

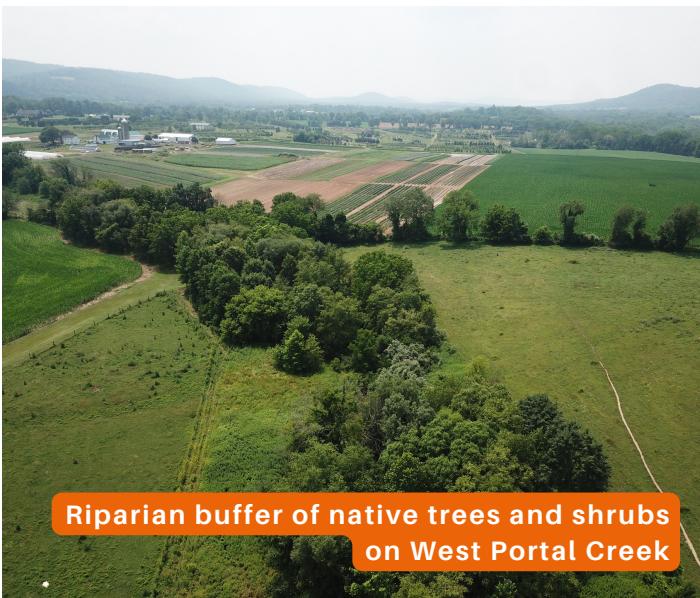
ROOTS AND RIVERS

Native grasses, trees, and shrubs have deeper root systems than turf grasses. Their deep and interwoven roots help prevent stream bank erosion during high flows.

These native plants also promote more absorption of stormwater, reducing impacts of runoff and the potential for flooding.

Native plants filter pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus and sediment from entering our waterways.

Shade created from trees and shrubs also keeps water cool and well oxygenated for fish and other aquatic life.



GET INVOLVED

MWA has resources to assist landowners with riparian buffer planting and streamside landscaping on their property. MWA also has opportunities to volunteer with native plantings within our watershed.

HOW TO CONNECT

Visit our webpage by scanning the QR code below and sign up for a site visit today.



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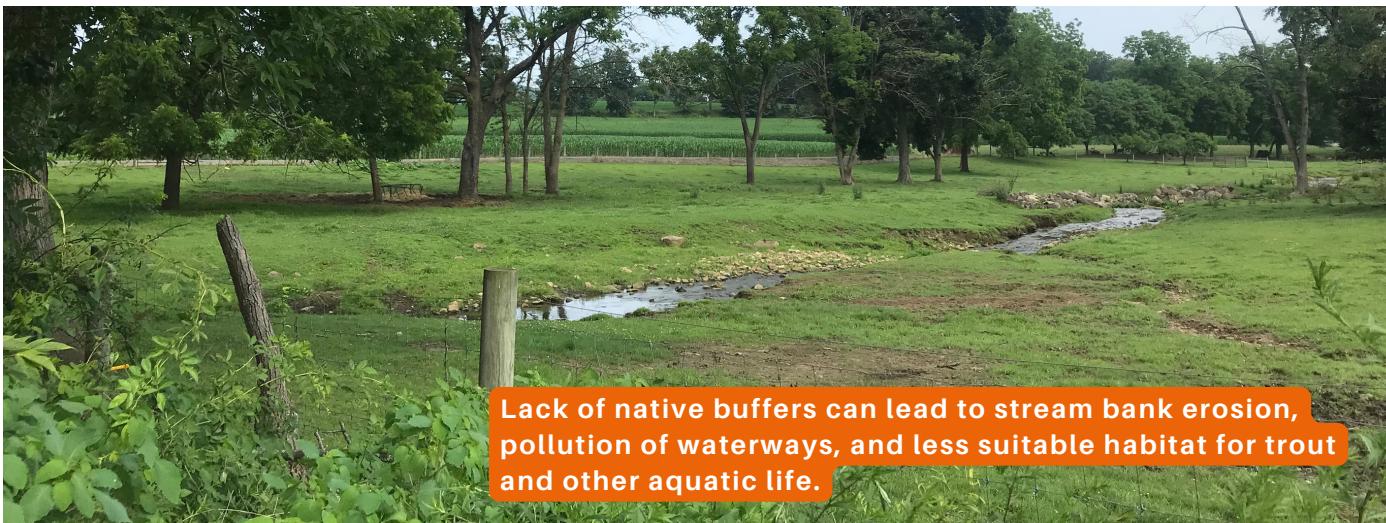
STREAMSIDE LANDSCAPING

