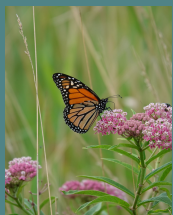




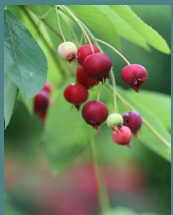
Planting

When establishing a new riparian buffer or enhancing an existing one, be sure to use native plants. Native plants are adapted to local soil and moisture conditions, support wildlife, and require little care once established. There are over 2,000 plants native to Pennsylvania - so there's a native plant that would be perfect to meet your gardening goals!



Pollinators

Include species such as swamp milkweed to support Monarchs and other pollinators.



Edible

Many edible native plants, such as serviceberries, are great for riparian buffers.



Wildlife

Native cattails establish quickly and attract wildlife such as Red-winged Blackbirds.

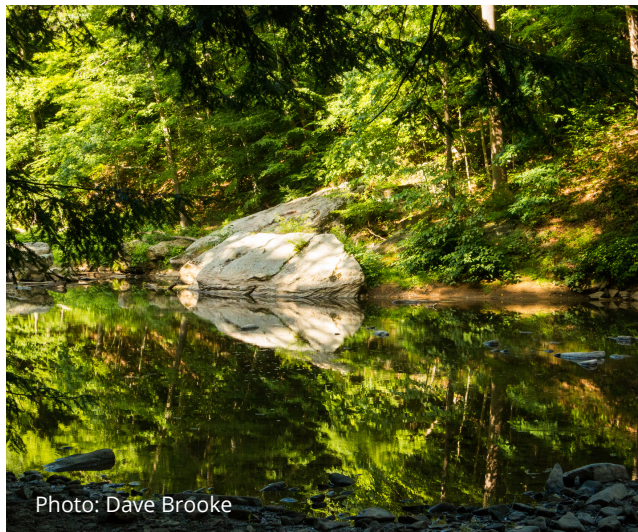


Photo: Dave Brooke

Buffer Resources

Planting is easy, fun, and there are many low-cost ways to get started. In Pennsylvania, a variety of programs exist to help property owners re-establish streamside vegetation.

Contact Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania at (724) 295-3589 for more information and resources.



www.buffalocreekcoalition.org



Riparian Buffers

Tools for Clean Streams



Photo: Land Studies

Riparian buffers provide environmental, economic, and recreational benefits. They are simple and cost-effective.

What is a Riparian Buffer?

A riparian buffer is a vegetated area near a body of water -- streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, or wetlands -- which helps to shade and protect water from the impact of adjacent land uses.



Photo: Allegheny College

Getting the Most Out of Your Buffer

- **The wider, the better.** Buffers should be no less than 15' on either side of the stream. 35' - 100'+ on either side is recommended, where possible.
- **Forested buffers are most effective.** Native trees and shrubs yield the most buffer benefits.
- **Native wildflowers and grasses are also a good choice.** Most effective when mixed in with a forested buffer.
- **Give the stream a little space.** Even an un-mowed strip near streambanks provides some clean water benefits.

Riparian Buffer Benefits

Planting and preserving riparian buffers results in many positive outcomes:

- Stabilizes streambanks
- Improves water quality and filter pollution
- Helps to reduce flooding
- Provides food and shelter for birds, pollinators, and wildlife
- Increases property values
- Supports recreation activities, like fishing and hiking
- Keeps streams cool, which improves aquatic habitat for sensitive organisms, like native and wild trout
- Helps keep drinking water clean
- Adds beauty and privacy to your property
- Prevents erosion



Wildlife such as Great Blue Herons benefit from streamside vegetation, also called riparian buffers.



Photo: James River Association

Established Riparian Buffers

- Include native shrubs, trees, wildflowers, and/or grasses.
- Have stable banks.
- Provide wildlife and fish with more opportunities to thrive.
- Promote good water quality.
- Allow cooler, slower moving water to protects habitat onsite & downstream.



Photo: Credit Valley Conservation

Without Riparian Buffers

- There are few or no trees or shrubs.
- Banks are often eroding, impacting property use and water quality.
- Water is warmer & faster moving
- There are less fish and wildlife.
- Impacts are felt on the property and downstream.