

SLIP SLIDING AWAY

The Problem?

Development

Clearing plants and trees by streams makes the land vulnerable to erosion by wind, rain and flood water.



Rubbish

Rubbish, including shopping trolleys, plastic containers, bottles etc. gets dumped in our streams. This blocks the stream and the water flow eats into the stream banks.



Stormwater

The impact of stormwater falling from a pipe or outlet gouges away the stream bed.



Weeds and Willows

Plant pieces clog streams, forcing water to flow around the blockage. This causes banks to collapse. Water is a great seed and weed carrier. Undesirable plants often get whooshed downstream, washed up on banks further down where they simply re-establish.



Animals

Cattle trampling in swampy, boggy areas around stream edges causes subsidence and pollution.



...facing erosion problems?

What to Do!

- Keep as much vegetation as you can on building sites especially if they are near a stream.
- If you do clear an area replant it as soon as possible.
- When you disturb the ground use a silt fence or earth bund to filter the silt.

- Organise a clean-up! Ask friends, family and neighbours to help you.

- Avoid piping streams - use plants to filter and control water flow - planting costs less and reduces flooding and erosion.
- Or put some boulders below the pipe flow to break up the impact of the water.

- Keep the stream banks weed free.
- Get rid of those tenacious weeds, especially ginger and Japanese honeysuckle! Ph 83 -0400 for a special ginger bag you can put out with your rubbish.
- Herbicide is the most effective treatment for the worst stream side enemy - the willow. Phone 839-0400 for advice on controlling weeds safely.

- Fence off the stream or create a planted buffer between the stock and stream.
- Provide water from a pond or trough.

For more information or advice about erosion, planting and landscaping please phone 839-0400.

STREAMSIDE PLANTING



Your Stream: a life support system!

Your local stream sustains the life of many plants, birds, insects and animals. For some the stream is a larder, for others a home; for humans it's a place to play and relax. Your stream is part of a growing network of green and watery places connecting people and places, coast with city, home with wilderness.

Why planting beside your stream is a great idea!

- Plants hold the soil together - preventing bank collapses.
- Plants absorb and clean excess water and limit flooding of your property.
- Plants shade the water, lowering the water temperature. This is good for the critters who live in or by the stream.
- Planted and healthy banks keep the weeds back and reduce weed spread via the waterway.

How to Plant

Clear weeds from around your planting site. Dig a hole deeper and larger than the root bundle and put compost in the hole. Place the plant in the hole, fill the hole with soil and press soil gently around the plant, then water. Put mulch (compost, bark chips etc.) around but not touching the plant to help control weeds.

What to Plant Where!

By the stream edge either:

1. plant sedges, grasses and a few cabbage trees. This enables you to keep a view of the stream and to have easy access to it. Do this as a band 2m or more wide. Or.....
 2. if you have room, extend the planting to get greater benefit. Starting at the stream edge plant sedges and grasses, then cabbage trees and flax or toetoe up to 5m. Plant densely. 5-10m from the stream plant shrubs and small trees e.g. kowhai, and ponga. 10m from the stream edge plant taller trees like rewarewa, and karaka.
- Pioneer plants such as sedges, grasses, flax, toetoe, karamu, mahoe and cabbage trees should be planted first. These plants are good at getting started in bare ground or where there is only grass or weeds. They also attract and make homes for birds.
 - Look at the site and add plants which grow there naturally and show they can survive.

Why plant Natives?

Because they belong here, are adapted to conditions here, and they need less care. Some birds eat mainly native berries, seeds, and nectars. They need native plants.

When to Plant?

Plant in autumn or spring or on cloudy or cool days.

Need some advice?

Phone 839 0400. Ask for more detailed information or for a free planting guide.