

8 Principals of a River Friendly Garden

Protect Water Quality

- Leave existing woodlands and stream buffers intact and add to them
- Don't dump in storm drains or streets
 - Pick up animal waste
- Only fertilize if indicated by soil testing

Improve Human Habitat

- Provide a peaceful landscape for re-connecting with nature
- Plant trees south of buildings and paving for shade
 - Reduce noise with plantings
- Clean the air and reduce carbon

Enhance Wildlife Habitat

- Avoid chemical pesticides, herbicides & fungicides
 - Install diverse native plantings
- Include flowering plants for pollinators
- Include fruiting trees and shrubs for wildlife

Reduce Runoff

- Capture, clean and infiltrate stormwater with lush plantings & rain gardens
 - Convert paving and turf to gardens
 - Use pervious pavements
- Direct downspouts to landscape & rain barrels



Plant & Protect Natives

- Leave natives; remove invasive species
- Plant diverse natives adapted to your area
 - Include trees, shrubs & perennials

Conserve Resources

- Reduce mowing by converting to gardens, meadows & woodlands
- Compost leaves, garden trimmings & food waste.
 - Use compost as fertilizer
 - Reduce or stop irrigation

Protect Air Quality

- Use a manual or electric mower for lawns
 - Avoid leaf blowers – use a rake!
- Insist on sustainable practices by hired workers

Improve Soil

- Leave any existing topsoil
- Enhance existing soils with compost
- Limit compaction from vehicles
- Keep soil mulched at plant beds
- Use natural lawn care rather than chemicals