River Friendly Gardens

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
- 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 downsputs 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

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.

Conventional

Natural

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

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

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

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.

What is a River Friendly Garden?

Lush
Considerate
Natural

Conventional

River Friendly

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