

# HELP THE HELLBENDER



Join Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden in helping Hellbenders with actions you can do at home!

Here are some ideas of how you can help hellbenders in your own backyard!

## Improve Water Quality

Install rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious pavement at your home.

## Cut the Line

If you hook a hellbender when fishing, cut the line and let it free.

## Helpful Farming

Farmers can utilize strategies such as cover crops, no-till, buffer strips, filter strips, and grassed waterways to reduce their impact.

## Don't Move Rocks

Don't move rocks near rivers- they are the home to many animals like hellbenders!

## Leave no Trace

When outdoors- clean up after yourself and leave all areas the way you found them.

## Safe Sun Protection

Prevent chemical run-off from entering waterways by using reef-safe sunscreen!



**Step 1: Cut out and color the Hellbender on the back of this pamphlet.**

**Step 2: Participate in an action to help hellbenders in your own backyard.**

**Step 3: Share a picture with your hellbender on social media. Tag Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden and use #HellbenderHangout**



Visit [meskerparkzoo.com](http://meskerparkzoo.com) to learn more!

Visit [helpthehellbender.org](http://helpthehellbender.org) to learn more!

**ACROSS**

- 4 A hellbender's favorite food 7
- 10 Long ago friend of the hellbenders (2 words)
- 10 Gem resembling a string of hellbender eggs
- 12 Hellbender home
- 14 Egg → \_\_\_\_\_ → Adult
- 15 Japanese giant salamander
- 16 Average adult hellbender length (in feet)
- 17 Hellbender "lungs"
- 18 Hellbenders are North America's largest aquatic \_\_\_\_\_

**DOWN**

- 1 Chinese giant salamander (3 words)
- 2 Animal hellbenders are often confused with
- 3 Animal that can live part of its life on land and part in water
- 4 "Hidden lungs"
- 5 A sick hellbender? (2 words)
- 6 Number of toes on a hellbender's front foot
- 8 Biggest threat to hellbender habitat
- 9 Hellbender dad (2 words)
- 11 River in Indiana with hellbenders
- 13 Southern mountains where Cryptobranchus a. bishopi live

# Hellbenders

