

Plantings for the Piedmont

Sources of Conservation Funding

Linnea Sherman



Piedmont
Environmental
Council

PEC's Mission

Protect and restore the lands and waters of the Virginia Piedmont, while building stronger, more sustainable communities.



Plantings for the Piedmont

- Headwater Stream Initiative began in 2016 in Upper Rapp Watershed. Has since expanded to Potomac and York
- Provides free technical assistance, project design, materials, and labor for the planting of native trees and shrubs in riparian and upland zones
- Collaboration between:
 - FOR
 - VDOF
 - Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - NRCS



What is a riparian buffer?

- A riparian buffer is an area adjacent to a stream, lake, or wetland that contains a combination of trees, shrubs, and/or other perennial plants and is managed differently from the surrounding landscape, primarily to provide conservation benefits.



Illustration by Nick
Garnhart



Why are riparian buffers important?

- Reduces erosion and stabilizes stream banks
- Filters out pollution, such as sediment or nutrient
- Provides shade, which moderates water temperatures for aquatic wildlife
- Provides habitat for invertebrate, fish, and wildlife
- Provides organic material as food for invertebrate, fish and wildlife
- Reduces the impacts of flooding through temporary storage, interception and slow releases from heavy rains



Plantings for the Piedmont Requirements

- The property must be located within the upper Rappahannock, Potomac, or York watersheds. This includes the following counties: Rappahannock, Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange, Fauquier, Loudoun*, and Clarke counties.
- The property needs to have a body of water (stream, creek, river, pond, or wetland area). Upland plantings are restricted to agricultural properties.



Plantings for the Piedmont Requirements

- If the property has livestock, there must be exclusion fencing protecting the proposed planting area.
- The project cannot fulfill any regulatory requirements for replanting or mitigation associated with development.
- Landowners must be willing to commit to a minimum 35' riparian buffer.









Thank You!

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Contributions like yours make the
work PEC does possible.

