

ESTABLISHING A BUFFER



1. Plant native trees and shrubs along both sides of a stream.
2. The minimum width for a buffer is at least 35 feet wide on both sides of a stream. A wider buffer offers more benefits for water quality and wildlife habitat.
3. Maintenance is an important component of a buffer. Mowing and herbicide can help control competition around the trees and shrubs.
4. Non-native or invasive plants should be controlled to deter them from taking over a buffer.



LANCASTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

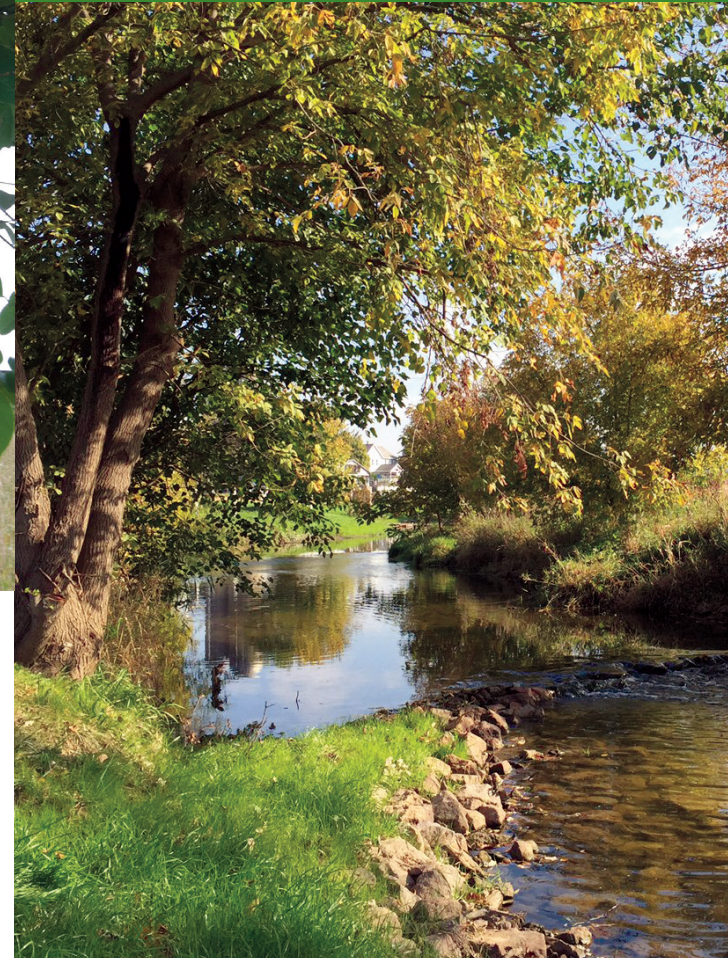
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RIPARIAN BUFFERS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE



Promoting the conservation and good stewardship of Lancaster County's natural resources

BENEFITS OF RIPARIAN BUFFERS



Vegetation along streambanks can help to slow and disperse flood waters.



Plants stabilize the streambank and help to reduce erosion.



Trees shade the stream and lower water temperature.

Lower water temperature increase water oxygen levels.



Forested riparian buffers filter sediment and nutrient run off from land areas.



NATIVE PLANT OPTIONS FOR A RIPARIAN BUFFER

PERENNIALS

SWAMP MILKWEED



Bloom: May to June

Conditions: Moist to wet locations. Marshes, meadows, wooded areas. Full sun to partial shade.

Characteristics: Grows 4-6', produces pink to reddish flowers and has an interesting seed pod. It can tolerate drought.

BLUE VERVAIN



Bloom: June to October

Conditions: Grows moist to wet locations. Found in meadows, floodplains, swamps

Characteristics: Bright blue to purple flowers, height of 1-5', bright flowers, herbal uses. Beneficial to small mammals, insects, butterflies, and song birds. Nut like fruit.

COMMON IRONWEED



Bloom: August to October

Conditions: Moist to wet, streambanks, fields, marshes. Full to partial shade.

Characteristics: Grows 3-5', produces purple flowers and valuable to butterflies

JOE PYE WEED



Bloom: July to October

Conditions: Dry to Wet locations. Floodplains, meadows. Full to partial shade.

Characteristics: Grows 1-10'. Flowers are pink to purple in color. Beneficial to song birds, insects, and butterflies.

BONESET



Bloom: July to October

Conditions: Moist to Wet. Found in floodplains, swamps, streambanks, meadows. Full sun to shade

Characteristics: Grows 1-5'. Beneficial to song birds, butterflies, and insects.

