

STREAM BANK MANAGEMENT & RIPARIAN POLLUTION PREVENTION



Riparian property owners and those working near waterways have the special responsibility to protect the banks of the waterway from dangerous erosion or water pollution.



EROSION PREVENTION

Banks can erode due to factors on the land nearby or from the waterway upstream.

EROSION FACTORS MAY INCLUDE:

- Heavy stream bank recreational use
- Development nearby
- Lawn mowing and vegetation removal
- Improper placement/removal of woody debris
- Dams and other manipulations to stream flows

CONSIDER BANK STABILIZATION MEASURES:

- That are self-sustaining without human support.
- That use native, living materials for restoration.
- That restore the physical, biological, and chemical functions of streams or shorelines.
- That improve water quality through reduction of temperature and chronic sedimentation.
- That connect fragmented riparian areas.
- That retain or enhance the stream corridor.

BANK STABILIZATION MAY INCLUDE:

- Obtaining permits from the local, state and federal levels for work in or near waterways
- Placing riprap along the base of the bank, a couple feet above the high water mark.
- Staking coir logs along the base of the bank
- Planting appropriate trees and shrubs.
- Cabling or posting large woody debris along the bank to divert a strong current while also providing fish cover and wildlife resting spots.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Commercial and residential owners of riparian property, as well as contractors working along waterways, play an important role in improving and maintaining the quality of our waterways.

ALONG THE STREAM BANK:

- If your property borders a waterway, establish a “no mow” area along the stream bank that is 30 feet or wider to help stabilize the bank, prevent the erosion of soils, filter and trap pollutants and improve the infiltration of stormwater.
- Keep storm inlet grates, driveway culverts and cross pipes clear of debris, trash and leaves. This both reduces pollution, and it can reduce flooding on public and private property.
- Don’t dump anything in or near storm drains. These lead directly to local waterways.
- Maintain water quality Best Management Practices, such as ponds, hydrodynamic separators, forbays and pervious pavements.

OILS AND CHEMICALS:

- Label or properly dispose of all chemicals.
- Use secondary containment.
- Repair leaking equipment ASAP, and use drip pans to catch leaks until a repair is made.
- Clean up oil spills using oil dry.
- Cover dumpsters/trashcans to prevent leaks.
- Wash trucks and equipment in a dedicated wash bay or commercial carwash.