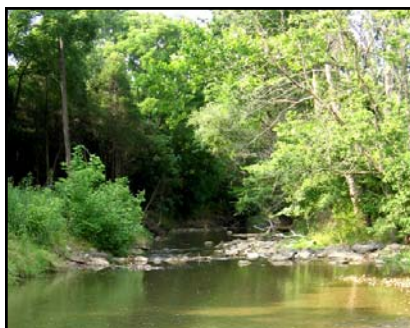


## Where can I get more information about riparian buffers?

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service  
[www.partners.fws.gov](http://www.partners.fws.gov) (804) 693-6694
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation [www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov) (804) 786-1712
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
[www.dgif.state.va.us](http://www.dgif.state.va.us) (804) 367-1000
- Virginia Department of Forestry  
[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov) (434) 977-6555
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
[www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org) state office (804) 559-0325
- Farm Service Agency—County or State Office  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) State office (804) 287-1500
- Virginia Cooperative Extension [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)  
Roanoke—772-7524  
Montgomery—(540) 382-5790



### Sources

Mitchell, N., LeBarre, L., Raflo, A. *A Practical Guide to Natural Resource Stewardship Programs in Virginia*. Water Resources Research Center. January 2006.

Klapproth, J. and Johnson, J. *Understanding the Science Behind Riparian Forest Buffers: Resources for Virginia Landowners*. Virginia Cooperative Extension. January 2002.

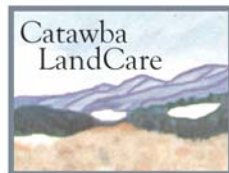
## What is Catawba LandCare?

Last February, a small group of neighbors from the Catawba and North Fork Valleys came together to hear about Landcare; what it is, and the concepts behind it. Basically, Landcare is a cooperative, sustainable approach to land management which produces a broad range of economic, social, and environmental benefits (the triple-bottom line) desired by landowners and their partners.

The neighbors in this meeting came away convinced that Landcare should indeed be introduced along the length and breadth of the Catawba Creek and North Fork watersheds including their tributaries.

By adopting the Landcare concept, it would enable all stakeholders to take part in the effort to preserve the landscape of Catawba Creek and North Fork Valleys, while at the same time strengthening its' communities. As a result of that meeting, Catawba LandCare emerged, with the mission of providing education and outreach to the community to encourage a healthy and sustainable environment in the Catawba Creek and North Fork watersheds, and promoting open space across the Roanoke and Montgomery County boundaries.

Still in its early stages, Catawba LandCare hopes to involve all landowners in the Catawba and North Fork Valleys in thinking about what they want the land to look like tomorrow, and what we can do together today to get there.



## Catawba LandCare

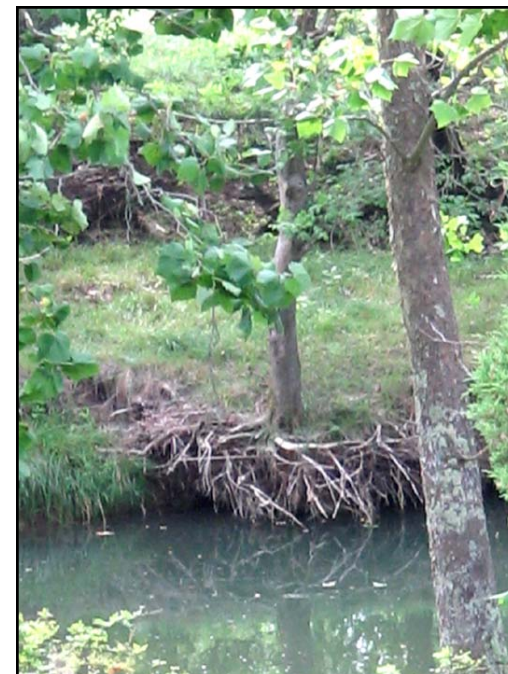
Preserving Our Valleys

For more info about Catawba LandCare or riparian buffer establishment, please contact:  
Christy Gabbard

Catawba LandCare Coordinator  
(540) 357-3744 or [cgunnels@vt.edu](mailto:cgunnels@vt.edu)

## Catawba LandCare

# Erosion and Riparian Buffers Along Catawba Creek



Preserving Our Valleys

## What does erosion on Catawba Creek look like today?\*

- Almost 5,000 meters, or 6.5% of the length of Catawba Creek's stream banks show evident erosion
- 20% of the properties along Catawba Creek have some level of evident erosion
- 2% of the properties along Catawba Creek have 100% of their stream banks eroded
- 16% of the properties along Catawba Creek have more than 50% of their stream banks eroded



\* Data based on 2001 aerial photographs

## What can be done about erosion on Catawba Creek?

### Riparian Buffers

#### What is a riparian buffer?

The riparian area is the land located immediately adjacent to a body of water. A riparian buffer is when that land next to the waterway is permanently vegetated, mostly with trees, but also with some appropriate shrubs and plants. Not only do riparian buffers help stabilize the stream banks, but they serve as a living filter for nutrients and sediments, as well as providing habitat both in and along the water.

#### What are the benefits?

When properly maintained, riparian buffers along your stream banks can provide many benefits, including:

- Controlling stream bank erosion
- Improving water quality
- Reducing nutrient and pesticide run-off
- Enhancing fish and wildlife habitat
- Reducing flooding
- Wind protection



Photo by Jeff Horan, MD DNR

## How can I get assistance establishing a riparian buffer strip on my property?

There are several different cost-share programs, Best Management Practice Loans, and tax credits available to landowners who want to establish a riparian buffer strip along their stream banks. Below are only a few of what is available (Note—program details and funding may change year to year. Contact local office of respective agency for more details)

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** -USDA Farm Service Agency— voluntary program for agricultural landowners to receive annual rent payments and cost-share assistance to establish trees or other cover in the riparian area. [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp/) Contact: local FSA office

**Virginia Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)** - federal & state partnership— joint federal-state program to improve Virginia water quality and wildlife habitat by providing cost-share incentives and annual rental payments to establish riparian buffers adjacent to waterways. Program also assists with costs associated with excluding livestock from streams and riparian areas. Contact: local FSA office [www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_&\\_water/crep.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/crep.shtml)

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** - USDA NRCS— voluntary program for farmers which provides cost-share assistance to address critical environmental needs and concerns of an area or watershed. Contact: local Soil & Water Conservation District office. [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/)

**Forestry Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)** - USDA Forest Service & VA Dept. of Forestry— federal program through the USDA NRCS and VA Dept. of Forestry to provide cost-share assistance for tree planting, site preparation, and technical support to promote sustainability of non-industrial private forests. Contact: VA Dept. of Forestry [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

**Virginia State Tax Credit**—Soil & Water Conservation Dist— offers state tax credit up to 25% of landowner's out-of-pocket expenses to install a variety of conservation practices including exclusion fencing, riparian buffer planting, and grass filter strips. Contact local Soil & Water Conservation District [www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org)