Streamside Forests

STREAMS PROVIDE DRINKING WATER

Streams provide much more than places for recreation, they provide habitat for plants and animals — and the drinking water for many of us.

TREES MAKE HEALTHIER STREAMS

Pennsylvania — or Penn's Woods, as it was called — was almost completely forested for thousands of years. Today many streams no longer have trees growing along their banks. The absence of these streamside forests, combined with population growth, has resulted in declining stream health.

PLANT TREES FOR CLEANER WATER, NATURALLY

Unhealthy streams mean poor water quality, which increases the amount of money we must spend to treat our water supplies. A simple and cost-effective way to protect and improve the quality of our streams — and our drinking water — is to restore trees along the banks.

STREAMSIDE FORESTS: THE NATURAL, COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO CLEAN WATER

A simple and cost-effective way to protect and improve the health of our streams — and our drinking water — is to plant trees along the banks.

Photo: David H. Funk

Streamside Forests = Healthier Wildlife Habitat

Streamside forests are important habitat areas for wildlife. These forests maintain the stream conditions that aquatic animals and plants need to thrive.
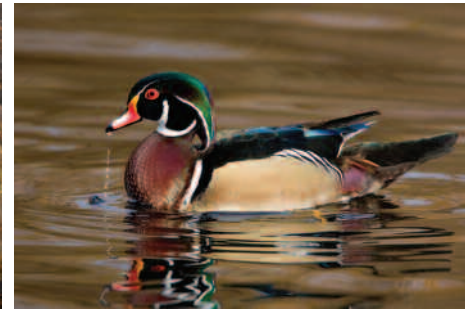
Shade from streamside forests keeps water temperatures cool — a necessity for brook trout, the state fish of Pennsylvania.

Streamside forests are important habitat areas for birds like this colorful wood duck.

Tree leaves provide food and habitat for many aquatic animals, such as insects and crustaceans, which in turn provide food for fish.

Photo: David H. Funk

Tree roots stabilize stream banks and reduce erosion. They also create habitat for animals.

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