

Restoration Projects

If you are interested in implementing a riparian restoration project on your property, there are many local resources and experts who can help. Polk County has four watershed councils who assist in restoration and education projects. Additionally, the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District provides technical assistance, land management plans, and funding opportunities. Contacting one of these resources is a great first step towards planning your riparian restoration project.

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

Phone: 503-623-9680
Address: 580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas OR
Website: <http://www.polkswcd.com/>

Luckiamute Watershed Council

Phone: 503-837-0237
Address: 226 South Main St. Suite L, Independence OR
Website: <http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/>

Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council

Phone: 503-623-9680, dial 5, then extension 104
Address: 580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas OR
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/glenn-gibson-wc/home/about-us>

Rickreall Watershed Council

Phone: 503-623-9680, dial 5, then extension 104
Address: 580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas OR
Website: <http://www.rickreallwc.org/>

Greater Yamhill Watershed Council

Phone: 503-474-1047
Address: 237 NE Ford St. Suite 9, McMinnville OR
Website: <http://www.gywc.org/>



Figure 1: Riparian area buffer surrounded by agriculture land.

Streamside Management Plans & Restoration Information

Community Development Department
850 Main Street
Dallas, Oregon 97338



Protecting Riparian Areas

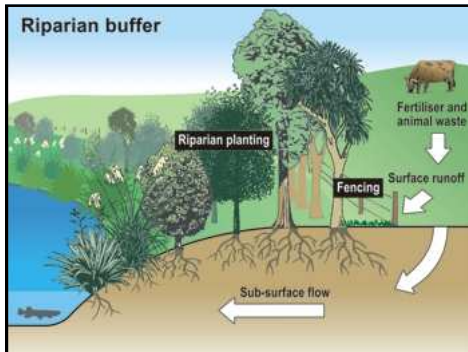


Figure 2: Riparian vegetation reduces surface runoff and pollutants that enter the waterways.

Rural Polk County has plentiful rivers, streams, and creeks that provide vital functions to local ecosystems. Riparian areas, also known as streambanks or riverbanks, are characterized by unique soils and vegetation influenced by an abundant water supply. Managing riparian areas on privately owned property is essential in order to protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Riparian areas play an important role in maintaining water temperature, reducing soil erosion, and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter the waterways. Maintaining riparian vegetation on private property is one example of a way to improve riparian areas and enhance watershed health.

Did you know structural development requires a riparian area setback and non-structural development may require a management plan approved by Polk County?

Riparian Area Setbacks

Chapter 182 of the Polk County Zoning Ordinance implements strategies intended to protect watersheds throughout the County. Requiring riparian area setbacks helps protect, maintain, and enhance water quality and biological productivity. Setback distances are three times the average width of the main channel during high water flow, not averaging less than 25 feet or more than 100 feet, and are measured from the bank top.

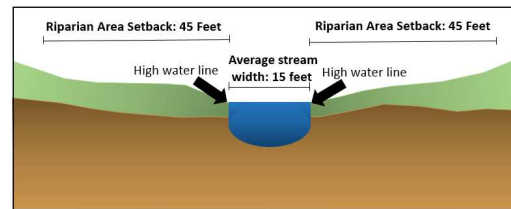


Figure 3: Riparian area setbacks are three times the average stream width.

Within the riparian setback area, structural development, including buildings, is not permitted. Some types of non-structural development, such as vegetation removal, road construction, and timber harvesting are permitted within the setback area, but require a management plan because these activities are considered conflicting uses.

Management Plans

Management plans are one effective way to avoid or reduce potential impacts on local waterways while

still permitting non-structural development within the riparian setback area. Some non-structural development is considered a conflicting use within the riparian area setback and requires a management plan coordinated with State resource management agencies. Management plans are intended to develop mitigation measures to protect watersheds, while also allowing non-structural development within the riparian setback area.

Conflicting Uses That May Require A Management Plan

- Vegetation Removal
- Road Construction
- Timber Harvesting
- Dam Construction
- Aggregate Removal

For more information about riparian area setbacks and management plan requirements, visit the Polk County website at http://www.co.polk.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning_division/page/3121/chapter_182.pdf

Citations:

Figure 1: United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Digital Image. *Forest Watershed Science Accomplishments*. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Web. Dec. 21, 2016.

Figure 2: GreenBridge. Digital Image. *Greenbridge. Which Trees for your Lifestyle Block or Farm*. July 11, 2016. Web. December 27, 2016.

POLK COUNTY

Community Development Department
850 Main Street
Dallas Oregon 97338

Phone: 503-623-9237
Address: 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon
Website: <http://www.co.polk.or.us/cd>