### 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

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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

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

### Why Your Landscape Matters
...even if you don’t live near a waterway

- **Trees, Trees**
  - Trees really help water quality by reducing runoff, improving infiltration, protecting the ground from erosion, and cleaning the air.

- **Water Supplies**
  - Well-vegetated landscapes filter stormwater and allow a natural flow into the rivers and aquifers that supply our water.

- **Community**
  - Tree-lined streets and well-vegetated landscapes increase property values, improve air and water quality, help reduce summer temperatures, and are beautiful.

- **River Protection**
  - Storm runoff exacerbates flooding & erosion, so reducing runoff and improving infiltration helps protect our waterways and floodplains.

### Natural
Minimizes rain runoff rain from landscapes, roofs & pavements, and reduces pollution

### Considerate
Enhances habitat while conserving resources and protecting downstream neighbors from flooding

### Lush
Filled with native plants naturally enhancing water quality and improving infiltration

### Conventional

### 4 Easy Ways to Get Started
... making your property river-friendly

- **Reduce Lawn**
  - Each year convert a portion of your lawn into a native plant bed. If there are areas of walks, paving or patio you don’t need then remove them and add plantings.

- **Go Organic**
  - Don’t use chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. For lawn you need to keep, let it grow into a healthy multi-species “eco-lawn.”

- **Allow Succession**
  - Let lawn grow into meadow, then let the meadow turn into woodland over time. Supplement with natives; remove invasives.

- **Mulch & Compost**
  - Re-use leaves as mulch: saves labor and money, and uses less energy. Compost lawn & yard clippings & use instead of chemical fertilizers.