Schoolside Buffers

TTF has created three streamside buffers with our local school districts. We planted native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses to replace invasive species. These native plants provide much-needed buffers between parking lots, school lawns and creeks.

Glenside Elementary

Glenside Elementary School students and community partners created a 10,000 sq. ft. buffer and outdoor classroom along Tookany Creek. A collaboration between TTF, Glenside Elementary School & PTO, Cheltenham EAC and NAM Planning & Design, LLC, the project was made possible by TreeVitalize. (2008)

Cedarbrook Middle

TTF created a 15,000 sq. ft. buffer along Rock Creek, a first-order stream of the Tookany Creek, behind Cedarbrook Middle School. Through this project, Cedarbrook 7th graders created a permanent outdoor classroom for Cedarbrook students and school partners. This project was made possible by an anonymous funder, the ERM Foundation, and TreeVitalize. (2011)

Abington Junior High

TTF created a 50 ft. wide buffer along a 450 ft. section of East Baeder Creek, a headwater tributary to the Tookany Creek on the campus of Abington Jr. High. Over 100 volunteers including students and residents planted over 500 trees, shrubs and plants. Project partners included Abington School District, Abington EAC, and NAM Planning & Design, LLC.
This project was made possible by an anonymous funder and TreeVitalize. (2012)

Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc.

About the TTF Watershed Partnership

The mission of TTF is to improve the health and vitality of the TTF watershed by engaging our communities in education, stewardship restoration, and advocacy.
The watershed includes neighborhoods in North, Northeast and Northwest Philadelphia and Abington, Cheltenham, Jenkintown, Rockledge and Springfield in Montgomery County.

Help us keep our watershed healthy... naturally

We educate, motivate, and engage the community to become watershed stewards through workshops, field trips, volunteer activities, and restoration projects.

We can always use hands-on help, people who are interested in sharing our mission, and donations. Get in touch with us today to learn more!

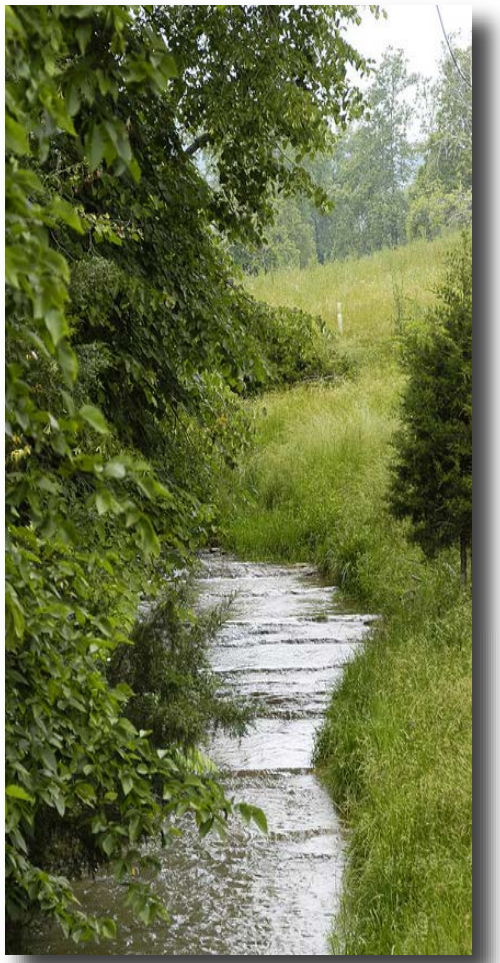
Philadelphia Water Department

Township of Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

Streamside Buffers:

Improving Water Quality

A Guide for Streamside Property Owners



Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc.

ttfwatershed.org
215.744.1853

What is a Streamside Buffer?

Rainwater carries chemicals, trash and other materials over land and into storm drains and creeks, adversely impacting waterways, plants, and wildlife. A streamside buffer, also called a riparian buffer, helps absorb and filter rainwater before it reaches the creek.

When it rains, rainwater passes over—and mixes with—oil, dirt, chemicals, pesticides, and other pollutants as it flows over roads, lawns, parking lots, and other hard surfaces.

What are the benefits of Streamside Buffers ?

In addition to beautifying our watershed, buffers play a key role in improving water quality in streams and rivers, providing several benefits:

- Increased on-site stormwater infiltration
- Decreased non-point source pollution
- Prevention of excessive downstream flows
- Decreased water temperature through shading
- Improved habitat for wildlife
- Increased opportunity for watershed education

Can I Plant a Streamside Buffer on my Property?

If you live next to a stream, you can easily and inexpensively create your own streamside buffer.

Instead of mowing right up to the water's edge, simply let the plants on the streambank grow.

Once your riparian buffer begins to take shape, you can add native plant species of your choice and remove harmful or invasive species.

What Types of Plants Should I Use?

Native plants provide the most habitat value. Each site varies depending on the amount of sunlight and type of soil. Here are just a few examples of native plant species that grow well in riparian buffers:

Flowers and Grasses

Black-Eyed Susans - *Rudbeckia hirta*
Monkey Flower - *Mimulus ringens*
New York Aster - *Aster novi-belgi*
Riverbank Rye - *Elymus riparicus*

Trees and Shrubs

Buttonbrush - *Cephalenthis occidentalis*
Elderberry - *Sambucus canadensis*
Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*
Red-Twigged Dogwood - *Cornus sericea*
Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
Scarlet Oak - *Quercus coccinea*
Sycamore - *Platanous occidentalis*
Yellow Birch - *Betula alleghanensis*

Where Can I Learn More About Streamside Buffers?

Visit Glenside Elementary & Abington Junior High. There you'll find educational signs & buffers in action!

Visit our website:
ttfwatershed.org