

Losing Ground?

Allowing trees and shrubs to grow along stream banks protect your land and the creek.

Actively planting trees and shrubs is an excellent way to protect West Virginia's streams. Another option is to simply stop mowing to the edge of your stream bank to allow natural regeneration of trees and shrubs to occur.

Benefits of trees and shrubs on stream banks

- **Reduces erosion**
- **Filters sediment and pollutants from runoff**
- **Improves privacy and tranquility**
- **Reduces flooding impacts**
- **Provides shade for you and the fish**
- **Attracts wildlife by providing food and shelter**
- **Increases property value**



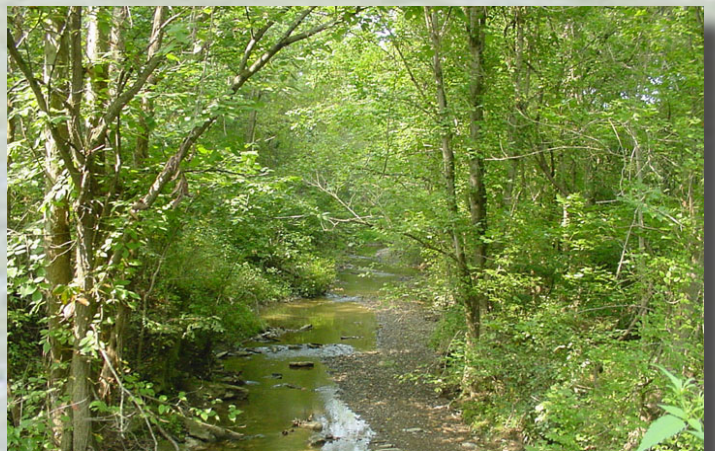
Resources that offer great suggestions and advice about protecting stream banks:

West Virginia Conservation District:
www.wvca.us/districts.cfm
www.wvca.us/wvwn/wvwn_riparian_resources.cfm

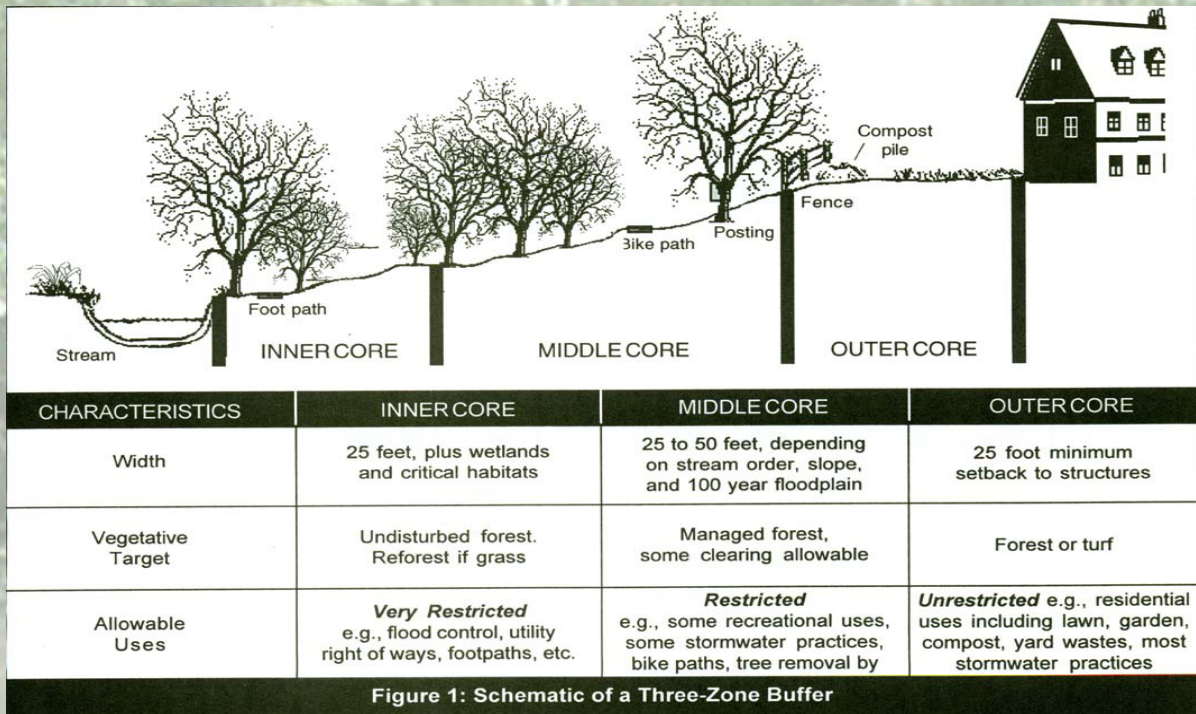
Little Kanawha Conservation District:
www.wvca.us/districts/?page=lkcd

Capital Conservation District:
www.wvca.us/districts/?page=ccd

WV Department of Natural Resources
<http://www.wvdnr.gov/Wildlife/Landscape.shtm>



The diagram below illustrates the ideal riparian buffer, which consists of three zones. While West Virginians often have limited space between the creek or stream and hillsides, it is recommended to maximize the area of your yard adjacent to the stream with woody trees.



Courtesy of Center for Watershed Protection

Possible Natives for Streambanks, Riparian and Wetland Area Plantings

Check the Flora of West Virginia for more specific information regarding location, growth characteristics, habitat and other regional information.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acer rubrum - Red maple | <input type="checkbox"/> Quercus bicolor - Swamp White Oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acer saccharum - Sugar Maple | <input type="checkbox"/> Quercus palustris - Pin oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amelanchier canadensis - Canadian Serviceberry | <input type="checkbox"/> Quercus rubra - Northern Red Oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aronia melanocarpa - Black Chokeberry | <input type="checkbox"/> Salix discolor - Pussy Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cephalanthus occidentalis - Buttonbush | <input type="checkbox"/> Salix eriocephala - Heart Leaved Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornus amomum - Silky Dogwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Salix exigua ssp. - Sandbar Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornus stolonifera - Red Osier Dogwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Salix lucida - Shining Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fraxinus americana - White Ash | <input type="checkbox"/> Salix nigra - Black Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fraxinus Pennsylvanica - Green Ash | <input type="checkbox"/> Salix sericea - Silky Willow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platanus occidentalis - American Sycamore | <input type="checkbox"/> Sambucus canadensis - Elderberry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prunus americana - American Plum | <input type="checkbox"/> Viburnum dentatum - Arrow Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prunus serotina - Black Cherry | |

You can collect your own seeds to start your trees and shrubs or purchase them from these nurseries.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Native Plants and Sources:
www.wvdnr.gov/Wildlife/NativeVegetation.shtm

West Virginia Division of Forestry Clements Tree Nursery:
www.wvforestry.com/DOFclementscatalogWEB.pdf