



## Streamside Trees: Improving Water Quality While Protecting Property

THE RIPARIAN AREA IS THE LAND ALONGSIDE A STREAM OR RIVER THAT DIRECTLY AFFECTS—AND IS AFFECTED BY — THE WATER. HEALTHY RIPARIAN BUFFERS CONTAIN VEGETATION SUCH AS TREES AND SHRUBS THAT PROTECT BOTH THE STREAM AND STREAMSIDE PROPERTY.

**If** you live next to any of the 43 miles of rivers, creeks, ditches or small headwater streams that make up the surface water drainage network in the Euclid Creek watershed, or if you own any streamside property at all, please consider committing to one or more of the following actions:

1. **Leave an un-mowed buffer area next to the stream.** Allowing vegetation to become established on a creek's banks and floodplain area has a host of benefits for wildlife, soil health and water quality.
2. **Plant trees!** Streamside trees and shrubs provide even more wildlife habitat, have deeper roots for enhanced streambank stabilization, and provide cooling shade that is especially important for maintaining suitable oxygen levels in smaller, headwater streams. Suitable trees and shrubs for streamside plantings include sycamore, swamp white oak, cottonwood, box elder, silver maple, red osier dogwood, silky dogwood, pin oak and black walnut.
3. **Join a local watershed group in** your area to find more ways to get involved. A listing of local watershed groups can be found at [neowatershed.org](http://neowatershed.org).

*“The health of our water is the principal measure of how we live on the land.” - Aldo Leopold*



[www.cuyahogawcd.org](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org)

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**Euclid Creek**  
Watershed Program