and/or enhanced.
7. Various water contaminants are known to be present in the watershed. Efforts should be undertaken to reduce or eliminate existing contamination – and to prevent any increases.