A practical guide to building a river-friendly landscape!



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NATIVE PLANTS FOR
WATER AND PEOPLE



NATIVE BUFFERS

A riparian zone is the area of land alongside a river or body of water.

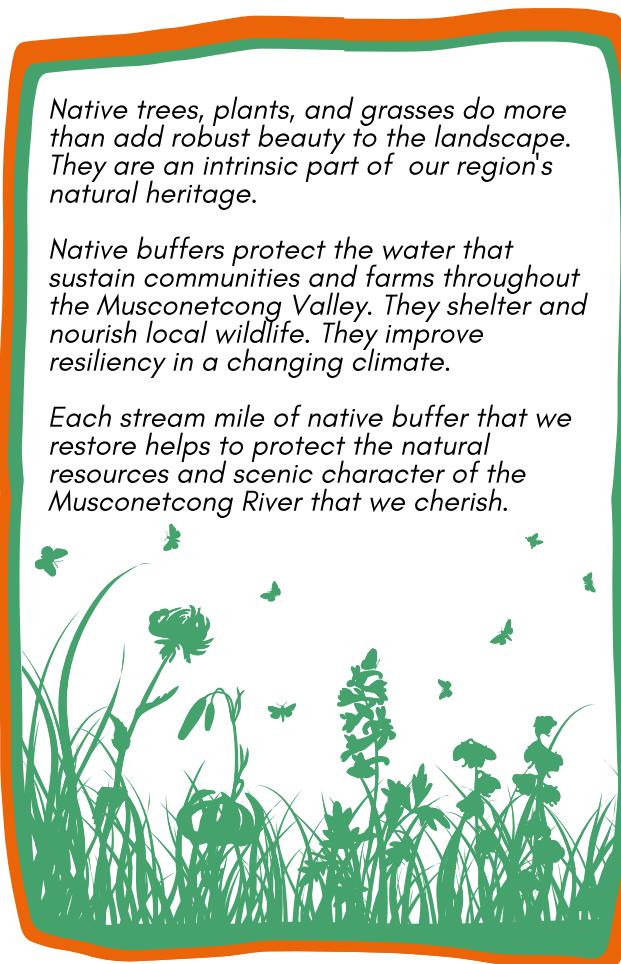
Allowing for a buffer of native plants along our streams and tributaries protects stream banks, filters pollutants, and protects streamside properties.

Native buffers can also serve as a corridor for wildlife such as birds and pollinators.

Most insects, including many pollinators, are actually very picky eaters! Without natives most birds and other wildlife cannot thrive.

Native buffers can enhance your property

- Reduce impact of flood events
- Prevent soil loss
- Provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators
- Provide visual interest to our landscape



TIPS FOR A RIVER-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE

Improving streamside buffers doesn't have to be hard! Check out what you can do to get started.

- ✓ Work with MWA staff to identify native plants suited to your property.
- ✓ Include trees and shrubs where possible. Forested buffers provide the most benefits to water quality, but any native planting will be beneficial.
- ✓ Create a "No-Mow" zone alongside streams or other water bodies on your property. Many native plants are waiting to emerge when you stop mowing.
- ✓ Pick plants that tolerate flooding and wet soils for your buffer. While not all riparian zones have wet soils year-round, plants should tolerate periods of saturated soils.

