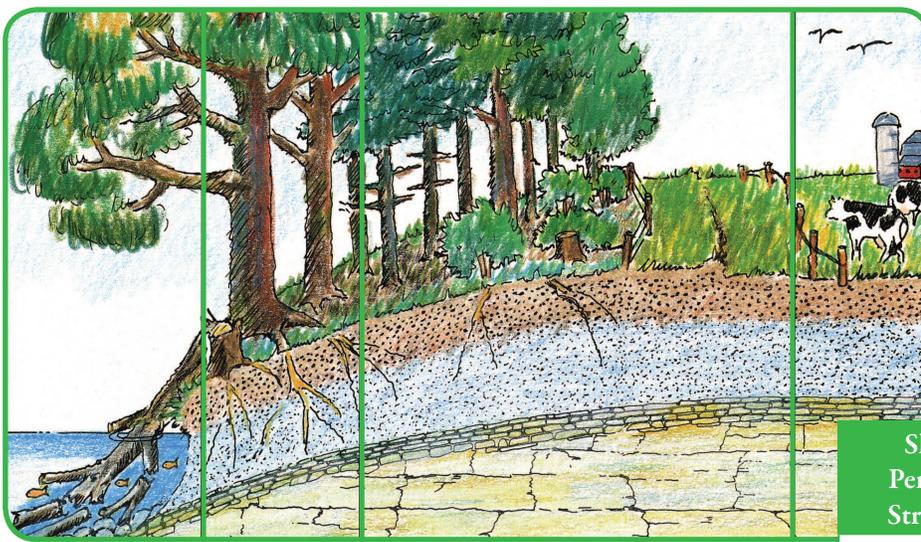




Caring for Your Streams and the Wildlife That Depend on Them

Even if they only make up a small area of your property, the woods along your streams are some of the most crucial places on your land for protecting both water quality and wildlife. By shading a stream, trees keep water temperatures cooler and more suitable for fish such as trout. They also help keep stream banks stable during floods and filter pollution like sediment that might otherwise wash into the stream. We call these important streamside lands “riparian areas.”

Where are my riparian areas?



Riparian areas start at the center of a body of water and extend onto the land alongside it. The width of your riparian area depends on how steep the land next to your streams is. If it's very steep, you'll want a wider riparian area to help keep your soils in place. This diagram and chart can serve as a guide.

Stream, Wetland
or Water body

Zone 1
(15 feet)

Zone 2
(60+feet)

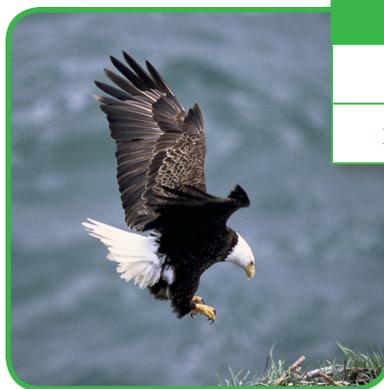
Slope of Land Perpendicular to Stream (Percent)	Recommended Width of Zone 2 (Feet)
0-10	50
11-20	51-70
21-40	71-110
41-70	111-150

Should I do anything differently in my riparian areas when I have logging on my property?

Even though riparian areas are close to streams, you don't need to make them “no cutting” or even “no equipment zones” to safeguard water quality and wildlife. By following these steps, you can have logging in riparian areas:

1. Limit tree removal within the first 15 feet from the stream, especially along the stream banks themselves.
2. Maintain a diversity of tree sizes and species. This will keep the stream banks more stable and create more habitat for wildlife.
3. Have loggers cut trees so that they fall away from the stream rather than into it.
4. Have loggers winch trees out of the riparian area with cables rather than drive equipment into it.

What kinds of animals use riparian areas?

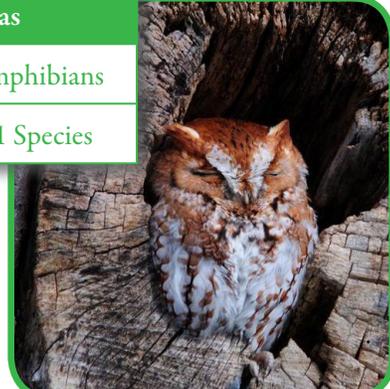


credit: Dave Menke, USFWS

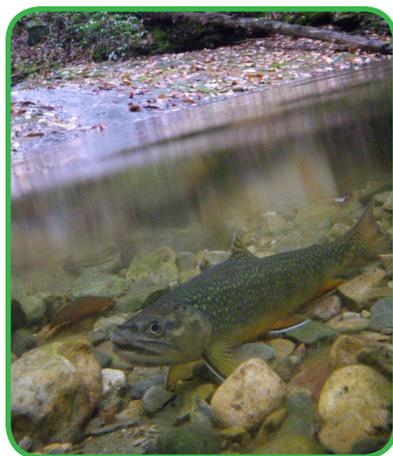
Many Species in the Northeast Rely on Riparian Areas			
Birds	Mammals	Reptiles	Amphibians
27 Species	25 Species	50 Species	71 Species

Bald eagles nest in these areas so they can be near their preferred food – fish.

Hemlock trees are common in riparian areas and are a favorite place for owls.



credit: Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org



credit: USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station Archive, Bugwood.org

Our streams also support a world-class trout population. Chances are, the streams on your property flow into one of these trout streams.

Trout Streams in and around the New York City Watershed	
In the Catskills	In the Croton Watershed
Beaver Kill	East Brach Croton River
Bushkill	Muscoot River
East Branch Delaware River	Titicus River
West Branch Delaware River	Waccabuc River
Willowemoc Creek	West Branch Croton River

My Stream Needs Help!



credit: Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative

Do you have eroding stream banks? Are there no trees next to your stream? There are resources to help you.

If your land is in the Catskills, the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) has funding available to:

1. Plant trees along streams
2. Fix eroding streambanks

To find out if you are eligible for technical or financial support, visit the CSBI website, www.catskillstreams.org/CSBI, or contact the CSBI Coordinator for the county where your property is located:

Delaware	Greene	Schoharie	Sullivan	Ulster
607-865-5523	518-622-3620	518-234-4092	845-985-2581	845-688-3047

If your land is in the Croton Watershed, Croton Trees for Tributaries has funding available to:

1. Plant trees along streams

If you own land in Dutchess, Fairfield, Putnam, or Westchester Counties, find out if you are eligible for technical or financial support by visiting the Croton Trees for Tributaries website, www.nycwatershed.org/for_trees-for-tribs.html, or by contacting the Watershed Agricultural Council at 914-263-3976.