



**“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**

The Backyard Buffer program is currently active in the following counties. Please contact your county coordinator to sign up or for more information.

### **Allegany County**

Melissa Stevens 301-331-6433 [mstevens@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:mstevens@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Carroll County**

Donna Davis 410-848-9290 [DLDavis@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:DLDavis@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Frederick County**

Melissa Stevens 301-791-4010 [mstevens@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:mstevens@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Garrett County**

Ernie Metz 301-334-3296 [emetz@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:emetz@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Harford County**

Frank Lopez 410-836-4564 [FLOPEZ@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:FLOPEZ@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Howard County**

Dan Lewis 410-442-2080 [DLewis@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:DLewis@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Somerset County**

John Jordan 410-651-2004 [jjordan@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:jjordan@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Washington County**

Aaron Cook 301-791-4733 [acook@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:acook@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Wicomoco County**

Kathy Kronner 410-543-1950 [kkronner@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:kkronner@dnr.state.md.us)

### **Worcester County**

John Jordan 410-651-2004 [jjordan@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:jjordan@dnr.state.md.us)