NEW ENGLAND ASTERS



Bloom: August to October

Conditions: Moist areas, open woods, meadows. Full to partial shade.

Characteristics: Grows 1-6', violet flowers. Tolerates drier soils and some seasonal flooding. Beneficial to butterflies and small mammals.

SHRUBS

SHADBUSH SERVICEBERRY



Bloom: April to May

Conditions: Prefers moist to wet soils, found in swamps and thickets, full to part shade

Characteristics: White flowers, edible fruit in June, Birds, wildlife, and pollinators use this shrub.

COMMON BLACKBERRY



Bloom: May to July

Conditions: Shade tolerant, dry fields, open woods

Characteristics: White flowers, edible black fruit. High pollinator and wildlife value.

RED CHOKEBERRY



Bloom: March to May

Conditions: Full to partial shade. Dry to wet areas, forested wetlands, upland forests, fields

Characteristics: Grows 1-13', White purple tinged flowers, red berry in September. Song birds and small mammal use this plant.

HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY



Bloom: April to June

Conditions: Full sun to full shade, dry to wet areas, forested wetland, dry to wet woods, streambanks

Characteristics: Grows 6-12', White to pink tinged flowers, black fruit in July, edible berries, high wildlife value.

HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY



Bloom: May to July

Conditions: Full sun, found in wetlands, wet woods. Does not tolerate drought.

Characteristics: Up to 16' tall, white flowers, with red berries. Provides winter food for wildlife.

SILKY DOGWOOD



Bloom: May to July

Conditions: Full sun to partial shade, moist woods, riparian areas.

Characteristics: White flowers, blue fruit in the fall. Great wildlife habitat, fruit eaten by birds.

photo source www.minnesotawildflowers.info

TREES

WILD PLUM



Bloom: April to May

Conditions: Full to partial shade, dry to moist areas, found in woods, pastures, stream sides

Characteristics: White flowers, grows to 20-35', orange, red fruit in August. Edible fruit for

PERSIMMON



Bloom: June

Conditions: Full sun to partial shade. Dry to moist areas, open fields, deciduous woods.

Characteristics: Greenish yellow to cream. Fruit in fall. High Wildlife value, edible fruits

TULIP POPLAR



Bloom: June

Conditions: Full to part sun, moist areas, bottomland woods, lower slopes.

Characteristics: Fast growing, important to song birds, small mammals, and hummingbirds.

RED MAPLE



Bloom: March to April

Conditions: Dry to wet soils. Shade tolerant

Characteristics: Leaves are a variety of colors in the fall.

RED BUD



Bloom: April to May

Conditions: Partial sun to full shade, dry to moist areas. Found in river bottoms and along streambanks.

Characteristics: Grows to a height of 20-35'. Pink to lavender flowers. The fruits are pod shaped. Important to small mammals, song birds, butterflies. .

AMERICAN CRABAPPLE



Bloom: April to May

Conditions: Full sun, moist areas, forest edges, streams, fields

Characteristics: Pink to white flowers, fruit in early fall. Attracts bees, fruit is sour. High wildlife value.

SHAGBARK HICKORY



Bloom: May to June

Conditions: Full sun, moist soils, lowland valleys, upland slopes.

Characteristics: Yellow green flowers, dark nut in early fall. Important to songbirds, small mammals, and waterfowl

PAGODA DOGWOOD



Bloom: May to June

Conditions: Shade tolerant, thickets, woods

Characteristics: White flowers with bluish-black fruit, Provides food and cover for wildlife

photo source University of Kentucky

AMERICAN SYCAMORE



Bloom: May to July

Conditions: Full sun to partial shade, moist woods, riparian areas.

Characteristics: White flowers, blue fruit in the fall. Great wildlife habitat, fruit eaten by birds.

photo source forestryimages.org

BASSWOOD



Bloom: June to July

Conditions: Partial sun to full shade, Most areas, woods and slopes.

Characteristics: Yellow flowers, important pollen source for honey bees. High wildlife value

photo source www.extension.iastate.edu

SWAMP WHITE OAK



Bloom: May

Conditions: Wet to moist soils. Sun to partially shaded.

Characteristics: Very important for a variety of wildlife.

photo source www.extension.iastate.edu

RIVER BIRCH



Bloom: May to June

Conditions: Wet to moist soils. Shade intolerant

Characteristics: Most common along streams and rivers

photo source <https://arbordayblog.org>



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