



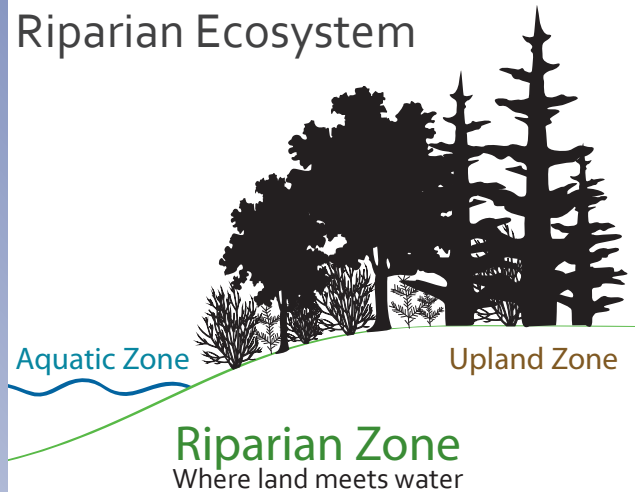
shade our streams

A CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL PROJECT

Here We Grow!

Ever since the streamside area, or **riparian zone** of your property was planted, your new trees and shrubs have been working hard to establish themselves in their new home. They may look small now, but will ultimately grow into a diverse plant community, protecting the stream from direct and indirect sunlight, creating fish and wildlife habitat, reducing erosion, and filtering out toxins through their root systems. As habitat is restored and wildlife returns to the area, the interaction of living things with their environment make up a thriving **riparian ecosystem**.

Riparian Ecosystem



Plant Mortality: It's Natural

You may notice that not all the trees and shrubs planted have survived. Don't worry, *it's natural*. They were planted densely to make up for possible plant mortality, so plenty of vegetation will remain for a strong and healthy riparian buffer. The high density of the planting area is also key to discouraging weeds from making a comeback in the future.

Since removal of landscape-altering invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and Japanese knotweed, you may find different nuisance weeds appearing in your riparian area. These new plants tend to be **herbaceous**, meaning their stems die at the end of each growing season, and include common weeds such as bedstraw, thistle, and Oxeye daisy. These weeds will be included in the treatment plan as restoration crews return to the property. You can expect treatments two to three times a summer, depending on the specific needs of your property.

Common herbaceous weeds you may see invading your planting area:



Catchweed bedstraw, *Galium aparine* L.



Common thistle, *Cirsium*



Oxeye daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare*

What is My Role as a Landowner?

While we're busy making improvements to your property, you are our eyes and ears in the watershed. **Send us photos of wildlife and people enjoying the improved native habitat created by Shade Our Streams**, and it could be featured in our program materials. *Email photos to chelsea@clackamasriver.org or to mailing address provided below.*

We will offer events and workshops throughout the duration of your enrollment in the program. Keep your eye out for announcements and join us for some stream steward fun! Support the program by talking to your neighbors about the possibility of enrolling their property in Shade Our Streams.

Native vegetation attracts native wildlife!



Pacific tree frogs lay their eggs in sticks and emergent aquatic vegetation.



Black-tailed deer feed on native shrubs at a project site on Foster Creek.

What Happens Next?

During the next few years, your new trees and shrubs are in the **establishment phase**, the most important period for survival. Shade Our Streams manages your planting area through this critical time, as plants establish strong root systems and robust foliage. CRBC contracts with restoration crews to treat invasive species for three summers following planting, giving the native plants a competitive advantage over the weeds, allowing them to grow at a faster rate and provide more shade and stream protection sooner. Once they reach a **"free to grow"** state, the native plants have a good chance of outgrowing competing weeds and are free to become part of your healthy riparian area.

Contact us

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As your plants grow, you too can enjoy what they have to offer. Pictured: berries of the Oregon Grape.