

As a home or business
owner near one of Eugene's many
creeks, you have a unique
opportunity to help
maintain or improve the health
of streams and riparian areas in your
neighborhood.





From the hills of South Eugene to the West Eugene Wetlands, stormwater from homes and businesses flows to Amazon Creek and the Long Tom River. The Long Tom connects to the Willamette River near Monroe, where it is the source of the town's drinking water. Keeping these waterways healthy is important to our community and our many neighbors downstream.





What is a riparian area?

A riparian area is the area of land next to a stream, lake or other water body. Most healthy, natural riparian areas have a combination of fertile soils and many different types of moisture-loving plants.

Healthy riparian areas:

- Reduce the likelihood and severity of flooding and erosion
- Provide food and shelter for fish and wildlife
- Provide recreation and natural beauty for the neighborhood
- Filter pollutants from stormwater that flows in from developed areas





Nootka rose



Snowberry

A few common native riparian plants include:

- Nootka rose
- Douglas spirea
- Elderberry
- Snowberry
- Willows
- Pacific ninebark
- Oregon grape
- Black cottonwood
- Oregon ash
- Red osier dogwood
- Red and White Alders
- Sword fern
- Choke cherry

Many swales in Eugene use wetland and

How can you help?

Take care of plants and the streamside

- Promote a diversity of healthy riparian vegetation.
- Remove invasive plants such as English ivy, blackberry and scotch broom
- Plant the "right plants" in the "right places." Learn about native plants and use them where they are well-suited.
- Restore eroded streambanks with help from a professional.
- Leave wood and other natural materials in streams.
- Learn and follow local, state, and federal regulations before undertaking significant work in riparian area.

Prevent pollution from entering waterways directly or in stormwater

- Minimize the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Consider using natural, slow-release fertilizers and compost.
- Locate compost piles on flat surfaces away from streams or drainage areas and keep them covered during the wet winter months.
- household chemicals, or pesticides down storm drains. Only rain down the drain!
- areas, and paved areas. Put pet waste in a bag and place it in the trash.

- Keep grass clippings and other yard debris out of streams.
- Never pour soapy water, automobile oil, paint,
- Keep pet waste away from streams, riparian

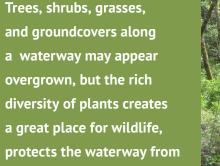
Additional Resources

Native plant nurseries: **Emerald Chapter of Native** Plant Society emerald.npsoregon.org

Guide to building rain gardens: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ news/oregon-raingarden-guide-available

Volunteer at a Eugene park: eugene-or.gov/parksteward

Report a problem at a park: eugene-or.gov/parkwatch



erosion, and filters some

common pollutants.







Environmental



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under a federal grant issued under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

