DEVELOPING A RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROGRAM IN THURSTON COUNTY

What we’re doing
Thurston County is developing a program to spur restoration of riparian (streamside) areas on private land. The goal of this project is to develop compelling incentives that encourage participation from landowners in riparian restoration. This effort will improve water quality and mitigate impacts from stormwater and nonpoint pollution benefiting aquatic habitat, increasing resiliency to floods and supporting recreational use of streams.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
One of the most effective ways to improve water quality in the county is by restoring vegetation along streams. A healthy riparian corridor helps keep water cool, minimizes erosion, and filters pollutants before they get into waterways. Damage to riparian ecosystems directly results in water quality problems which affect both human health and wildlife. In Thurston County many riparian areas are private property, making private landowner involvement in restoration vital.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Restoration of riparian areas has many benefits including improving water temperature, erosion and overall water quality. Contact the Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development Department to discuss options for your property. Encourage your neighbor to take part in this effort on their property.

THURSTON COUNTY CPED
The mission of Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development Department (CEP) is to plan for sustainable land use and development within the unincorporated areas of the county so communities can thrive in a healthy environment. We work in partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe, Thurston Conservation District, and the South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group to address issues such as protecting salmon, and protecting agricultural lands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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