

**Working together to protect
our natural resources.**



This is a publication of the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with Glenn-Gibson Creeks Watershed Council, Rickreall Watershed Council, and Luckiamute Watershed Council. Please contact the District or your Watershed Council for more information about native and non-native plants.

CONTACTS :

Polk SWCD:
503-623-9680 x 101

Glenn-Gibson Creeks WC:
503-623-9680 x 112

Luckiamute WC:
503-838-8804

Rickreall WC:
503-623-9680 x 112

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Dallas, OR 97338

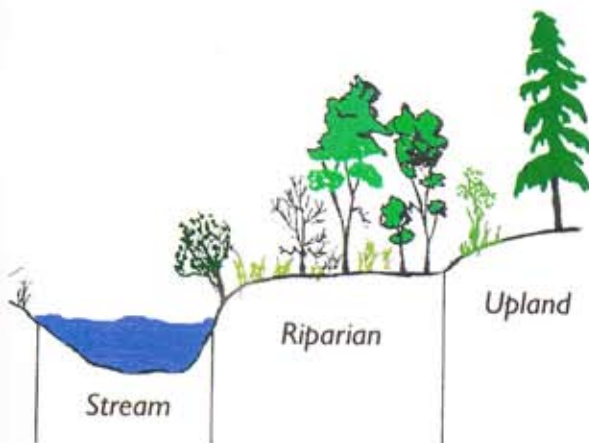
**So you live
on a stream...**



**Do you know
how to take
care of it?**

What is a Healthy Stream?

A healthy stream is made of riffles and pools in a meandering streambed and a riparian corridor. The riparian corridor is the area along each side of the stream.



What Native Riparian Plants Do:

- Shade the water and keep it cool for fish and other aquatic life.
- Filter surface and subsurface water flowing into the stream, cleaning it of polluting chemicals and sediments.
- Reduce stream bank and soil erosion.
- Minimize sediment flow into the stream that can cause aquatic life to suffocate.
- Provide bank stability and wildlife habitat.

What Can You Do?

- Avoid planting lawn and non-native plants along the stream.
- Plant native shrubs and trees.
- Remove non-native invasive plants.
- Limit use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

Knowing Good From Bad

Good:

Native riparian plants of Polk County include ash, alder, cottonwood, vine maple, red elderberry, willows, service berry, nine bark & red-twig dogwood. (The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District can provide you with lists of desirable native plants that thrive in our area and information on how to obtain them.)



Vine Maple



Red Elderberry

Bad:

Invasive riparian plants of Polk County include Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, Scot's (Scotch) broom, reed canary grass and poison hemlock.



Scotch Broom



Himalayan Blackberry

Also watch for knapweeds and knotweeds, spurge, tansy ragwort and thistles.

Garden Chemicals

Garden chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides) harm wildlife and water quality. It may take a combination of mechanical, biological, and chemical means to rid your yard of invasive plants. If chemicals are needed, choose only products approved for use near waterways.

For information on eliminating invasive plants and what herbicides to use, consult OSU Extension Services: 503-588-5301