



“A Landscape That Will Make A Difference”

Clean water through the Backyard Buffers program

The Potomac Watershed Partnership, in cooperation with the Maryland DNR Forest Service present the Backyard Buffers Program. This program is designed to assist homeowners who have a stream or other waterway on or adjacent to their property to create a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs. A streamside buffer can create habitat for wildlife, reduce peak winter temperatures, and reduce the amount of sediment, fertilizer, and toxic materials that enter our waterways. Deep-rooted trees and shrubs can also stabilize streambanks, protecting them from erosion.



What’s in the bag?



The Backyard Buffers program provides a free “buffer in a bag” to help get homeowners started in buffering their streamside. The bag includes 20-30 native tree and shrub bare-root seedlings, approximately 1 to 2 feet in height, of various species that are well suited to streamside conditions.

Also included are fact sheets on the tree species included in the bag, tree planting techniques, proper tree maintenance, and additional information for those who wish to learn more.

How do I get involved?

If you are a homeowner and have a stream or other waterway on or adjacent to your property, and are interested in creating a streamside buffer, call or e-mail your local Backyard Buffer coordinator.



Backyard Buffer packet reservations are typically taken during the month of March, with bags available for pickup at a designated local site in time for the spring planting season. A limited number of bags are available each year on a first-come first-served basis.

If you need assistance with planting due to a disability, contact the Maryland DNR Forest Service at one of the numbers below.

For more information on riparian forest buffers, visit
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/publications/buffers.html>.

Backyard Buffer coordinator contact information by county

Please contact your county coordinator to sign up or for more information.

<p>Allegany County Melissa Nash 301-777-2137 Melissa.nash@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Anne Arundel County Suzanne Etgen 410-222-3822 SETGEN@AACPS.org</p>	<p>Baltimore County Not currently active</p>
<p>Calvert County Not currently active</p>	<p>Caroline County Jim Harris 410-479-1623 jim.harris@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Carroll County Donna Davis 410-848-9290 donnal.davis@maryland.gov</p>
<p>Charles County Not currently active</p>	<p>Cecil County Not currently active</p>	<p>Dorchester County Scott Daniels 410-228-1861 scott.daniels@maryland.gov</p>
<p>Frederick County Adam Miller 301-791-4010 Adam.miller@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Garrett County Ernie Metz 301-334-3296 ernie.metz@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Harford County Frank Lopez 410-836-4564 frank.lopez1@maryland.gov</p>
<p>Howard County James Eierdam 410-442-2080 james.eierdam@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Kent County Not currently active</p>	<p>Montgomery County James Eierdam 410-442-2080 james.eierdam@maryland.gov</p>
<p>Prince George's County Not currently active</p>	<p>Queen Anne's County Teri Batchelor 410-819-4121 teri.batchelor@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Saint Mary's County Not currently active</p>
<p>Somerset County Not currently active</p>	<p>Talbot County Jim Harris 410-479-1623 jim.harris@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Washington County Aaron Cook 301-791-4733 aaron.cook@maryland.gov</p>
<p>Wicomico County Matt Hurd 410-543-1950 matthew.hurd@maryland.gov</p>	<p>Worcester County Not currently active</p>	