## 8 Principals of a River Friendly Garden

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<th>Protect Water Quality</th>
<th>Reduce Runoff</th>
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<th>Improve Human Habitat</th>
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<th>Why Your Landscape Matters</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Leave existing woodlands and stream buffers intact and add to them</td>
<td>- Capture, clean and infiltrate stormwater with lush plantings &amp; rain gardens</td>
<td>- Reduce mowing by converting to gardens, meadows &amp; woodlands</td>
<td>- Pick up animal waste</td>
<td>- Use a manual or electric mower for lawns</td>
<td>- Leave any existing topsoil</td>
<td>- Leave natives; remove invasive species</td>
<td>- Trees, Trees</td>
<td>- Reduce Lawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Don’t dump in storm drains or streets</td>
<td>- Convert paving and turf to gardens</td>
<td>- Compost leaves, garden trimmings &amp; food waste.</td>
<td>- Plant trees south of buildings and paving for shade</td>
<td>- Avoid leaf blowers – use a rake!</td>
<td>- Enhance existing soils with compost</td>
<td>- Include flowering plants for pollinators</td>
<td>- Water Supplies</td>
<td>- Go Organic</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Only fertilize if indicated by soil testing</td>
<td>- Use pervious pavements</td>
<td>- Keep soil mulched at plant beds</td>
<td>- Reduce noise with plantings</td>
<td>- Insist on sustainable practices by hired workers</td>
<td>- Limit compaction from vehicles</td>
<td>- Include fruiting trees and shrubs for wildlife</td>
<td>- RE-USE LEAVES AS MULCH: SAVES LABOR AND MONEY, AND USES LESS ENERGY</td>
<td>- Allow Succession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural</strong></td>
<td>- Direct downsputs to landscape &amp; rain barrels</td>
<td>- Use compost as fertilizer</td>
<td>- Clean the air and reduce carbon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Include trees, shrubs &amp; perennials</td>
<td>- Mulch &amp; Compost</td>
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### Why Your Landscape Matters

- **Trees, Trees**
  - Trees reduce runof 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 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.

### 4 Easy Ways to Get Started

- **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.