

## COMBAT INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are plants or animals that show up in places they don't belong.

In virtually every ecosystem across Oregon, invasive species are a threat to natural diversity. They drive out native species, take over a landscape and threaten local economies.

In riparian areas, water can move invasive plants downstream, allowing them to rapidly invade new areas. Invasive plant species can alter the structure of streambanks and forests by killing existing plants and trees, and preventing the establishment of new trees and other understory plants.

As a landowner, invasive species removal may seem daunting, but resources are available.

For information on invasive species, native plants, riparian areas or help restoring your property, please go to: [nature.org/riparian](http://nature.org/riparian)

## FOR ASSISTANCE

Please contact Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District at:  
503-648-3174 ext. 5

**Created in partnership with:** East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Portland Water Bureau, Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, and Metro.

**Photos:** Cover: Sandy River © Gary Randall/www.gary-randall.com. Inside: Stream © Rick McEwan; Tree planting © Philip McCarty. Back: Salmon © Michael Durham/www.durmphoto.com; Young tree © Philip McCarty; Mitch Williams © Joseph Buttafuoco/TNC

## IMPROVE YOUR RIPARIAN AREA

- Maintain a buffer of native trees and shrubs at least 100 feet wide from the water's edge
- Plant additional native trees and shrubs within this buffer, where native vegetation is lacking
- Lawns provide minimal benefits to water and habitat quality and are prone to erosion; lawns should end well before the water's edge
- Protect and encourage larger trees
- Remove invasive species, such as ivy, blackberry, knotweed and others
- Avoid activities that disturb the stream bank
- Allow fallen trees and wood to remain in the river and on the banks for fish habitat



"As a native Oregonian, I have lived along the banks of the Sandy River for 26 years.

My property includes a riparian area along the river and is divided in half by a beautiful creek called Little Joe. When I purchased the property, the undergrowth and riparian area was all invasive species.

I started working with The Nature Conservancy and other partners to restore my property and adjacent properties over 10 years ago. I appreciate the commitment and expertise of the hard working staff"

- MITCH WILLIAMS, local landowner



## YOUR GUIDE TO MANAGING RIVERFRONT PROPERTY

Preserving Oregon's lands and waters

The Nature Conservancy 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

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## WHAT'S A RIPARIAN AREA?

If you live along a stream or river, you know firsthand how beautiful these areas can be.

Riparian areas are vegetated lands along rivers and streams. They are different from surrounding lands because of unique soil and plant characteristics that are strongly influenced by the presence of water in the soil.



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Healthy, diverse riparian areas:

- Stabilize streambanks: large trees and shrubs hold soil in place with their roots
- Improve water quality: pollutants, such as fertilizers and pesticides, can be filtered
- Provide fish habitat: trees provide shade to cool water, and large woody debris in streams provides habitat complexity
- Increase aesthetic appeal of your property
- Provide food and habitat for wildlife
- Reduce landscape maintenance needs
- Reduce property damage from floods
- Potentially increase property values
- Improve privacy and tranquility
- Increase opportunities to view fish and wildlife

## ENHANCING YOUR PROPERTY

- 1 **Large trees**, like cedars, provide shade, soil stabilization and wildlife habitat.
- 2 **Homes** built further away from the water's edge guard against property damage like floods and erosion.
- 3 **Lawns** can be integrated into riparian areas when healthy 100-foot buffers are created. Lawns shouldn't encroach native vegetation along the river. Views and river access are also possible with healthy riparian areas.
- 4 **Natural riparian areas** have diverse native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. Native plants generally require less care and provide better wildlife habitat.
- 5 **Woody debris** and rocky pools provide critical habitat for fish.

