

## How Benton Conservation District Can Help!

Benton Conservation District has the resources to help you:

- **Technical Assistance** for riparian landscape design and plant selection
- **Financial assistance** for re-vegetation of degraded riparian areas and eroded riverbanks
- **Technical and Financial Assistance** for installation of riparian areas

Benton Conservation District Provides Free Technical Assistance to Help With Riparian Management Needs.

### Who We Are . . .

Benton Conservation District is a non-regulatory, grant funded organization dedicated to the wise stewardship of soil, water, air, and wild-life in Benton County. We work with landowners, providing technical and financial assistance, to develop voluntary and practical solutions to local natural resource concerns.



### Did You Know?

The Yakima River is a vital part of the state's salmon recovery efforts. Many salmon species depend on the Yakima River for habitat, migration, and spawning. Healthy riparian areas are an important part of salmon recovery in Benton County.

### Resources:

Creating Urban Riparian Buffers (CURB). Walla Walla Conservation District. <http://www.wwccd.net/curb.html>

Plants for Wet Sites. WACD Plant Materials Center. <http://www.wacd.org/PMC>

Planting for Birds. WACD Plant Material Center. <http://www.wacd.org/PMC>

Washington Native Plant Society. <http://www.wnps.org/index.html>

## Benton Conservation District



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## Benton Conservation District



# P.H.I.S.H.

## Plants Helping Improve Shoreline Habitat

Improving water quality and riparian habitat on the Yakima River in Benton County

Creation of this Brochure was Funded by:

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

## What is P.H.I.S.H?

P.H.I.S.H assists homeowners in restoring the riparian areas on their property using plant buffers.



BCD staff aiding a landowner in restoring an eroded riverbank

## What Are Riparian Areas?

A riparian area is the land adjacent to a stream or river. It provides a necessary interface between upland areas (lawns, crops, pastures, etc.) and aquatic environments.

Healthy riparian areas have moist, fertile soils that support many types of plants. Plants provide food and shelter to numerous fish and wildlife.

## Why Install Riparian Areas?

Riparian areas are beneficial to both the landowner and wildlife. Riparian Areas:

- Reduce the chance of damage from floods
- Reduce erosion and loss of property by holding soil in place with roots
- Increase green space
- Provide habitat, protection, and food for fish and wildlife
- Provide species diversity
- Filter out pollutants, such as fertilizers, pesticides, and animal wastes
- Provide cleaner water.

Streamside vegetation helps stabilize riverbanks and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.



## Why use native plants?

Native plants grow naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention. Native plants:

- Require less water and maintenance
- Promote species diversity
- More resistant to pests and environmental stress
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Create beautiful landscapes.

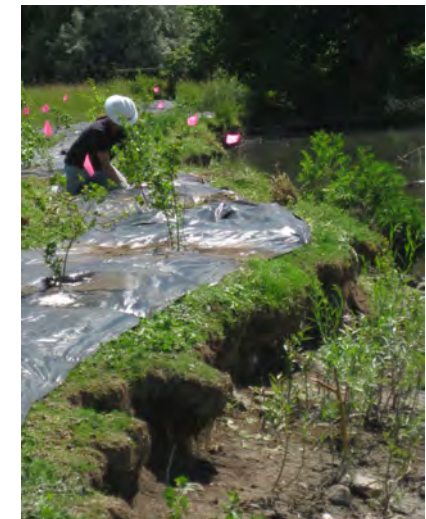


Red Osier Dogwood.

## What Can You Do?

Residential properties bordering rivers and streams can be designed to benefit homeowners, protect riparian vegetation, wildlife and water quality.

- Develop a backyard landscape plan to incorporate grassy areas, gardens as well as riparian areas
- At the water's edge, replace lawn grasses with native soil stabilizing plants, grasses and trees
- Retain existing or plant new native trees, plants or grasses along the river's edge
- Where possible, maintain at least 15 feet of riparian area between the river's edge and upland areas (pastures, crops, lawns, etc.)
- Choose a diversity of plants that are adapted to the sites conditions (soil moisture, pH, sun exposure)



Planting crew at a P.H.I.S.H. project on the lower Yakima River.