

Plants for Streamside Buffers

In order to successfully restore a streamside buffer, it is important to plant appropriate vegetation. Below are some native plants that can be used for streamside restoration in wet, moderate, and dry conditions

In Wet Areas...

- silver maple
- swamp white oak
- sycamore
- highbush blueberry
- river birch
- black chokeberry
- silky dogwood
- winterberry
- black willow
- spicebush



Witchhazel



In Moist Areas....

- red maple
- green ash
- pin oak
- American beech
- yellow birch
- red-osier dogwood
- spicebush
- ninebark

In Dry Areas....

- white pine
- black cherry
- white oak
- shagbark hickory
- sugar maple
- black walnut
- witchhazel
- hop-hornbeam

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Maintain or restore streamside buffers
- Avoid mowing near a streambank, lake shore, or wetland
- Minimize the removal of native vegetation in streamside buffers
- Minimize the placement of buildings and other impervious surfaces in streamside buffers
- Promote these concepts with friends and neighbors
- To learn more, please contact the Bushkill Stream Conservancy at the address below or visit our website.



Bushkill Stream Conservancy members help to plant a streamside buffer.

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STREAMSIDE BUFFERS

WITHIN THE BUSHKILL CREEK WATERSHED

BUSHKILL STREAM
CONSERVANCY

www.bushkill.org



Streamside Buffers

Streamside buffers are the areas of land adjacent to waterbodies. A streamside buffer serves as a transitional zone between terrestrial systems and aquatic systems.

Streamside buffers play an important role in protecting water resources by:

- Stabilizing the soil, especially on the streambank
- Protecting streambanks
- Protecting surrounding areas from floods
- Protecting water quality by catching and retaining sediment, debris, nutrients, and heavy metals
- Providing extremely valuable wildlife habitat
- Stabilizing water temperature
- Providing aesthetic beauty
- Contributing to landscape character

Profile of a streamside buffer

From "Riparian Buffer Management" by Robert L. Tjaden & Glenda M. Weber, Wye Research and Education Center, Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland.

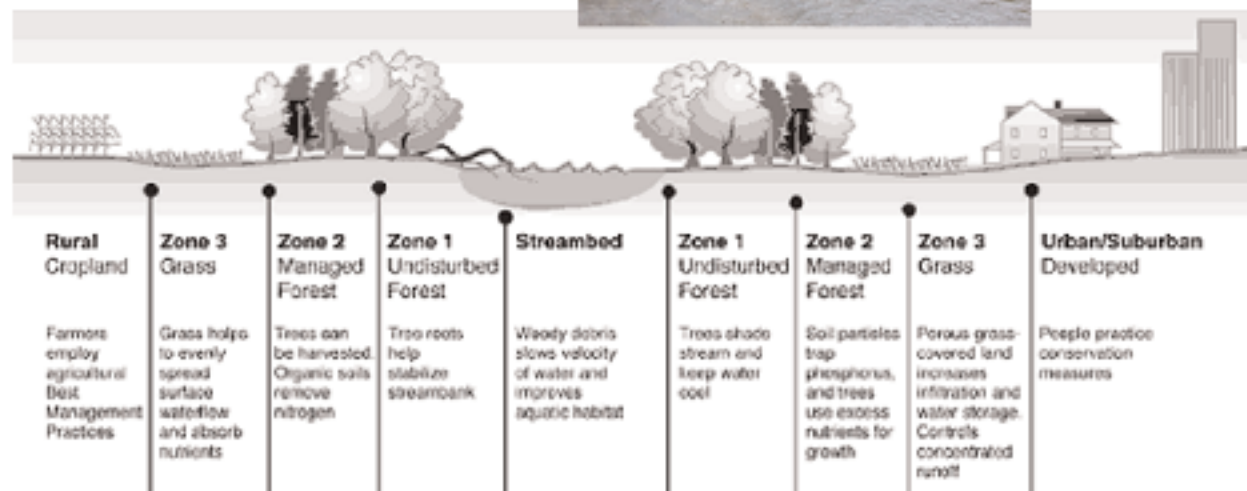


Photo above shows healthy streamside buffer area. Photo to the left shows an area with no streamside buffer.

Photos from the Huron River Watershed Council Website

STREAMSIDE CORRIDOR RESTORATION

Increased stormwater runoff can lead to accelerated erosion on streambanks.

Streamside restoration often involves grading the slope, redirecting and/or moderating the flow of water, stabilizing the bank, and protecting the graded surface from further erosion.

In addition, the health of a streamside buffer is often influenced by the surrounding land use. Restoration efforts may include reducing the impacts of the surrounding area by using Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as stormwater management facilities.

As development pressure increases, the need to protect and restore streamside areas increases. The goals of streamside corridor restoration are:

- to restore the natural hydrology of the area
- to reestablish a natural, vegetative corridor
- to restore instream habitat.



A state Growing Greener grant to the Conservancy was used to correct severe stream bank erosion in Jacobsburg Park.