

Follow Oregon Law

Oregon committed to improving streams for salmon in 1997 with the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*. The plan calls for all Oregonians, including urban citizens, to voluntarily improve stream conditions. Nearly all streams (and ditches) are considered "Waters of the State" by Oregon law. Statewide planning goals charge local governments with protecting riparian areas and wetland resources. Salem and Marion County are working to establish minimum riparian buffer protections. Until then, Oregon relies on volunteers to limit stream habitat degradation.



Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been helping Marion County residents since 1947. Skilled technicians or associated Watershed Council groups can help you take the steps to improve habitat and water quality in your backyard.

- Build away from streams and wetlands
- During site prep, leave existing native trees and shrubs where possible
- Minimize paved areas, use mulch or gravel instead of concrete wherever possible
- Leave buffers near streams, fence out livestock
- Keep oil, soap and other pollutants out of storm drains, as they usually drain directly into streams. It is better to wash cars on grass or gravel than driveways
- Use non-toxic cleaners, available at most grocery stores
- Direct gutter downspouts away from paved areas and into yards; consider storing roof runoff in rain barrels for summer use

Marion SWCD Native Plant and Tree Sale*

Black Cottonwood
Black Hawthorn
Bigleaf Maple
Cascara
Common Camas
Douglas-fir
Douglas Spirea
Kinnikinnick
Oceanspray
Oregon Grape
Oregon Ash
Oregon Iris
Pacific Bleeding Heart
Pacific Madrone

Pacific Ninebark
Ponderosa Pine
Mockorange
Nootka Rose
Red & Blue Elderberry
Red & White Alder
Red Columbine
Red-flowering Currant
Red Osier Dogwood
Salal
Serviceberry
Snowberry
Vine Maple
Western Redcedar

*Plant species and stock varies each year.

Resources

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

www.open.org/marಿಸwcd
(503) 391-9927
3867 NE Wolverine St #16
Salem, OR 97305

Linn SWCD
(541) 967-5925

Clackamas SWCD
(503) 656-3499

Polk SWCD
(503) 623-9680

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
www.nrcs.usda.gov
(503) 399-5471 x3

Nature Conservancy
www.nature.org

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
www.oda.state.or.us
(503) 986-4550

Oregon Garden
www.oregongarden.org
(503) 874-8278

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
www.oweb.state.or.us
(503) 986-0178

OSU Extension Service
extension.oregonstate.edu
(503) 588-5301

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. For anyone who wishes special accommodations, please telephone the District office 48 hours in advance at 503-391-9927.

STREAM CARE TIPS

For Streamside Residents

from Marion Soil and Water Conservation District



Douglas Spirea

Learn How to Restore Function and Beauty to Local Streams

Control Invasive Weeds

Some of the worst threats to our streamside vegetation come from non-native, invasive weeds. Invasives crowd out native plants, especially in disturbed environments which have reduced shade. Invasives can lead to the destruction of fish and wildlife habitat, can be highly toxic to fish and wildlife, and can accelerate soil erosion.

Common offenders include Japanese knotweed, English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, purple loosestrife and reed canary grass.



Japanese knotweed is spreading quickly through streamside areas and is very difficult to control.



English ivy puts a chokehold on native plants and trees, eventually killing all competition.

Landscape with Native Plants

Native plants offer great advantages over imported plants because they are adapted to local soils and weather conditions. They are often more disease resistant and have a better survival rate. They are also important sources of food and habitat for local wildlife which provide homeowners countless viewings of birds and butterflies.

The Marion SWCD holds an annual native plant sale in February and many of these beneficial plants are available at reduced costs.



Nootka Rose and Mockorange display brilliant flowers.

Develop a Plan

Salem and the Mid-Willamette valley are experiencing rapid growth and as a result new developments are springing up all over. Homeowners can choose vegetation and trees that improves stream conditions and provides wildlife habitat.

During the neighborhood development process, trees are often removed from riparian areas and stream channels are constrained when fill is added for the construction or the landscape plan. The results are often fast-moving streams that actively erode their banks or flood, causing property damage downstream. The original trees and shrubs are more effective than man-made solutions like rip-rap for stabilizing streambanks.



New development along a stream.

Manage Erosion in Riparian Zones

Riparian zones are low areas near streams where water tolerant plants grow. Healthy plant communities along streambanks protect yards from erosion, provide shade to keep streams cool, provide habitat for fish and wildlife and help to lessen flood impacts. Vegetation near streams also helps prevent pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, animal wastes and soaps from directly entering streams, allowing time for the chemicals to breakdown.



The stream on the left lacks vegetation for erosion control and wildlife habitat. The picture on the right shows a well-vegetated streambank that stabilizes soil and provides cover.



Silt fences are a tool for keeping sediment out of streams and storm drains during construction.



Silver Creek, Mill Creek, Claggett Creek, Drift Creek, Abiqua Creek and almost all of our local streams support cutthroat trout or runs of federally threatened steelhead and Chinook salmon. For these runs to continue and improve, pollutants must be reduced and shade must be provided to lower water temperatures.