Benefits of Vegetated Buffers

- Intercepts pollution - acts like a sponge to absorb extra fertilizer, pesticides, heavy metals, etc.
- Stabilizes streambanks - deep root systems of trees and shrubs hold the soil in place.
- Stores floodwater in soils and slows flow.
- Provides habitat and food for wildlife.
- Moderates water temperatures for aquatic species.
- Creates a sense of place and reduces noise.
- Saves money by reducing property damage, less maintenance and requires little to no chemical treatment.
Livestakes Species include:

Livestakes are cuttings from dormant woody trees or shrubs found along streambanks.

Buttonbush, Cephalanthus occidentalis - part shade to full sun
Silky Dogwood, Cornus amomum - full sun to part sun, some shade
Ninebark, Physocarpus opulifolius - sun to shade
Silky Willow, Salix sericea - full sun to shade
Elderberry, Sambucus nigra - sun to part shade

Helpful Materials:

- Gloves
- Hammer (dead blow, mallet, etc.)
- Rebar or pilot hole starter
- Ruler
- Hand pruners or loppers
- Livestakes in bucket of water (harvested or ordered)

Harvest Your Own Livestakes

Best time to cut and plant livestakes: November-February

1. Cut stakes from long, upright branches (2 ft long by thumb-width in diameter). Remove no more than 5% of the parent plant.

2. Make an angled cut on the branch just below a leaf node. Measure about 2 ft and make a straight cut above a leaf node.

3. Immediately remove leaves and small branches after cutting stakes. These branches or "whips" can be pushed into the streambank as well.

4. Keep livestakes wet in a bucket until ready to plant. Never leave stored livestakes in the sun or let them dry out. For best results, plant livestakes within 24 hours.

Step 1: Measure 6 in - 12 in from the water surface and angle the rebar perpendicular to the streambank. Hammer a pilot hole with rebar and pull out after starter hole is made.

Step 2: Using hand pruners, scar the pointed end of the livestake (pointed end goes into the ground).

Step 3: Orient livestake with leaf buds facing upward. Hand push or gently hammer livestake ¾ of the length into the streambank. Make sure to leave 3-4 inches above soil line.

Step 4: Plant every 2 ft - 3 ft in a triangular pattern (spacing about the length of the livestake) and begin again.